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03-005	Jan 23	GNWT – Gwich'in sign historic agreement.
03-006	Jan 24	GNWT announces Beau-Del Executive Director (Helen Sullivan).
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03-008	Jan 29	Energy strategy discussion paper released.
03-009	Jan 29	Emergency numbers to be Territory-wide.
03-010	Feb 03	Premiers agree on fair deal for the Territories – will the Prime Minister? (Health care)
03-011	Feb 06	Health care deal fails Canadians living in the North.
03-012	Feb 13	2003-04 (NWT) budget lays out fiscal challenge.
03-013	Feb 14	Improved support for housing developers.
03-014	Feb 15	Legacy of neglect continues : Prime Minister to busy to care about Canada's North. (NWT, Nunavut, Yukon joint release)
03-015	Feb 17	Territorial Premiers in Ottawa for budget : seek meeting with Prime Minister to resolve health crisis in the North. (NWT, Nunavut, Yukon joint release)
03-016	Feb 17	NWT to get tougher on impaired drivers.
03-017	Feb 20	Premiers announce progress on health care : new \$60 million short-term funding and commitment to a long-term solution. (Nunavut, Yukon and NWT joint release)
02-018	Feb 27	Appointment – NWT Power Corporation [Board].
02-019	Feb 27	Koe (Fred Koe) to oversee development of new Business Development and Investment Corporation.
02-020	Feb 27	GNWT/Sirius settle dispute over Polar Bear Logo.
03-021	Mar 06	Community support key for pipeline.
03-022	Mar 07	Deh Cho Bridge Act gets first reading.
03-023	Mar 12	Changes for NWT Workers' Compensation Act.
03-024	Mar 13	Premiers Fentie and Kakfwi sign intergovernmental accord.

03-025	Mar 13	2003 NWT outstanding volunteer awards.
03-026	Mar 14	New service charge for plan reviews.
03-027	Mar 17	(Premier) Kakfwi enthusiastic about Yukon/NWT relations.
03-028	Mar 31	Tobacco taxes, liquor markups to increase.
03-029	Mar 31	Census coverage study still not right – Handley.
03-030	Apr 03	Northern Premiers iron out details of health deal with Ottawa.
03-031	Apr 10	Award recognizes reduced highway fatalities.
03-032	Apr 10	YK student demonstrates sound financial IQ.
03-033	Apr 10	Aviation bursaries available for NWT students.
03-034	Apr 15	NWT post-secondary indicators report released.
03-035	Apr 16	Territories gain support of provinces on housing funding.
03-036	Apr 23	2003 NWT outstanding volunteers awarded.
03-037	Apr 25	Stanton Hospital Board to be re-established.
03-038	Apr 28	Conditional support for De Beers Snap Lake.
03-039	Apr 28	New Inuvik hospital starts move-in.
03-040	Apr 30	2002-03 Ministerial literacy awards.
03-041	May 06	GNWT/Immigration Canada to support northern diamond industry.
03-042	May 09	Contingency plan developed for specialist services.
03-043	May 12	Joint release : Alberta, NWT advance co-operation and development.
03-044	May 23	New Board members appointed for WCB.
03-045	Jun 03	Specialist negotiations end without contracts.
03-046	Jun 04	Premier says investment will pay off.
03-047	Jun 04	Annual report shows improved air quality.
03-048	Jun 10	Family violence protection act introduced.
03-049	Jun 10	New youth justice legislation introduced.
03-050	Jun 12	Waste Recovery and Reduction Act introduced.
03-051	Jun 12	Minister questions written consent for NIHB (Non-Insured Health Benefits Program)
03-052	Jun 13	Changes to medical travel reduce burden.

03-053	Jun 16	Mineral processing technicians – Canadian first.
03-054	Jun 16	Minister wants BSE [mad cow disease] compensation to be flexible.
03-055	Jun 18	GNWT applauds Aboriginal pipeline deal.
03-056	Jun 18	Guides to provide valuable information.
03-057	Jun 19	GNWT and [Medical] Specialists reach an agreement.
03-058	Jun 19	BSE [mad cow disease] compensation fair says RWED Minister.
03-059	Jun 20	NWT students receive aviation bursaries.
03-060	Jun 23	Tourism awareness week in the NWT.
03-061	Jul 02	Small claims limit raised to \$10,000.
03-062	Jul 03	Kakfwi to seek Premiers' support for new deal.
03-063	Jul 07	Manufacturers approved to buy rough diamonds.
03-064	Jul 07	National plan needed to reap gemstone bonanza.
03-065	Jul 09	Diamond demo reflects bright future for NWT gems.
03-066	Jul 10	Community expertise recognized.
03-067	Jul 11	GNWT enhances environmental assessment team.
03-068	Jul 14	Community leaders in languages announced.
03-069	Jul 23	NWT community fire protection merit award.
03-070	Jul 28	Current wildfire situation in the Sahtu region.
03-071	Jul 29	RWED urges comprehensive reclamation planning for CanTung.
03-072	Jul 30	Community initiatives program launched.
<del>03-073</del> 03-073	Jul 31	<i>Board Chairs</i> Premier releases NWT energy strategy.
03-074	Jul 30	Board Chairs to continue providing advice and guidance to the Stanton Territorial Hospital.
03-075	Aug 06	2003 recipients of the Premier's Award of Excellence.
03-076	Aug 13	RWED Minister applauds lifting of US ban.
03-077	Aug 15	Revised Business Incentive Policy released.
03-078	Aug 19	Minister announces judicial changes. (Retirement Robert W. Halifax) (Appointment R. Michel Bourassa)

03-079	Aug 28	Draft water management strategy released.
03-080	Aug 28	Minister (Jim Antoine) hopes impact of Con Mine closure can be minimized.
03-081	Aug 29	Accord will strengthen voice of Northern Canadians.
03-082	Aug 29	Governments/agencies promise coordinated effort to support Con miners.
03-083	Sep 03	Northern Accord reflects spirit of co-operation.
03-084	Sep 08	Northwest Territories Premier seeks business support for fair deal.
03-085	Sep 11	Kakfwi wraps up Southern tour.
03-086	Sep 11	Orientation sessions for Miramar Mine workers.
03-087	Sep 26	Kakfwi reports progress with De Beers.
03-088	Sep 26	Federal/NWT Ministers of Justice meet in YK.
03-089	Sep 26	Territories working together on family violence issues.
03-090	Sep 30	Provinces/Territories to continue working on National Diamond strategy.
03-091	Oct 03	Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority.
03-092	Oct 03	"Northern Gold" the Sharon Anne Firth story.
03-093	Oct 03	Minister appoints Public Administrator for Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority.
03-094	Sep 03	GNWT takes action on official languages.''
03-095	Oct 04	GNWT welcomes \$80 million Federal funding.
03-096	Oct 06	No changes to Business Incentive Policy.
03-097	Oct 07	NWT Fire Service Merit Awards announced.
03-098	Oct 06	Minister releases report on Victims' services.
03-099	Oct 10	Act to amend the Safety Act passed.
03-100	Oct 09	Funding program a good fit for NWT Ootes says.
03-101	Oct 09	GNWT responds to "A Vision for the Arts".
03-102	Oct 17	Bathurst caribou survey completed.
03-103	Oct 24	GNWT steps towards waste recovery programs.
03-104	Oct 28	PW&S to host Project Management Conference.

03-105	Nov 06	Premier appoints Deputy Minister EC & E.
03-106	Nov 07	Northwest Territories rocks in Boston/Chicago.
03-107	Nov 10	Wanted : NWT youth with investment savvy.
03-108	Nov 25	Dogrib new testament to receive celebration of biblical proportion.
03-109	Nov 28	Minimum wage to increase in December.
03-110	Dec 05	National Day of Remembrance and action on violence against women.
03-111	Dec 05	Ministers Lang and Antoine signs oil and gas agreement.
R(15)-001	Dec	Cabinet portfolios assigned : Handley says Premier and Cabinet ready to get to work.
R(15)-002	Dec 17	Northern aviation celebrated : DOT/NATA mark 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of historic flight.
R(15)-003	Dec 19	MOI (memorandum of intent) recognizes aviation heritage : partners with to promote and preserve northern aviation history.

FOR RELEASE # /  
January, 6, 2003

**YUKON & NWT PREMIERS CALL TO SUSPEND THE FEDERAL GUN CONTROL PROGRAM**

WHITEHORSE - The Premiers of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon have collectively called for the suspension of the federal government's gun control program. The enormous expense of administering the program and the lack of evidence that the legislation is working to prevent armed crime, has forced the northern premiers to speak out, once again, against this federal law.

Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie and NWT Premier Steven Kakfwi have jointly called for Ottawa to reconsider their gun registry until the effectiveness of the program can be audited and a true sense of the program's effectiveness can be determined.

"The North has always been very clear on our views to the C-68 gun control legislation and the differences between rural and urban Canada," said Yukon Premier Fentie. "The people of the North and their use of firearms is dramatically different than Canadians in urban centres. But wasting a billion-plus dollars effects all Canadians equally."

Premier Kakfwi said, "The Government of the Northwest Territories has opposed the Federal Gun Legislation from the very beginning. The current fiasco surrounding the implementation of this ill-conceived federal law just adds to our frustration and belief that it must be reconsidered".

Fentie re-affirmed that the Yukon government would not contribute to the enforcement of the new federal gun legislation. "We will leave it to federal prosecutors to enforce this federal gun registry, I cannot in good faith put more taxpayers dollars into this ill-conceived legislation."

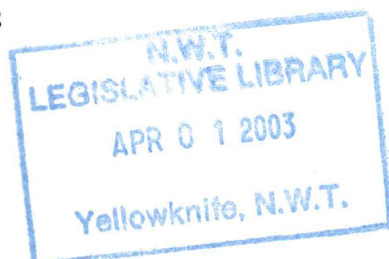
The Premiers identified the need to effectively deal with the criminal use of firearms and to ensure the safety of Canadians, but not by creating legislation that does not deliver positive results at a cost to taxpayers that is not realistic.

-30-

For further information contact:

Peter Carr  
Cabinet Communications  
Yukon Government  
Tel: (867) 667-8688

Drew Williams  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Executive Council  
Tel. (867) 669-2304





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## News Release

03-002

### **Working Together will Ensure Success - Kakfwi**

**INUVIK (January 9) -- A commitment to unity and working together will ensure a strong and prosperous future for the Northwest Territories Premier Stephen Kakfwi said today in his Annual Address to the People of the Northwest Territories.**

“The unique way we have of working together is at the heart of all we have done and all that we can do” the Premier told a capacity crowd at the Ingamo Hall Friendship Center in Inuvik.

Premier Kakfwi highlighted a long list of progress and accomplishment that has resulted from the partnerships and collaborations established since the introduction of the Governments agenda *Towards a Better Tomorrow* three years ago.

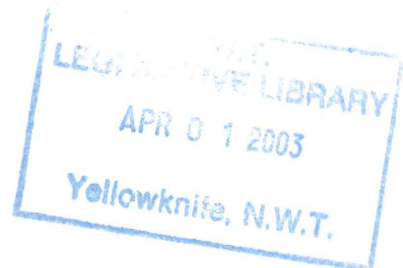
“A “have territory” is our dream and working together will make it happen,” he said.

The Premier said the NWT’s unique ability to embrace its varying backgrounds and traditions and its unwavering resolve to celebrate respective identifies and differences will ensure projects such as devolution, resource revenue sharing and the Mackenzie Valley pipeline will succeed.

“We cannot afford to miss a single opportunity, to be divided for a minute, or to pursue our own agendas,” the Premier warned.

**For more information, contact:**

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



03-003

### Search and Rescue Prevention Strategy Conference

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 17) – Search and rescue (SAR) authorities and stakeholders from across the Northwest Territories will gather in Yellowknife next week to consolidate input from regional consultations in 2002 and a conference in March 2001 into an effective prevention strategy.**

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will host the Territorial Search and Rescue Prevention Conference, January 21-22, 2003 as part of an on-going effort to reduce the incidence and severity of search and rescue (SAR) events.”

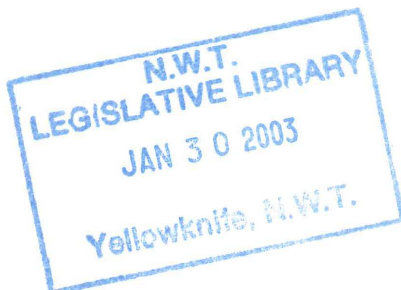
“A completed strategy will also support future territorial funding proposals and guide the delivery of specific prevention programming,” Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Vince Steen said.

Work on the SAR strategy has been undertaken with the financial support of the federal government through the National Search and Rescue Secretariat (NSS) New Initiatives Fund. The cost-sharing program has been used widely in the NWT to acquire specialized SAR equipment, provide SAR training and develop prevention initiatives to educate residents and raise awareness.

The completed Northwest Territories SAR Prevention Strategy will be presented to communities and territorial SAR authorities and organizations for review.

**For more information, contact:**

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





03-004

## Legislation to Help NWT Become Smoke-Free

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 22) -- Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger, says legislation for smoke-free public and work places, and greater control on how tobacco is sold, will bring the NWT one step closer to being smoke-free.**

The Department of Health released a discussion paper today in conjunction with National Non-Smoking Week to gauge support for territorial smoking legislation. *A Territorial Law To Control Tobacco Use - What Do You Think?*, requests public feedback on legislation that would curb high smoking rates and levels of exposure to second hand smoke.

"The time is right to have this dialogue with residents of the NWT," Mr. Miltenberger said. "An increasing number of individuals are choosing to quit, families are making their homes smoke free, community petitions seek to ban smoking in public places and organizations are creating smoke-free environments for their workers and clientele. Legislation would provide a very effective way for government to build on these grass-roots efforts."

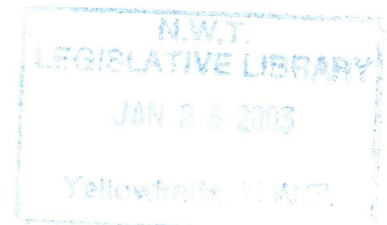
Research shows that a ban on smoking in public and work places will significantly reduce exposure to tobacco smoke, lowers tobacco use, encourages smokers to quit, and contributes to savings in the cost of health care. Restrictions on how tobacco is sold and effectively enforcement of a minimum age of purchase reduces access to tobacco products for youth. Both initiatives reinforce the message that smoking is not an acceptable behaviour.

"Moving to a smoke-free society will take a concerted effort by individuals, agencies, the private sector and various levels of government, Mr. Miltenberger noted. "As the Minister responsible for the health portfolio, I am pleased to initiate development of territorial-wide smoking legislation.

Copies of the report and feedback form are located at [www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca) (see Action on Tobacco section under Initiatives). The deadline for comments is March 31, 2003.

**For more information, contact:**

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





03-005

## GNWT - Gwich'in Sign Historic Agreement

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 23) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories has signed a major agreement with the leaders of the Gwich'in Tribal Council that will create new opportunities for the Gwich'in to participate in government contracting in their region.**

Under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed yesterday, an Aboriginal government will be involved, for the first time, in the GNWT's contracting planning and development process. The agreement will also enable the government to tailor its projects to meet the needs of the local population even more effectively.

"This agreement represents a new way of doing business," Premier Stephen Kakfwi says. "It represents our commitment to work together to ensure an effective and efficient system of government that is accountable to the people it serves. We hope that this agreement will become a model for similar arrangements with other regions."

"We see this MOU as a positive move and a major step forward for the Gwich'in people" President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council Fred Carmichael says. "This MOU clearly shows that Aboriginal Governments are working in partnership with the GNWT in a truly government-to-government fashion. This MOU is a huge step towards achieving our goal of economic self-sufficiency for the Gwich'in people."

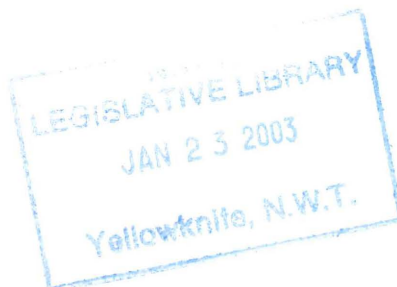
The agreement has set a target of awarding fifty percent of the value of government contracts within the settlement area to Gwich'in businesses over the next five years. Both territorial government representatives and Gwich'in leaders say they are confident that this goal can be met. The agreement will become effective on April 1, 2003 and extend to March 31, 2008.

Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine announced the agreement at a meeting of Gwich'in Chiefs this afternoon in Inuvik.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Executive Council  
Tel (867) 669-2304

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



03-006

## GNWT Announces Beau-Del Executive Director

**INUVUK (January 24) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi has announced the appointment of Helen Sullivan of Inuvik to the position of Executive Director for the Beaufort Delta.**

The newly created position, identified by the Premier in his Annual Address to the People of the Northwest Territories, will enable Ms. Sullivan to work with community governments, community leaders and interest groups to ensure territory-wide GNWT direction and policies are understood. She will also work closely with the Beaufort-Delta Interim Regional Council to foster a cooperative environment for the transition to self-government in the Beaufort-Delta region.

“Helen’s strong ties to communities and her understanding of the self-government initiative will be an asset to all parties in the region,” Mr. Kakfwi noted.

Currently Superintendent of Education, Culture and Employment for the Inuvik Region, Ms. Sullivan has been an employee of the public service since 1987 and a senior manager in the Beaufort-Delta region since 1991.

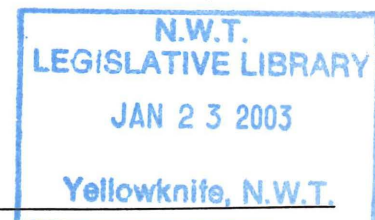
Ms Sullivan has worked closely with elected community bodies and industry to maximize economic and employment opportunities for all residents of the Beaufort-Delta region and has been instrumental in the development of regional initiatives such as the Regional Training Committee.

Ms. Sullivan’s appointment is the result of a joint consultation and hiring process between the GNWT and the Beaufort Delta Interim Regional Council. The position will serve at the Assistant Deputy Minister level within the Department of the Executive, reporting directly to the Secretary to Cabinet.

Ms. Sullivan will assume the duties of her new position on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2003.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Executive Council  
Tel (867) 669-2304



03-007

## Internet Exhibit Modernizes Traditional Trail

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 24) -- The first of three traditional trails to be introduced as internet-based exhibits by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre was launched today in Edzo.**

The *Idaa Trail* is the first module of the interactive website *Lessons from the Land*. It follows the historic Dogrib trail linking the Great Slave and Great Bear Lakes. Visitors to the on-line exhibit can stop at eight different locations along the virtual trail and find historical information and cultural notes such as how to make a birchbark canoe, methods to hunt caribou and stories related to the history of the Dogrib people.

“This modern journey along an ancient path serves to highlight the customs, wisdom and history of the Dogrib people” Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes said. “It helps us to understand how the Dogrib culture is linked to the land, and how modern learning must embrace the lessons of our past.”

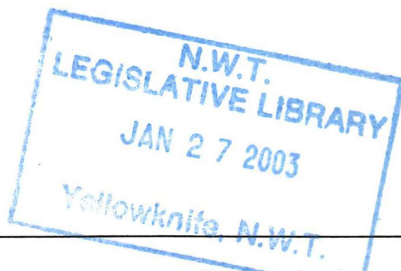
It is anticipated that the new site will be used to enrich culture and Dogrib-language curriculum in NWT schools. As well as a special section designed for children and students, a teacher’s resource guide is available. For your own tour of the trail, visit [www.lessonsfromtheland.ca](http://www.lessonsfromtheland.ca)

*Lessons from the Land* is the result of a five-year collaboration between the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Dogrib nation, elders and members of the Dogrib community. The project was created with the input and support of the Canadian Department of Heritage Museums Assistance Program, Industry Canada, the NWT Literacy Council, Smart Communities, Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and the Dogrib Community Services Board.

Work will now begin on the second of the three-part *Lessons from the Land* highlighting a traditional trail entitled *Journeys of Nuligak* to be launched early in 2004.

**For more information contact:**

**Sue Glowach**  
Manager of Public Affairs  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-6222



03-008

## Energy Strategy Discussion Paper Released

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 29) -- Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) Jim Antoine has released a discussion paper outlining energy issues and priorities that will guide consultation on an Energy Strategy for the Northwest Territories.**

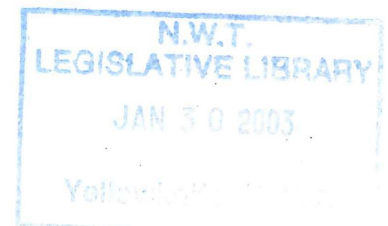
The paper will be used as the basis for consultations to be held in all NWT communities, and with interested energy stakeholders towards the production of a strategy that will guide progressive NWT energy decision-making into the future.

“Sustainable, affordable and practical ways to reduce the impacts of high-energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions are critical to the economic and social development of the Northwest Territories,” Mr. Antoine said.

A solid understanding of the benefits of energy efficiency and the potential for using renewable energy, hydroelectricity, natural gas and conventional fuels are key to the development of an energy strategy that addresses the GNWT’s environmental commitments and is acceptable and beneficial for all residents of the NWT.

The discussion paper addresses the following themes:

- Vision, goals and principles for a NWT Energy Strategy;
- Energy efficiency;
- Energy supply options;
- Future of the electricity sector;
- Energy affordability;
- Development of NWT resources; and,
- Environmental challenges.



“We have defined many of the issues, concerns and options which must be addressed in a forward-looking energy plan,” Mr. Antoine said. “Now we need the input of industry, business, communities and residents.”

Copies of “Towards an Energy Strategy for the NWT – A Discussion Paper” are available at regional RWED offices, the Energy Secretariat or on the Internet at: <http://www.gov.nt.ca/RWED>

**For more information, contact:**

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



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## News Release

03-009

# Emergency Numbers To Be Territory-wide

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 29) — Common territory-wide emergency phone numbers for fire and police will be put into service in the Northwest Territories beginning March 1, 2003.**

NWT residents will be able to access emergency services by dialing their community's three - digit exchange plus 1111 for police emergencies or 2222 for fire emergencies. Callers dialing 911 will be instructed to call the appropriate emergency number or the operator.

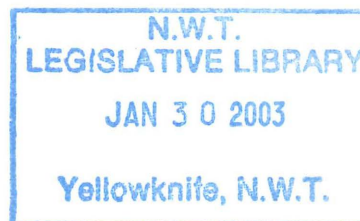
Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Vince Steen says common numbers will save time and lives in the event of an emergency. "These emergency numbers will become part of our everyday life here in the Northwest Territories," Mr. Steen said.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has worked with the Department of Public Works and Services, the RCMP and NorthweTel to bring common emergency numbers to all Northwest Territories communities where emergency numbers exist. Until now, the service has only been available in about half of NWT communities.

The new emergency numbers will be listed in the NorthwestTel 2003/2004 Telephone Directory scheduled for release March 1, 2003.

**For more information, contact:**

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





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**#03-009 BACKGROUNDER**

**Emergency Numbers To Be Territory-wide  
YELLOWKNIFE (January 29)**

In September 2001, the Chief Coroner of the Northwest Territories, Percy Kinney, issued a number of safety-related recommendations following an inquest into a death related to a snowmobile accident along the Ingraham Trail. One of the recommendations called for implementation of a 911 service in Yellowknife. The recommendation also called for the service to be expanded across the NWT once the required technological infrastructure was in place.

The City of Yellowknife is reviewing the potential for a 911 service in Yellowknife, but the technological infrastructure is not in place to establish a territory-wide 911 service. The Government of the Northwest Territories, the RCMP and NorthwesTel have identified two alternative measures to improve access to emergency services.

The first measure is the updating the message callers receive when they dial 911. This measure is now in place. The message states there is no 911 service available and advises callers to hang up and dial the common emergency number for their area, or to dial 0 to reach the operator.

The second measure is the implementation of the standard four digit 1111 (police) and 2222 (fire) numbers, preceded by any three-digit exchange or prefix for that area in those locations where these common emergency numbers exist.

**For more information, contact:**

**Flora Evans**  
Policy Advisor, Communications  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 873-3092



**#03-009 BACKGROUNDER**

**Emergency Numbers To Be Territory-wide  
YELLOWKNIFE (January 29)**

COMMUNITY	POLICE	FIRE
Aklavik	978-1111(CHANGE)	978-2222
Colville Lake	(867) 598-1111(CHANGE)	No Community Fire Emergency Number
Deline (Ft. Norman)	589-1111(CHANGE)	589-2222(CHANGE)
Detah	669-1111	873-2222(CHANGE)
Edzo	392-1111(CHANGE)	371-2222
Enterprise	(867) 874-1111(CHANGE)	984-2222(CHANGE)
Fort Good Hope	598-1111(CHANGE)	598-2222
Fort Liard	770-1111(CHANGE)	770-2222
Fort McPherson	952-1111(CHANGE)	952-2222(CHANGE)
Fort Providence	699-1111(CHANGE)	699-2222(CHANGE)
Fort Resolution	394-1111(CHANGE)	394-2222(CHANGE)
Fort Simpson	695-1111(CHANGE)	695-2222
Fort Smith	872-1111(CHANGE)	872-2222(CHANGE)
Hay River	874-1111 (CHANGE)	874-2222
Holman	396-1111(CHANGE)	396-2222(CHANGE)
Inuvik	777-1111(CHANGE)	777-2222(CHANGE)
Jean Marie River	(867) 695-1111(CHANGE)	809-2222(CHANGE)
Kakisa	(867) 699-1111(CHANGE)	No Community Fire Emergency Number
Lutselk'e	370-1111(CHANGE)	370-2222(CHANGE)
Nahanni Butte	(867) 770-1111(CHANGE)	602-2222(CHANGE)
Norman Wells	587-1111(CHANGE)	587-2222
Paulatuk	580-1111(CHANGE)	580-2222
Rae	392-1111(CHANGE)	392-2222
Gameti (Rae Lakes)	(867) 669-1111(CHANGE)	997-2222(CHANGE)
Sachs Harbour	(867) 777-1111(CHANGE)	690-2222(CHANGE)
Trout Lake	(867) 770-1111(CHANGE)	No Community Fire Emergency Number
Tsiigehtchic	(867) 952-1111(CHANGE)	953-2222(CHANGE)
Tuktoyaktuk	977-1111(CHANGE)	977-2222
Tulita	588-1111(CHANGE)	588-2222(CHANGE)
Wekweti (Snare Lakes)	(867) 669-1111(CHANGE)	713-2222
Wha Ti (Lac La Martre)	573-1111(CHANGE)	573-2222(CHANGE)
Wrigley	(867) 695-1111(CHANGE)	581-2222(CHANGE)
Yellowknife	For the City of Yellowknife only: the RCMP has an Emergency/Complaint number of 873/920/669-1111 AND a General Enquiries number of 669-5100	Fire AND Ambulance calls within the City of Yellowknife only: contact the Yellowknife Fire and Ambulance at 873/669/920-2222.





03-010

For immediate release

### **Premiers Agree on Fair Deal For the Territories – Will The Prime Minister?**

**OTTAWA (February 3) -- The Premiers of Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon and are looking to the federal government to support the creation of an independent fund that recognizes the unique challenges of providing health care services in Canada's North.**

Premiers Paul Okalik, Stephen Kakfwi and Dennis Fentie will be in Ottawa Feb. 4-5 for the First Ministers meeting on Health Care with the unanimous backing of their provincial colleagues for a separate, designated fund to support the delivery of basic health care services in Canada's territories.

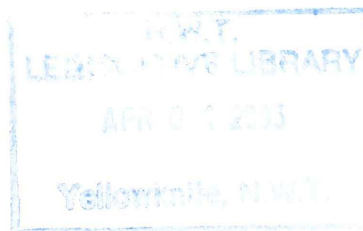
On February 24<sup>th</sup> in Toronto, Canada's Premiers agreed that a new territorial health care fund should be established to supplement federal transfer payments calculated according to the population of individual provinces and territories.

The new fund would provide an additional .5% of total new health funding per territory to address the challenges of providing health care to small populations scattered over the vast geographical areas of Canada's North.

"Current per capita funding does not take into consideration our small, scattered populations," Nunavut Premier Okalik says. "I appreciate the support of my colleagues in recognizing that this need exists. While the amount is a small part of the national budget, it is significant to the North."

As of 1999, Nunavut's per capita health care expenditures were 3.6 times higher than the national average. TB rates are thirteen times higher than the national average. The infant mortality rate is three times the Canadian average. Travel costs in the territory account for one fifth of the health budget. A medivac (air ambulance) for an infant on an incubator from Iqaluit to Ottawa costs upwards of \$30,000.

"Residents of Canada's North are Canadians just like the citizens of any province," NWT Premier Kakfwi says, "they are no less entitled to the same health services as other Canadians. They expect nothing less than equity and accessibility."



.../2

In the Northwest Territories 28 of the 33 communities do not have a doctor. Only two communities provide birthing services. Terminally ill patients and expectant mothers are among the hundreds of patients that must fly thousands of kilometres to receive the services they need. A planned medivac between Inuvik and Yellowknife costs approximately \$10,000.

“The federal government now has the opportunity to demonstrate that it too truly believes in a health care system based on need; a system that recognizes the uniqueness of the North,” Yukon Premier Fentie said.

It costs about \$53,000 a year to provide physician services to Old Crow, Yukon for two days a month. The Yukon spends about \$3 million a year, excluding the cost of personnel, to maintain dedicated and standby emergency medical evacuation services. It costs close to \$20,000 for a medivac from Old Crow to Vancouver.

**For more information, contact:**

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

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Cabinet  
Government of the NWT  
Tel: (867) 669-2304

**Andrea Buckley**  
Director Communications  
Executive Council Office  
Government of Yukon  
Tel (867) 667-5720



03-011

For immediate Release

### **Health care deal fails Canadians living in the North**

OTTAWA (February 6) – Territorial premiers say they refused to accept a new health care deal with the federal government because it failed to address the pressing circumstances of Canadians in the North.

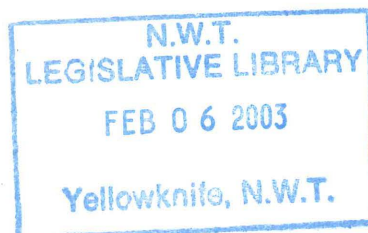
“We’ve been working towards finding a solution for our people,” Northwest Territories Premier Stephen Kakfwi said. “Two weeks ago in Toronto, all of the premiers agreed to support a Territorial Health Fund to help address the inequality that per capita funding creates in the North. We came to Ottawa with that support and worked incredibly hard to persuade the Prime Minister to do the right thing. What we got instead was an offer for yet another process.”

“A process doesn’t help to pay the \$30,000 that it costs to fly a pregnant mother from Iqaluit to Ottawa,” Nunavut Premier Paul Okalik said. “What occurred today demonstrates the Prime Minister’s continued lack of commitment to making a real difference in the appalling state of health care in our territories. Confrontation is not our way, but the Prime Minister gave us no reason to accept his deal.”

“We stayed to the end, in good faith, working towards an agreement that was fair to everyone,” Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie said. “It is surprising that our Prime Minister, a former Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, is so insensitive to the unique situation we’re facing in the North. The deal being offered was based solely on per capita funding, a formula that everybody knows won’t address the significantly higher cost of delivering health care to our people.”

What did the territories need to take home?

- A special, dedicated territorial health care fund in addition to new federal health funding, as agreed by all the provincial and territorial premiers in Toronto.
- The fund would equate to .5% of any new federal funds per territory. For example, \$1 billion about \$5 million per territory.



Why were the territories asking for a special fund?

- They have the worst health indicators in the country.
- They have the highest per person health care delivery costs in the country.
- The current per capita funding arrangement fails to meet the basic health needs of Canadians in the North.
- Growing health care deficits.

What did the territories say no to?

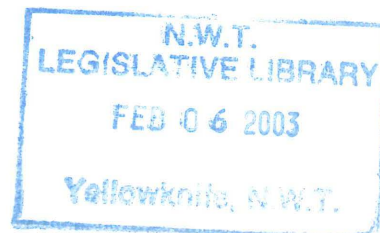
Of the \$12 billion offered, the territories would have each taken home \$10.8 million (Nunavut), \$15.6 million (NWT) and \$12 million (Yukon) over three years. To put that into perspective, Nunavut, for example, spends as much on health care in one week as it was offered for the entire year.

**For more information, contact:**

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

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Cabinet  
Government of the NWT  
Tel: (867) 669-2304

**Andrea Buckley**  
Director Communications  
Executive Council Office  
Government of Yukon  
Tel (867) 667-5720



03-012

## 2003-04 Budget Lays Out Fiscal Challenge

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 13) – In his 2003-04 Budget Address to the Legislative Assembly, Finance Minister Joe Handley today laid out the fiscal challenge facing the Government of the Northwest Territories. Despite a growing economy, revenues remain inadequate to meet the needs of NWT residents.**

Mr. Handley, however, confirmed his confidence in the NWT economy, and in the need for GNWT investment to continue. He highlighted the achievements of the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly to date, and called on future governments to build on this foundation.

“Our economy is booming,” Mr. Handley noted. “Employment levels are the highest in the country. We are not going to close the window of economic opportunity with a knee jerk reaction to our fiscal situation. We must continue to invest in our future.”

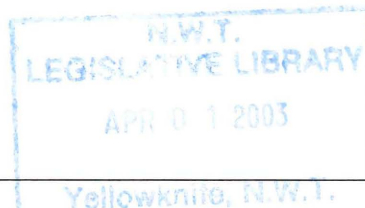
Declining revenues, and higher than budgeted expenditures, will lead to a projected operating deficit of \$106 million for the current fiscal year. Revenue forecasts for the 2003-04 budget year, will continue to be below expected spending needs, producing an estimated operating deficit of \$77 million.

“The solution to the GNWT’s fiscal challenges lies in careful, well considered actions that do not jeopardize the long-term goals or well being of NWT residents,” Mr. Handley stressed.

Today’s budget identifies \$70 million in additional spending over last year’s budget. Almost \$60 million will address increased costs and new investments in health care, education, housing, justice and community programs. Twenty six million dollars is allocated to meet health care needs alone. Funds will also be made available for small communities to respond to concerns about dust control and to address the needs of youth and other social issues.

Mr. Handley renewed his call on the federal government to recognize its responsibility to participate more fully in the development of the NWT. “Ultimately, our Government’s fiscal health depends on federal investment and on equitable resource revenue sharing,” he said.

Although capital investments will decline from last year’s levels, the Budget contains funding to provide for a range of required infrastructure including needed recreation facilities in a number of small communities.



.../page 2

In an effort to reduce tobacco and alcohol consumption, and encourage healthy lifestyle choices, the Finance Minister also announced increases in tobacco taxes and liquor markups, to take effect April 1, 2003.

**For more information, contact:**

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

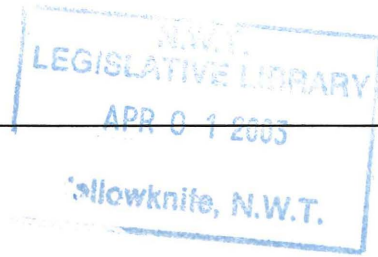
or

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



**#03-012 BACKGROUNDER**

**2003-04 NWT Budget Lays Out Fiscal Challenge  
YELLOWKNIFE (February 13)**



The last Budget of the Fourteenth Assembly takes stock of the considerable achievements and investments of the last three years, achievements that will produce positive social and economic returns in the future.

**Economic and Fiscal Review**

The NWT economy is expected to level off following the dramatic 19 per cent real growth in 2001. Business investment is expected to decrease following completion of the NWT's second diamond mine. Nevertheless, economic activity and exports will keep the economy growing despite completion of this \$1.3 billion construction project.

The one-time corporate income tax revenues that helped produce a \$120 million operating surplus for 2001-02 will not be repeated in this year. 2002-2003 revenues are forecast to drop to \$774 million, while operating expenses will rise to \$881 million, increasing the \$12 million operating deficit predicted in last year's Budget to a projected \$106 million.

2003-2004 will continue the trend of revenue forecasts below expenditure needs. Revenues of \$854 million are forecast to exceed operating expenditures by \$77 million. Capital investment will decrease \$69 million to \$74 million. However, the year-end cash deficit is forecast to be \$85 million, which will bring total debt to \$214 million, well within the \$300 million limit imposed by the federal government.

Without future large revenue increases, future operating expenditures could result in large operating deficits that cause the GNWT to exceed the borrowing limit.

**Taking Stock**

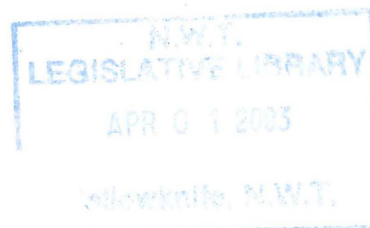
By 2003-04, the GNWT will be investing an additional \$150 million in on-going spending on social programs and \$22 million in on-going economic development initiatives, compared with four years ago. In addition, over \$60 million in highway construction and resurfacing projects has been invested to date as part of the GNWT transportation strategy.

The GNWT faces many of the same fiscal challenges as it faced when the Fourteenth Assembly took office. It also leaves a record of investments that will reduce the fiscal burden faced by future governments.

**Building on our Achievements**

The GNWT continues to make investments in its people and to create the environment for better economic opportunities for NWT residents through the following initiatives.

- Social Agenda - The GNWT has responded positively to the recommendations of the Social Agenda working group.
- Healthy Lifestyles - The GNWT is introducing the following initiatives to encourage healthy lifestyle choices: increasing the tobacco tax on a carton of cigarettes effective April 1, 2003 by an estimated \$6.80 per carton to discourage smoking; increasing liquor mark-ups 10 per cent to reduce the consumption of alcohol, effective April 1, 2003; and investing \$1.4 million in addressing mental health and addiction needs.
- Health Care - \$26 million will be added to the Department of Health and Social Services budget to bring the total budget to \$226 million, including: \$14 million to cope with increased costs; \$8.3 million for the Interim Health Professional Plan announced in December 2002; and almost \$1 million for community demonstration projects.
- Education - Almost \$8 million will be added to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment for a total 2003-2004 budget of \$210 million including: \$1.2 million for reducing the pupil-teacher ratio; \$1.9 million for enrolment, new mandatory school programs, and increased utility costs; and \$2.9 million for the Boards to meet increased costs.
- Community Development - Funding for community development will be increased to include: \$1 million to pave main streets in non-tax based communities; \$1 million fund for community-sponsored projects to encourage healthy lifestyles, safety and active living; and \$1.7 million in each of the next 3 years in additional grant and contribution funding for specific communities to provide for new housing and renovations to existing housing.
- The Economy - Transportation infrastructure is critical for economic development and this Budget continues the investment. \$250,000 is added to the Budget for the Deh Cho Bridge project. \$1 million is budgeted to support the Mackenzie Valley Development project, which includes funding for training, human resource development and building Aboriginal business capacity.
- The Environment - \$1 million will be invested in obtaining biophysical baseline data and to support effective environmental monitoring programs. \$300,000 will be made available to undertake energy conservation retrofits.





03-013

## **Improved Support for Housing Developers**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 14) – Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) Roger T. Allen has announced changes to the NWT Housing Corporations Loan Guarantee on Interim Financing Program.**

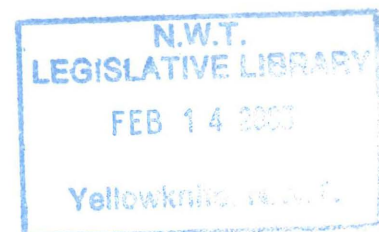
The Housing Corporation has reduced the equity requirements for private residential market developers. Developers can now qualify for guarantees on interim financing with only a 15% equity position for new rental units and a 10% equity position for homeownership units. Developers were previously required to contribute 25% equity.

“It is important that the government work with the private sector to address the rising costs of housing,” Mr. Allen said. “These changes create a more flexible program and offer improved access to financing for small companies during the construction phase of their projects.”

In addition to the more flexible equity requirements the NWT Housing Corporation has also decreased premiums for the Loan Guarantee fee from 1.5% to 0.5%.

“By encouraging and supporting companies to develop additional housing projects, we can work to alleviate the tight Yellowknife housing market and encourage housing development in all NWT communities.” Mr. Allan said.

**For additional information contact: Jeff Anderson**  
Chief Financial Officer  
NWT Housing Corporation  
Tel: (867) 873- 7873





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**#03-013 BACKGROUNDER****Improved Support for Housing Developers**  
YELLOWKNIFE (February 14)

The NWT Housing Corporation Loan Guarantee on Interim Financing program provides developers with guarantees on interim financing for housing construction projects.

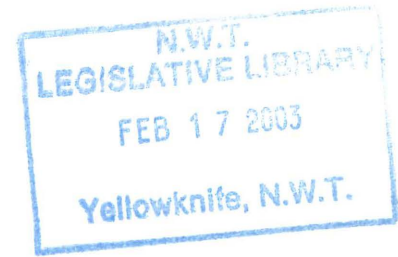
Usually, developers obtain interim financing from financial institutions to finance the construction and sale phase of their project. Banks usually require a 25% equity position by developers, and even at that level, small developers in particular can have difficulty obtaining interim financing.

The NWT Housing Corporation program provides guarantees to banks on behalf of developers in the interest of supporting housing development in the NWT.

The Corporation charges a fee for this service which has also been reduced to .5% of the guarantee. Developers must qualify with the NWT Housing Corporation and the lending institution for the guarantee. Applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, examining the specific merits and risks associated with each project.

**For more information, contact:**

**Jeff Anderson**  
Chief Financial Officer  
NWT Housing Corporation  
Tel: (867) 873- 7873  
E-mail: jeff\_anderson@gov.nt.ca



03-014

For immediate release

### **Legacy of Neglect Continues**

Prime Minister Too Busy to Care about Canada's North

**OTTAWA (February 15) -- Prime Minister Jean Chretien has failed to live up to his promise to address the dire health needs of Canadians in the North, say the Premiers of Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon said today.**

Despite repeated promises, including a statement in the House of Commons, Mr. Chretien has not made any offers to provide additional funding to meet the pressing and critical health care needs of the North, and has not even responded to a request for a meeting.

"We have kept officials in Ottawa for 10 days based on the promise that an agreement would be negotiated and we have not received a single offer or even an invitation to meet," said Northwest Territories Premier Stephen Kakfwi.

"Meanwhile, those in urgent need of health care in the Territories continue to suffer," said Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie. "The legacy of neglect for the North continues."

"The Prime Minister said he agreed this was an urgent issue that had to be addressed, but he has not acted accordingly: He can give speeches in Chicago, but not meet with us at home to discuss the serious difficulties facing Northern Canadians," said Nunavut Premier Paul Okalik.

The Prime Minister has failed to act despite receiving another letter from the provincial premiers unanimously calling for a separated designated health fund for the three territories.

"Despite having a surplus of \$10 billion, the federal government is continuing to deny the people of the North the health care they and all Canadians expect and deserve," said Premier Fentie.

The territorial premiers have postponed a meeting between their health ministers and federal Health Minister Anne McLellan that was scheduled for Feb. 24, requesting that it be rescheduled only when there is an agreement that will address the needs of the North.

The premiers said the federal government is fully aware that past cuts in funding hit the three territories harder than the provinces.

Because of complex funding agreements with Ottawa, the Territories cuts were 3 to 4.5 times deeper than in the provinces.

“For every \$209 the provinces lost, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut lost \$862 and the Yukon lost \$645,” said Premier Okalik

“Right now we are diverting funds from other government programs to try to provide basic health care services. Northerners will not have access to the same kind of health care as elsewhere in Canada if we do not receive additional funding,” said Premier Fentie

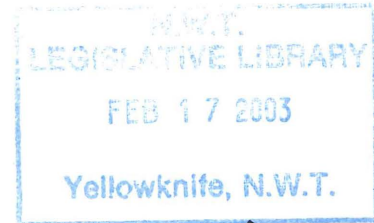
“This is no way to run a country or to live up to the ideal that all Canadians are equal,” said Premier Kakfwi.

**For more information, contact:**

**Annette Bourgeois**  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Premier  
Government of Nunavut  
Tel: (867) 975-1317

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Cabinet  
Government of the NWT  
Tel: (867) 669-2304

**Andrea Buckley**  
Director Communications  
Executive Council Office  
Government of Yukon  
Tel (867) 667-5270



03-015

For immediate release

### **Territorial Premiers in Ottawa for Budget**

Seek meeting with Prime Minister to Resolve Health Crisis in the North

**OTTAWA (February 17) -- Northern premiers have returned to Ottawa on the eve of the tabling of the federal budget in the hopes that Prime Minister Jean Chretien will respond to their requests for a meeting to discuss the health care crisis in the North.**

The three Premiers refused to be party to the recently endorsed Health Accord reached at the First Ministers' Meeting in Ottawa on Feb. 5. The funding offered in that deal would not even have covered one week of existing health care costs in the three territories, let alone support the new programs suggested in the Accord.

"This is the most urgent, consuming issue we face in the territories," Northwest Territories Premier Stephen Kakfwi said. "We hope that by being available in Ottawa, the Prime Minister will finally respond to our request for a meeting and we can get the funding issue resolved."

"We are still hoping the Prime Minister meant what he said about wanting to help the people of the North," Nunavut Premier Paul Okalik said. "We are simply asking him to help us ensure that Canadians living in the north have access to the same level of health care as other Canadians."

Premier Dennis Fentie is unable to join his territorial colleagues in Ottawa today because of government duties. He will, however, join them via video and telephone for meetings and media interviews.

"Rest assured I am with my colleagues in spirit. The three territories are united on this issue," Premier Fentie said from Whitehorse. "Without substantive new funding we can't maintain the levels of service we have now, nor even begin to implement the new measures in the Accord."

Because they have received no response to their request for a meeting with the Prime Minister, Premiers Kakfwi and Okalik have returned to Ottawa to emphasize the urgency of their concerns.

As well, there has been no formal offer from the federal government, despite Premiers having left their senior officials in Ottawa since the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of First Ministers.

“Sadly, it would seem that the plight of the North has not attracted the attention of the federal government. We are here this week to try to change the government’s mind and reverse the legacy of neglect that the North is currently facing,” Premier Okalik said.

“We are ready to talk, any time, anywhere, about a meaningful proposal,” Premier Kakfwi added.

Examples of the challenges faced by Canadians in the North include:

- In Nunavut, a medivac flight from Iqaluit to Ottawa for a baby in an incubator costs \$30,000. Medivac travel to southern Canada facilities consumes \$28.5 million a year – 20% of Nunavut’s current health budget
- In the Northwest Territories, only five of its 28 communities have a doctor. Only two communities provide birthing services and expectant mothers have to be flown to these centres two weeks before their due dates, and cared for far away from their families and loved ones.
- In the Yukon, it costs about \$53,000 a year to provide physician services for two days a month to the 280 residents of Old Crow. It costs almost \$20,000 for a medivac from Old Crow to facilities in Vancouver.

**For more information, contact:**

**Annette Bourgeois**  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Premier  
Government of Nunavut  
Tel: (867) 975-1317

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Cabinet  
Government of the NWT  
Tel: (867) 669-2304

**Andrea Buckley**  
Director Communications  
Executive Council Office  
Government of Yukon  
Tel (867) 667-5270

03-016

## NWT to Get Tougher on Impaired Drivers

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 17) – Minister of Transportation Joe Handley has introduced tough new legislation to combat impaired driving in the Northwest Territories.**

Amendments to the *Motor Vehicles Act*, developed in consultation with various Northwest Territories agencies and interest groups, were presented to the Legislative Assembly for first reading today.

“Our goal is to ensure that NWT streets and highways are safe,” Mr. Handley said. “Strong, new penalties and preventative measures are intended to send a forceful message – particularly to those hard-core repeat offenders who insist on defying the law time and time again.”

Proposed amendments to the *Act* include giving the Registrar of Motor Vehicles new authority to impose administrative suspensions independent of fines or suspensions imposed as a result of an impaired driving-conviction under the Criminal Code.

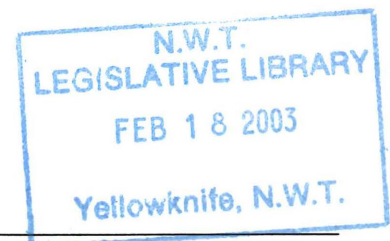
While such changes will bring NWT legislation in line with other Canadian jurisdictions, additional features will be unique to the Territory. An automatic, 24-hour suspension is proposed when a driver’s blood alcohol content is measured between 0.05% and 0.79% and a 30-day license suspension when a second offence is committed within two years.

NWT legislation will also differ in its emphasis on curbing repeat offences by assessing an offender’s driving behaviour and using medical assessments to identify potential problems with respect to substance use.

“This holistic approach to the issue of impaired driving is consistent with this government’s interest in the health and well-being of all NWT residents and respects the special circumstances of the North,” Mr. Handley said.

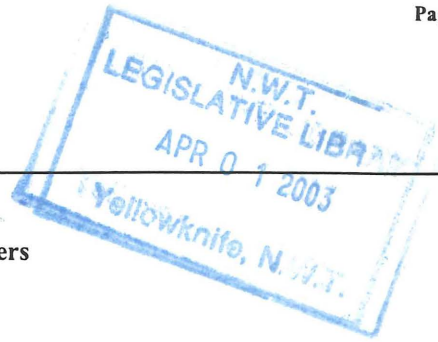
**For more information, contact:**

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





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**#03-016 BACKGROUNDER****NWT to Get Tougher on Impaired Drivers  
YELLOWKNIFE (February 17)**

The Government of the Northwest Territories has introduced amendments to the *Motor Vehicles Act* to address the problem of drinking and driving in the NWT.

The legislation deals with impaired drivers, repeat offenders, disqualified drivers and new drivers. It gives the Registrar of Motor Vehicles the authority to take administrative action against drivers who drink and drive, separate and apart from any penalties imposed under the Criminal Code. Most importantly, it provides for mandatory medical assessment that can identify conditions that may contribute to drivers operating a vehicle while impaired.

Significant progress has been made in the fight against drinking and driving. In the Northwest Territories, for example, the number of impaired driving convictions declined from 453 to 183 between 1991 and 2000. However, it remains a persistent and unacceptable social problem resulting in the death and injury of thousands of Canadians every year. Impaired driving is the number one cause of criminal death and injury in the country.

In the Northwest Territories, annual traffic injury reports indicate that, on a per capita basis, the severity of drinking and driving is twice that of the rest of Canada.

It should also be noted, that while most of the measures being proposed can be found in other Canadian jurisdictions, the proposed changes to the law in the NWT would give it one of the most comprehensive array of administrative sanctions against drinking and driving in Canada.

The proposed amendments would:

- Strengthen roadside suspension provisions. The current *Act* allows police to suspend a driver's license for 24 hours if they have reasonable grounds to believe a driver is impaired by alcohol, fatigue or other cause. The suspension can be imposed without a breathalyzer test.

Under the proposed amendments, that wouldn't change, but the level of Blood Alcohol Content at which police could suspend a license would be lowered to 0.05 from 0.08 Blood Alcohol Content. If a driver blows over .05 but less than .08, it would trigger an automatic 24-hour suspension.

If it's the second time within two years that a driver has a reading over .05%, the result would be an automatic 30-day suspension.

- Introduce an automatic 90-day administrative suspension for anyone charged with impaired driving for blowing over .08.
- Introduce new administrative driving prohibitions in addition to Criminal Code provisions, including a one-year suspension for the first offence, three-year suspension

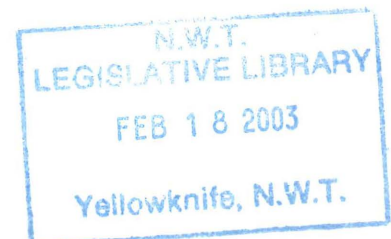


for a second offence and five years for the third offence. It will also allow an indefinite suspension of not less than 5 years for subsequent offences or where the offence has caused a death.

- Allow police to impound the vehicle of someone who drives with a suspended license. In the case of a suspension that was caused by an impaired driving conviction, the vehicle is taken away and impounded for 30 days, at the owner's expense. However, the legislation does allow for someone whose vehicle has been impounded to apply to the Registrar to review that and, in exceptional circumstances, release a vehicle.
- Require an offender, before they can get their license reinstated, to purchase an Impaired Driver Assessment Package and complete a self-assessment with respect to drinking and driving, as well as undergo an enhanced driver medical. Based on the view that impaired driving is also a wellness issue, not just one of deterrence, the reason for the assessment is to find out if there are underlying issues of substance use or other conditions that may be connected to why the offence happened.
- Provide for eventual introduction of a graduated license system for new drivers who, evidence clearly shows, are at greater risk of accidents than other drivers. The intent of such a system is to protect those inexperienced drivers and the general public from the mistakes new drivers can make while they acquire the skills and experience to become better drivers. One of the most important features of a graduated license would be a requirement that new drivers never drive after drinking any amount of alcohol.

**For more information, contact:**

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





03-017

For Immediate Release:

### **Premiers Announce Progress on Health Care**

**New \$60-Million Short-Term Funding and Commitment to a Long-Term Solution**

**OTTAWA (February 20) - The Premiers of the Territories today announced a step forward in addressing the health care crisis in the North. The territories received a floor of \$60 million for a special health fund and a personal commitment from Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to find a more equitable long-term fiscal funding arrangement.**

“Two weeks ago we had nothing beyond a small, per capita increase in funding under the CHST,” Premier Stephen Kakfwi said. “The three Territories have worked as a team to get this far, and together we will work with the federal government to achieve more equitable treatment.”

The Prime Minister also directed his officials to work with the Territories to establish a process that will address the inadequacies in the current per capita based funding formula and the fiscal challenges facing the North.

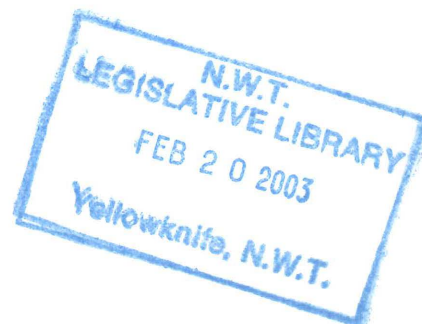
The commitments came in a meeting with the Prime Minister at 24 Sussex Drive this morning. The new fund will be split equally among the three Territories and used to address immediate health care needs. This fund is in addition to per capita increases announced at the First Ministers’ Meeting Feb 5. The precise details of the fund and the process will be finalized by the end of March, the Premiers announced.

The arrangement falls short of the funding the Premiers were seeking, but it represents an important and substantial step forward, Nunavut Premier Paul Okalik said.

“This arrangement represents real money that will provide short-term help to our people and we cannot ignore that,” Premier Okalik said. “We have also begun to establish a long-term solution.”

Premier Fentie said the Territories will continue to press for a fair and more reasonable deal for Canadians living in the North.

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“We have a commitment from the Prime Minister that the federal government will work with us to develop a funding allocation that addresses the inadequacies of per-capita based funding,” Premier Fentie said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Annette Bourgeois**  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Premier  
Government of Nunavut  
Tel: (867) 975-1317

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Cabinet  
Government of the NWT  
Tel: (867) 669-2304

**Andrea Buckley**  
Director Communications  
Executive Council Office  
Government of Yukon  
Tel (867) 667-5270



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## News Release

03-018

# Appointment - NWT Power Corporation

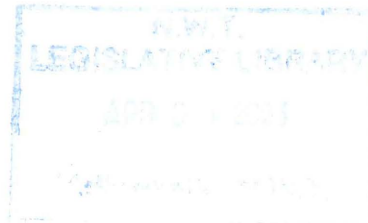
**YELLOWKNIFE (February 27) -- Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NWTPC) Joe Handley has announced the appointment of Mr. Arnold Hope to the NWTPC Board of Directors.**

Mr. Hope, a resident of Fort Simpson, retired in 1995 after twelve year as the Programs Manager for the NWT Housing Corporation in Fort Simpson. Previous to that he worked for the federal government. Mr. Hope served as a member of the Worker's Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories from November 1982 to June 1989.

"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.

**For more information, contact:**

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



03-019

## Koe to Oversee Development of New Business Development and Investment Corporation

<sup>[Feb. 27]</sup>  
YELLOWKNIFE (February XX) – Fred Koe will oversee the development of a proposed new Business Development and Investment Corporation Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) Jim Antoine announced today.

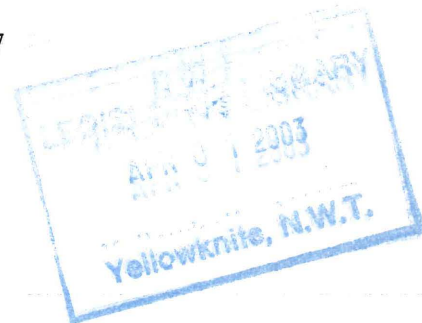
The new corporation will assume the programs and operations of the Business Credit Corporation, the NWT Development Corporation, the Canada/NWT Business Service Centre, RWED business assistance programs, and Community Futures administration.

Mr. Koe will be responsible for developing the financial and accountability framework required to put the new corporation into operation. He will ensure the new agency addresses recommendations made by the NWT Economic Strategy Panel and the Business Program Review Committee to streamline lending and financial programs and services.

“For the new corporation to be up and running in the fall of 2003, we need to ensure that operational guidelines are established concurrently with the development of legislation,” Mr. Antoine said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Fred E. Koe**  
Tel: (867) 766-7707



03-020

## GNWT/Sirius Settle Dispute over Polar Bear Logo

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 27) - Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Jim Antoine, and the President of Sirius Diamonds Ltd., Stephen Ben-Oliel signed an agreement this week settling a dispute over the use of the polar bear logo on diamonds.**

The Agreement clarifies the issues relating to ownership and use of the polar bear trademarks.

"I am pleased that we were able to reach an agreement that will benefit both parties," Mr. Antoine said. "We look forward to working with Sirius Diamonds and other manufacturers to strengthen our secondary diamond industry."

"This settlement is a win-win situation for both Sirius and the GNWT due not only to the conclusion of the trademark dispute but the addition of Sirius to the GNWT Certification and Monitoring Program," Mr. Ben Oliel said. "Sirius is pleased to join the GNWT and the other manufacturers in promoting the secondary diamond industry in the NWT and working with them to present an united front in the face of the Competition Bureau's confusing definition of a Canadian diamond."

The GNWT will continue to be the owner of all official polar bear marks and may license these marks for use on material supporting the Certification and Monitoring Program.

Sirius will be the only diamond manufacturer to hold a licence to laser a four-legged polar bear mark on the girdle of diamonds mined, cut and polished in the NWT and to market and promote POLAR BEAR DIAMONDS™ for the next 10 years. The licence may be renewed for additional two-year periods. Sirius will also become part of the GNWT Certification and Monitoring programs.

**For more information, contact:**

**Bob McLeod**  
Deputy Minister  
RWED  
Tel: (867) 920-8048

**Stephen Ben-Oliel**  
President  
Sirius Diamonds Ltd  
Tel: (604) 687-5711



03-021

## Community Support Key for Pipeline

**CALGARY (March 6) -- Community needs must be given priority if the federal government and oil and gas companies hope to capitalize on resource development in the NWT Premier Kakfwi told delegates to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Arctic Gas Symposium in Calgary today.**

NWT residents want more immediate returns from resource revenues already being generated from their jurisdiction. The Premier says he's concerned that without these benefits, community support for resource development will decline.

"If we do not do it right at the community level, we risk undermining all the progress we have made to date," Mr. Kakfwi said.

Kakfwi urged those delegates, with a vested interest in seeing NWT resource development proceed, to lobby the federal government for investment.

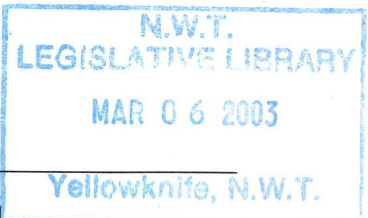
"You need certainty and I need your voice," Mr. Kakfwi said. "As much as the petroleum industry needs certainty in order to commit to a pipeline, likewise our communities need certainty that they will have roads, schools, training, healthcare and jobs in place before a pipeline starts."

The Premier noted that the GNWT has kept its word to industry and created the conditions needed for resource development to move forward but he says he's disturbed by the confusion and misunderstanding competing pipeline proposals have generated in communities along the valley.

"All of us, and particularly the federal government, have a responsibility to ensure that the communities most affected by development have priority when it comes to sharing information, decision making, access to benefits and building capacity to manage development," he said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Executive Council  
Tel: (867) 669-2304



03-022

# Deh Cho Bridge Act Gets First Reading

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 7) – Minister of Transportation Joseph Handley has introduced the *Deh Cho Bridge Act* giving the government the authority it needs to enter into an agreement to build a bridge across the Mackenzie River at Fort Providence.**

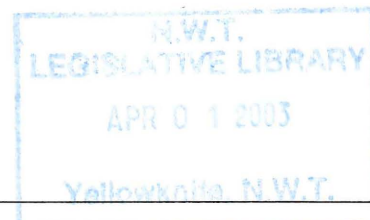
The legislation will enable the Minister, with cabinet approval, to commit to the agreement currently under negotiation with the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation, the Fort Providence-based group that wants to build the bridge. It will also permit the GNWT to charge tolls on vehicles that use the bridge.

“This is a necessary preparatory step in the process leading to construction of the bridge,” Mr. Handley said. “Its intent is to give government the legal authority required in order to allow a private group to build, operate and maintain what would be an important piece of the NWT’s highway system.”

The GNWT and the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation are still negotiating the terms of a final agreement. Those negotiations have been going on since the GNWT and the Fort Providence Combined Council Alliance, the community-based organization that preceded the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation, signed a Memorandum of Intent to build the bridge on November 15, 2002.

Under the proposal submitted to government in 2001, the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation would design, build, operate and maintain the bridge for 35 years, after which it would transfer to government ownership. The GNWT will collect tolls and pay them to the bridge developer, along with an amount of money equal to what it costs to operate the existing ferry and ice bridge at Fort Providence.

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







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## News Release

03-023

# Changes for NWT Workers' Compensation Act

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 12) – Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) Joe Handley today introduced the first in a set of amendments designed to update and revitalize the Northwest Territories workers' compensation system.**

Bill 15, amending the *Workers' Compensation Act*, addresses over 70 per cent of recommendations made in 2002 by the WCB's Legislative Review Panel in their report: *Act Now*.

"These are the first comprehensive changes to the Workers' Compensation Act in over 25 years," Mr. Handley noted. "Accountability is key for any system to work effectively. These amendments clearly establish the roles and responsibilities of all players in the WCB system."

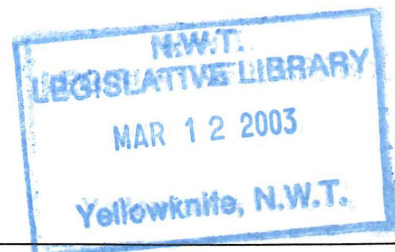
Major sections of the *Workers' Compensation Act* have been re-written to make it easier to read and understand.

Proposed amendments will assist in resolving differences in medical opinions regarding treatment plans for injured workers, mandate healthcare providers, injured workers and the WCB to cooperate in the process of a worker's recovery and formally establish the Workers' Advisor office in legislation.

The *Workers' Compensation Act* legislates the jurisdiction and administration of the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories.

**For more information, contact:**

**Dave Grundy**  
Manager of Communications  
Workers' Compensation Board  
Tel: (867) 669-4442





FOR RELEASE #03-024  
March 13, 2003

**PREMIERS FENTIE AND KAKFWI SIGN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACCORD**

WHITEHORSE – Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie and Northwest Territories Premier Stephen Kakfwi have signed an Intergovernmental Relations Accord identifying key issues of mutual interest and fostering a co-operative working approach for the two territories.

Premiers signed the accord at a luncheon today, which was attended by Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Ed Schultz and several other First Nation chiefs from throughout the Yukon.

“Working cooperatively with our northern neighbours has recently proven to be mutually beneficial for our healthcare needs,” Premier Fentie said. “I believe there are other successes we can achieve by working together with our friends in the NWT.”

“The Northwest Territories and the Yukon have much to gain by working together to maximize benefits for our northern people,” Premier Kakfwi said. “I look forward to strengthening the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that we inherently share as Canada's northern people.”

Yukon and the Northwest Territories have a history of co-operation in a range of services including transportation, tourism and economic and resource development. This accord includes health care, climate change, training, education and youth development, aboriginal languages, trade and commerce and northern sovereignty issues.

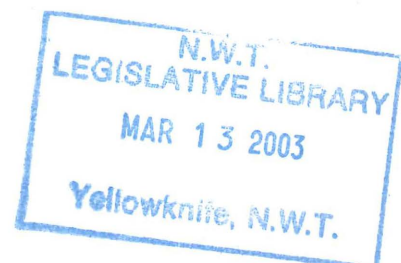
The three-year Accord commits both governments to work together on matters of mutual interest and to share information and identify additional areas of joint co-operation.

- 30 -

For more information, contact:

Peter Carr  
Cabinet Communications  
Yukon Government  
(867) 667-8688  
[peter.carr@gov.yk.ca](mailto:peter.carr@gov.yk.ca)

Drew Williams  
Communications/Office of the Premier  
Government of NWT  
(867) 669-2304  
[Drew\\_Williams@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Drew_Williams@gov.nt.ca)



03-025

## 2003 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 13) -- Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Vince Steen, has extended nominations for the 2003 Outstanding Volunteer Awards. The awards, sponsored each year by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NWTPC) recognize the outstanding contribution volunteers make in the Northwest Territories.**

The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2003. Outstanding volunteers will be awarded in four categories: youth, elder, individual and group.

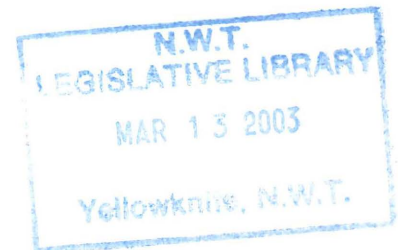
In recognition of the many volunteers who actively contribute to the quality of life in the NWT's communities, special effort is being made this year to increase the number of nominations from smaller centres. Extending the deadline will ensure that all communities are able to give full consideration to identifying nominees.

"Ultimately, all nominees are winners, and the communities in which they live and work are the beneficiaries of their efforts," Mr. Steen notes.

Territorial winners, in each category, will be honored at a special ceremony in Fort Simpson during National Volunteer Week, April 27 to May 3, 2003. Individual communities will also have the opportunity to hold local events to honour community recipients.

**For more information, contact:**

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





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## News Release

03-026

### **New Service Charge for Plan Reviews**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 14) – The Government of the Northwest Territories has adopted a user-pay approach for the review of building and construction plans. New service fees will take effect April 1, 2003.**

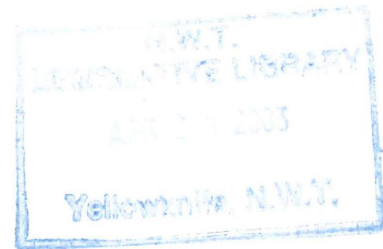
The Office of the Fire Marshal, within the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) reviews plans for the construction, alteration or repair of structures, to ensure compliance to the National Building Code (NBC) and to determine that proper precautions are taken against fire and the spread of fire.

The review of these documents is a requirement of the *NWT Fire Prevention Act* and property owners and their agents proposing to construct or alter buildings in the Northwest Territories (NWT) must comply with this requirement.

A fee of \$85.00 per hour, or portion thereof, will now be charged to private and public developers to review plans of all new or renovated facilities in the NWT.

**For more information, contact:**

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





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## News Release

03-027

# Kakfwi Enthusiastic about Yukon/NWT Relations

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 17) -- Premier Kakfwi says a cooperation accord signed last week between the Yukon and Northwest Territories' governments will pave the way for both jurisdictions to benefit from the construction and operation of a Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline.**

The NWT Premier says the signing of the Accord last Thursday launched a new era of NWT – Yukon relations.

“We have major challenges ahead of us which will require collaboration and cooperation,” he said.

A formal application to construct a Mackenzie Valley pipeline is expected this fall. Regulatory hearings for a pipeline permit will take a couple of years with construction set to start in about three years.

“Yukoners have already benefited from gas exploration in the Delta. We will ensure they continue to benefit from pipeline construction jobs and business opportunities,” the NWT Premier said. “We must now begin the hard work of turning promises into action. There is everything to gain from jointly influencing corporate policy and federal regulatory decisions now.”

Premier Kakfwi is also enthusiastic about the increased exploration that a natural gas pipeline will bring to Canada's North.

“Premier Fentie and I both recognize the long term effects a pipeline has for more exploration in the Beaufort Delta, the Mackenzie Valley and north eastern Yukon,” he said.

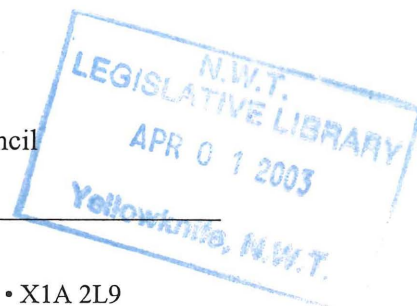
Given that both the Government of Alaska and the US Congress have mandated the Alaska Highway route, the NWT Premier acknowledged that this route will likely come to pass.

“The market for northern gas is huge. Alaska North Slope gas will need to get to market. Any experience Yukoners gain from working on a Mackenzie Valley pipeline will serve them well when the Alaska Highway project comes,” Mr. Kakfwi said.

“For now and the foreseeable future, we must take advantage of the Mackenzie Valley project for the benefit of residents in both the Yukon and NWT. By signing the Accord, I said that the GNWT wants to work with the Yukon to do it right,” the Premier said.

**For more information, contact**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Executive Council  
Tel: (867) 669-2304



03-028

## **Tobacco Taxes, Liquor Markups to Increase**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 31) -- Increases to Northwest Territories tobacco taxes and liquor markups will take effect tomorrow (April 1, 2003). Minister of Finance Joe Handley announced the increases in his February Budget Address.**

Based on price surveys conducted in late February, the tax on cigarettes will increase by \$8.80 per carton of cigarettes and by 3 cents per gram of loose tobacco as required under the *NWT Tobacco Tax Act*.

This figure differs from the amount originally estimated in the Budget because the tobacco tax is set as a percentage of the retail price of cigarettes, which is now higher than originally estimated.

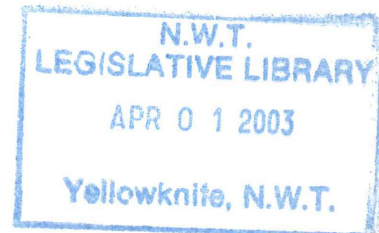
The NWT Liquor Commission will also increase the markup on liquor products by 10 per cent. The higher markups will raise retail liquor prices by approximately 7 per cent for spirits, 3.6 per cent for beer, and 5 per cent for wine.

"We hope that these measures will encourage NWT residents to reconsider and reduce their consumption of tobacco and alcohol," Mr. Handley said.

**For more information, contact:**

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

**Ron Courtoreille**  
General Manager  
NWT Liquor Commission  
Tel: (867) 874-2100



03-029

## Census Coverage Study Still Not Right - Handley

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 31) – Minister of Finance Joe Handley says Statistics Canada is still significantly underestimating the 2001 census population of the Northwest Territories.**

Statistics Canada released the results of its Census Coverage Study last week. The study, which measures the number of people missed in the original census, estimates an undercoverage rate of 7.25 per cent or nearly 3,000 NWT residents who should have been, but were not, counted in the 2001 census.

This undercoverage rate is the highest for any jurisdiction in Canada. (By comparison, the same rate of error in Ontario would have meant 900,000 missed people.) It confirms the Government of the Northwest Territories' position that the 2001 Census dramatically undercounted the population of the NWT.

However, Statistics Canada's new findings are still significantly lower than those identified by the NWT Bureau of Statistics whose research estimates the net undercoverage in the census at over 10 per cent (approximately 4,100 people).

Mr. Handley says that although the census coverage study acknowledges that Statistics Canada undercounted the NWT's population, he's concerned that the new numbers still do not tell the true story. "These figures do not reflect the reality we are seeing in terms of economic activity, housing demand, and other key indicators," he said.

Statistics Canada's numbers are used to calculate funding from the federal government under the Formula Financing Agreement. "The fiscal impact of these numbers, if they stand, could be well over a hundred million dollars," Mr. Handley said.

The results of the coverage study, once finalized, will be incorporated into final population numbers to be released in September 2003. The GNWT, however, has identified a number of problems that it says must be considered before final numbers based on the 2001 census are released. These problems relate to sample design, sample size and survey techniques and raise questions about the quality of the Statistics Canada results.

For example, in the community of Lutselk'e, more than 30 per cent of the dwellings were missed in the 2001 census count. The Statistics Canada undercoverage study used a random sample of only 24 persons in Lutselk'e, many of whom may not have lived in the missed dwellings.

The Bureau of Statistics will be meeting with Statistics Canada to determine how best to incorporate the results of both studies into the final numbers.

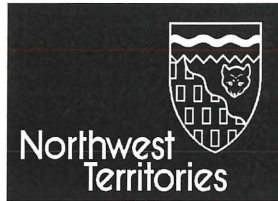
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**For more information, contact:**

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

**David Stewart**  
Territorial Statistician  
Finance  
Tel: (867) 873-7147





#03-030

For immediate release

### **Northern Premiers Iron out Details of Health Deal with Ottawa**

YELLOWKNIFE (April 3, 2003) – Canada's three territorial Premiers have worked out details to a framework health care agreement they reached with the Prime Minister in February. The deal reflects the federal government's recognition that northerners have unique healthcare funding requirements.

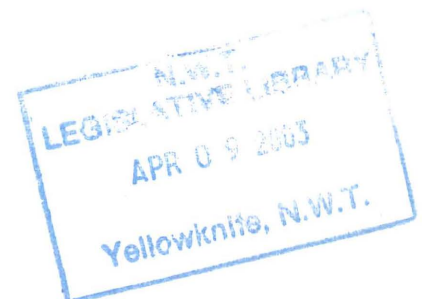
The Premier's have worked collaboratively with the Prime Minister to reach an agreement that will increase federal healthcare funding to the territories by an extra \$60 million over the next three years. It will also launch a process for exploring long-term solutions to the inequity of federal per-capita funding agreements.

The \$60 million in funding will be split equally among the three territories and will begin flowing this year. The money will be provided as a grant and is in addition to per capita increases for health care funding announced at the First Ministers' meeting in February 2003.

In February, Premiers Kakfwi, Okalik and Fentie refused to endorse the health accord signed by Canada's First Ministers because it did not recognize the unique challenges of providing health care services in Canada's North. Two weeks later, the Premiers met with the Prime Minister and a tentative agreement was reached to provide immediate new funding and to look at long-term solutions. Today's announcement establishes the terms of the cash grants and formalizes the process for finding solutions to ongoing funding inadequacies. NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi says he's pleased with the commitment demonstrated by the prime minister's office to address immediate health care needs and to continue discussions on health care financing, but adds the job is far from finished.

"This does not resolve the challenge of providing health care in our remote regions," he noted. "The Prime Minister's continued support will be key to ensuring that the vision, principles and action plan of the First Ministers' Accord on Health Care Renewal apply to all Canadians, including the residents of Canada's North."

Longer-term financing arrangements remain central to discussions with the Prime Minister. A key objective for all three premiers is to find solutions to ensure equitable long-term funding arrangements.



“By standing together Northerners have shown they can reach equitable arrangements with the federal government on our unique concerns,” Nunavut Premier Paul Okalik said. I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with my northern colleagues and the Prime Minister on similar issues.”

A meeting is proposed later this spring between federal Health Minister Anne McLellan and her territorial counterparts.

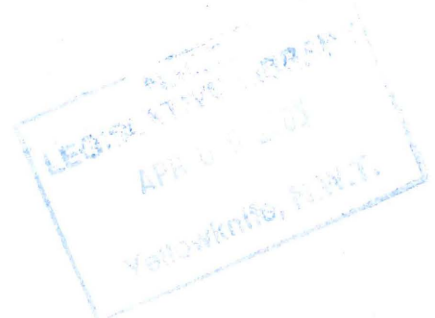
“This meeting will help us continue our work with the federal government to further address the unique health care challenges of the three territories,” Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie said. “I look forward to building on the good will that has been established so far.”

For more information, contact:

**Bill Clay**  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Premier  
Government of Nunavut  
Tel: (867) 975-5059

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Cabinet  
Government of the NWT  
Tel: (867) 669-2304

**Peter Carr**  
Cabinet Communications  
Government of Yukon  
Tel: (867) 667-8688



03-031

## **Award Recognizes Reduced Highway Fatalities**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 10) – The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) has awarded the Northwest Territories with an international safety award for its efforts to reduce highway fatalities.**

The NWT experienced the greatest percentage decrease in traffic fatalities among Canadian jurisdictions in 2000 with only one fatality on NWT highways that year - a 75 per cent reduction from the four deaths in 1999.

The AAMVA represents state, provincial and territorial officials in the U.S. and Canada who administer and enforce motor vehicle laws. Director, Road Licensing and Safety for the Department of Transportation Gary Walsh accepted the award as its NWT member.

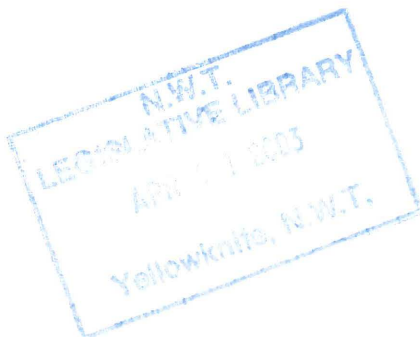
Minister of Transportation Joe Handley says the award recognizes an overall positive trend in the number of highway accidents and fatalities in the Northwest Territories. He says government will continue to improve the NWT highway system and implement other measures designed to improve safety.

“Ultimately, safe highways are produced by safe driving behaviour,” Mr. Handley noted.

While NWT highways have become safer, Mr. Handley acknowledges more work needs to be done. In recent months, the GNWT has taken action in a number of specific areas including upgrading highways and introducing tougher laws to combat impaired driving.

**For more information, contact:**

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



03-032

## YK Student Demonstrates Sound Financial IQ

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 10) - Yellowknife student Duncan Hamre has been awarded \$750 from the Canadian Securities Administrators' (CSA) *Test Your Financial IQ Contest* run locally by the Securities Registry of the Department of Justice.**

Mr. Hamre will receive his prize at a presentation tomorrow (Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>) at 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly.

The *Test Your Financial IQ Contest* was organized by the CSA's Investor Education Committee and securities regulators across the country to encourage youth to learn more about saving and investing. Youth were invited to write a short essay answering two questions: If you were to win the \$2,500 grand prize, how would you invest it and why? Do you think that it is important for young people your age to learn about investing? Why or why not?

Mr. Hamre's essay represented the Northwest Territories at the national level of the contest.

"Duncan's essay demonstrated good knowledge of financial issues, and if he puts his ideas into practice, he should have a solid financial future," Minister of Justice Roger Allen noted.

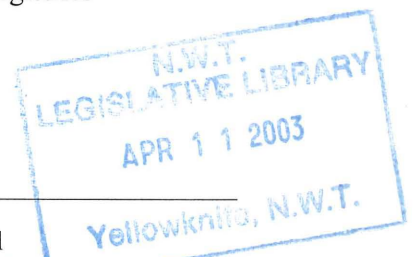
"We are always looking for creative ways to get young people involved in learning more about investing their money wisely. Youth need to become more financially aware as sound savings and investing habits will give them a head start for their future," added Tony Wong, Registrar, for the NWT Securities and Corporate Registries.

April is National Investor Education Month. The CSA's Investor Education Committee will announce the winner of the national competition later this month. The prize money is being provided by jurisdictions through the CSA.

The Securities Registry of the Department of Justice has educational material available for people who want to learn more about investing and financial planning. For copies of this information, contact the Securities Registry at (867) 873-7490. Copies of Duncan Hamre's essay are also available upon request.

**For more information, contact:**

**Tony Wong**  
Registrar, Securities & Corporate Registries  
Justice  
Tel: (867) 873-7490



03-033

## Aviation Bursaries Available for NWT Students

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 10) – A total of \$40,000 in bursaries will be awarded this year to Northwest Territories students pursuing careers in the aviation industry.**

Students have until May 31, 2003 to apply for one of the \$5,000 bursaries to be awarded for the upcoming academic year through the Aviation Career Development Program. The program, now in its third year, is co-sponsored by the Department of Transportation and Canadian North with support from the Northern Air Transport Association (NATA) - the umbrella organization for northern air carriers.

Recipients are 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.

“This bursary program is designed to encourage and assist NWT students in their studies towards one of the many interesting and rewarding careers in the aviation industry,” Minister of Transportation Joe Handley says. “As the economy of the Northwest Territories continues to take off, so will career opportunities in this field.”

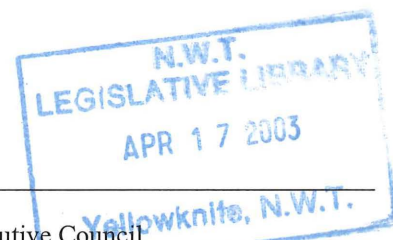
“Canadian North is very pleased to join the Government of the Northwest Territories in funding the bursaries under the Aviation Career Development Program,” says Carmen Loberg, President of Canadian North. “This important program will assist northerners in pursuing careers in aviation. That’s good for the North.”

“The Northern Air Transport Association and its members are proud to support the Aviation Career Development Program,” NATA president Bob Davis says. “As in the past, aviation continues to play a role that is predominant in the northern transportation system and vital to the strength of the northern economy. This program offers a tremendous opportunity for young people to enter a career and shape the future of this critical northern industry.”

Applications and information on the program are available from the Operations and Training Officer in the Airports Division of the Department of Transportation in Yellowknife, (867) 873-7725, or on the department’s website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca).

**For more information, contact:**

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





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## News Release

03-034

# NWT Post-Secondary Indicators Report Released

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 15) -- A statistical report profiling the Northwest Territories' adult and post-secondary education system indicates a dramatic rise in the number of Aboriginal students from the NWT enrolled in adult and post-secondary programs.**

The biannual Post-Secondary Indicators 2001 Report, released by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, shows a 67 per cent increase in Aboriginal students attending Aurora College and receiving Student Financial Assistance during the ten-year period from 1991-2001. Over the same ten-year period, the number of Aboriginal students attending college or technical and trades schools outside of the NWT was also up by 59 per cent.

"A sound basic education is essential for personal well-being and participation in our rapidly evolving global society," Minister of Education Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says. "We have reason to be pleased with the quality of our programs and the success of our efforts to provide access to post-secondary education."

The 2001 report includes 19 new indicators to assist in tracking NWT postsecondary students. These include data on employment outcomes and earnings of Aurora College graduates; information on students by age groups and more detailed reporting on students enrolled in academic preparation programs at Aurora College.

Based on Student Financial Assistance data from 2001, females comprised 63 per cent of post-secondary students attending Aurora College, 60 per cent of NWT students at Canadian or international colleges and institutes and 59 per cent of NWT students attending universities in Canada.

**For more information contact:**

**Sue Glowach**  
Manager Public Affairs  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-6222





#03-035

**For immediate release...**

## **Territories gain support of provinces on housing funding**

**Winnipeg, MB (April 16, 2003)** – Territorial housing ministers have gained valuable support from their provincial counterparts for their efforts to change the way federal funding for housing is calculated.

The support came at a meeting in Winnipeg of federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for housing. They discussed strategies to increase affordable housing and to renovate existing housing stocks across Canada.

The ministers said new federal funding for housing should consider specific provincial and territorial needs. At present, funding is calculated on a per-person basis.

Calculating funding on a per-person basis unfairly penalizes jurisdictions with small populations, such as the three territories. Moreover, per-capita funding does not take into account the higher cost of living in remote areas.

“Investigating changes to the current funding model will ensure better treatment for smaller jurisdictions, particularly in Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut,” said Kelvin Ng, Nunavut’s Minister Responsible for Housing.

“Our provincial counterparts recognize the need to find better ways to fund housing projects in jurisdictions that have smaller populations,” said Roger Allen, NWT Minister Responsible for Housing. “Fair and equitable funding solutions are critical to help territorial governments add to our housing stock.”

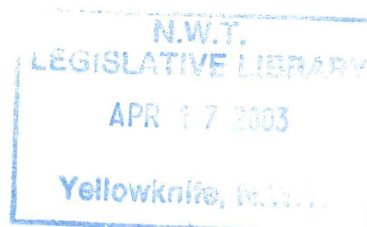
Ministers emphasized that addressing future housing will require a high level of flexibility in the implementation of initiatives. Included in this flexibility should be a recognition of the unique challenges facing remote and northern territories.

### **For more information:**

**Don Routledge**  
Yukon Housing Corporation  
Government of Yukon  
Tel: (867) 667-8086

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

**Bill Clay**  
Press Secretary  
Government of Nunavut  
Tel: (867) 975-1317



03-036

## **2003 NWT Outstanding Volunteers Awarded**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 23) -- Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Vince Steen today announced the recipients of this year's NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards.**

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the Northwest Territories Power Corporation give these awards annually to individuals and groups who have made an outstanding contribution to the Northwest Territories (NWT) through their work as volunteers.

Receiving NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards for 2003 are Brad Thomas Elkin Hall (Youth), Stephen Rowan (Elder), the Yellowknife Food Bank (Group) and Beverly Masuzumi (Individual).

A selection committee made up of Northwest Territories residents chose this year's recipients from over 65 nominations.

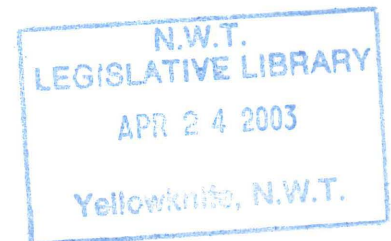
"I would like to congratulate the territorial award winners, community nominees and indeed all community volunteers, and thank them for their outstanding contribution to volunteerism in the NWT," Mr. Steen said. "With the ever-increasing demand for services, volunteers are becoming an even more important part of our lives each year."

Territorial award recipients will be honoured at a ceremony in Fort Simpson on April 27<sup>th</sup> as part of National Volunteer Week April 27-May 3, 2003.

Mr. Steen encouraged all NWT communities to hold recognition ceremonies to celebrate and recognize the efforts of their volunteers. "All nominees are winners, and it is important to recognize the contribution that volunteers across the NWT make," he said.

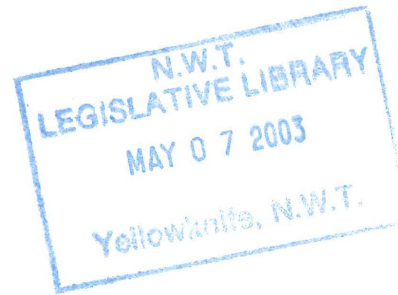
**For more information, contact:**

**Doug Johnson**  
Manager, Policy & Planning  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 873-7512





03-037



## **Stanton Hospital Board to be Re-established**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 25) – Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger has announced plans to re-establish a Board of Management for the Stanton Territorial Health Authority.**

The nine-member Board will reflect the Authority's territorial mandate. It will include one member from each of the six regional Authorities and the Sahtu where an Authority is currently being developed.

The Board will also include a second member from Yellowknife and an additional member from the Authority or community represented by the Board's Chair to permit the Chair to assume full leadership duties.

In November 2002, the Minister of Health and Social Services accepted the recommendation of members of the Board that the Board be dissolved. Since that time, a public administrator has worked with Stanton management to successfully strengthen the operational environment.

"It is important that the Stanton Health Authority have a fully functioning Board to provide leadership and direction to the organization," Mr. Miltenberger said. "Re-establishment of a Board of Management will ensure this organization continues to make improvements that reflect the input and priorities of all residents of the NWT."

The Minister has written to the Chairs of all existing Authorities to request nominations as well as to Yellowknife MLAs and other organizations to nominate candidates for the additional Yellowknife Trustee.

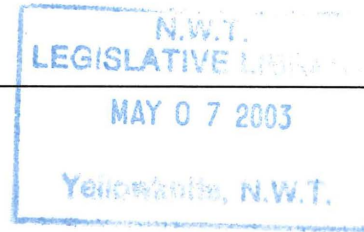
**For more information, contact:**

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



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## News Release



03-038

# Conditional Support for De Beers Snap Lake

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 28) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) says comprehensive socio-economic and environmental agreements are needed if the proposed De Beers Snap Lake diamond project is to proceed as planned.**

Speaking at public hearings convened by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board to assess the environmental impact of the project, Acting Deputy Minister of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Doug Doan said that the Snap Lake mine has the potential to make a significant contribution to the economy of the Northwest Territories. However, additional measures must be taken, including socio-economic and environmental agreements, to ensure that the project is both economically and environmentally sustainable.

“Our responsibility in evaluating any proposed development is to ensure that the public interest is served,” Mr. Doan said. “We support this project, provided that its socio-economic benefits are shared fairly with all the residents of the NWT, and that sufficient provisions are made to protect the environment for future generations.”

While the De Beers proposal satisfies many of the GNWT’s concerns, there are still aspects of the plan that must be improved. They include hiring targets for NWT residents, the use of hydro-electricity on-site and the assessment of the project’s impact on wildlife management.

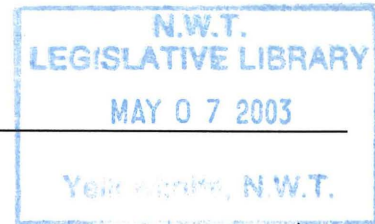
“We look forward to working closely with De Beers to conclude agreements that ensure these concerns are addressed satisfactorily,” Mr. Doan said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Doug Doan**  
Acting Deputy Minister  
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development  
Tel: (867) 873-7115



## News Release



03-039

# New Inuvik Hospital Starts Move-In

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 28) – Phase I construction of the new Inuvik Regional Hospital is now complete and the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Authority is now carrying out its carefully planned transfer of programs and services from the old facility into the new one.**

Of paramount importance to the Authority is the continuity of high quality care to patients and long-term care residents during this transition period.

The new hospital, which is seven per cent larger than its predecessor, will continue to offer the same range of acute, birthing and long-term care services. Its design will accommodate future expansion if required.

“This capital project is by far the most ambitious undertaken by the GNWT since Division,” says Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger. “I am pleased to report that we have completed this project on schedule. Residents and health professionals of the Inuvik region can take pride in this new state-of-the-art hospital.”

The new hospital has special significance for all of the Northwest Territories because it is the first hospital built since the full transfer of health responsibilities from the federal government in 1988.

The Department of Health and Social Services, assisted by the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Authority and the Department of Public Works and Services, completed the design and construction of the new facility with 4801 NWT Ltd., a joint venture group made up of the Uummarmiut Development Corporation and the Nihtat Gwich'in Development Corporation.

Phase II of the project will include the demolition of the old hospital and landscaping of the new site. This is expected to be completed by the fall of 2003.

Inuvik's original hospital was built in 1957-58. Its replacement was made necessary by an aging foundation and its design reflecting outdated service delivery methods.

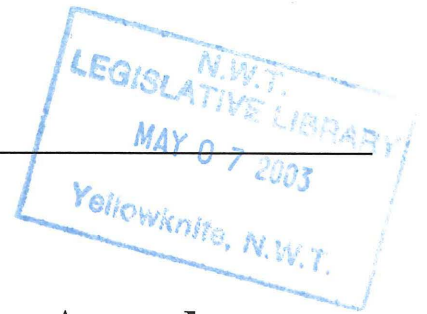
An official grand opening for the new hospital is planned for this summer.

**For more information, contact:**

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



## News Release



03-040

# 2002/2003 Ministerial Literacy Awards

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 30) – A learner, a tutor and an organization have been recognized by Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes with 2002/2003 Ministerial Literacy Awards.**

The annual award honours individuals or organizations that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving personal levels of literacy or have worked to promote and foster literacy within their community.

This years recipients are Henry Mandeville of Fort Resolution, Jaime Little of Yellowknife, and the South Slave Divisional Education Council – Literacy Project Committee of Fort Smith.

“Literacy is an issue that demands the attention and support of all residents of the NWT,” Mr. Ootes said. “The commitment and dedication of these individuals and organization serve to encourage others to work toward a more literate society in the NWT.”

As a student at the Deninu Kue Community Learning Centre, Henry Mandeville, is making tremendous improvements in his literacy program this year. Henry not only participates in the program but gives freely of his time. He has started a Junior Rangers program in his community and is a positive role model for others. A talented artist, Henry provided all of the illustrations for a booklet produced by the Community Learning Centre.

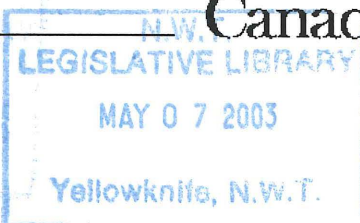
Jaime Little is a very dedicated and committed volunteer tutor at the Literacy Outreach Centre in Yellowknife. Jaime spends a lot of her free time helping others improve their reading and writing skills. She is an innovative tutor who works hard to make her tutoring sessions interesting and fun for learners.

The South Slave Divisional Education Council - Literacy Project Committee has made valuable contributions to improving literacy in every community in the South Slave Region. The Committee consists of a regional coordinator and at least one representative from each school in the South Slave region. Working with many partners, the committee is currently implementing a three - year plan, consisting of agreed upon strategies that are likely to bring about improvements to student literacy across the South Slave region.

Margaret Sayine, a student at the Fort Resolution Community Learning Centre; Garry Elemie, a student at the Deline Community Learning Centre; Deanne Gatto, a teacher at the Mackenzie Mountain School in Norman Wells, and Aurora College, Aurora Campus of Inuvik received honourable mentions for this year’s awards.

**For more information, contact:**

**Sue Glowach**  
Manager, Public Affairs  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-8927



03-041

## GNWT/Immigration Canada to Support Northern Diamond Industry

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 6) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada with representatives of industry and government today have agreed to support Canada's NWT-based diamond industry and facilitate the training of workers by means of the immigration process.**

"To continue its dynamic growth, the diamond industry will need hundreds of highly skilled workers over the next decade," said Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Minister Jim Antoine at the conclusion of the Diamond and Immigration Roundtable held in Yellowknife today, the first in a series of meetings between government and business to explore ways to support the Canadian diamond industry. This first historic meeting has taken place bringing together key members of industry, governments and training institutions.

The territorial and federal governments agreed that Canada's immigration process can be employed to expedite the immigration of skilled diamond artisans to work in the industry and to train Canadian diamond workers.

"It's essential that we establish a critical mass of skilled diamond workers, who must learn their craft from qualified instructors," said Jake Ootes, the GNWT's Minister for Education, Culture and Employment. "We are encouraged that the federal government is working with us to support the immigration of skilled diamond artisans to assist the Canadian industry and our efforts to train Northern workers."

"I'm delighted to see so many interested players working together to find comprehensive solutions to building the NWT regional labour market and the diamond industry," said The Honourable Denis Coderre, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada. "Effective immigration is part of the solution to this industry's skill shortages, as is better training and industry involvement."

**For further information contact:**

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

**Sue Glowach**  
Manager, Communications  
(GNWT) Education, Culture  
& Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-6222

**Sarah Bain**  
Press Secretary to  
Minister of Citizenship  
& Immigration Canada  
Tel: (613) 954-1064



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## News Release

03-042

### Contingency Plan Developed for Specialist Services

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 9) – Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger says the Stanton Territorial Health Authority will have a contingency plan in place, to ensure continued access to specialist services, should a number of physician specialists resign on July 1, 2003.**

Some Stanton specialists have advised the Government of the Northwest Territories of their plans to resign effective July 1, 2003 should current contract negotiations fail to reach an agreement for compensation of specialist services by this date.

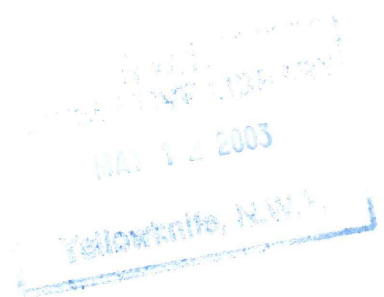
“We are committed to continuing negotiations with specialists, however, we have a responsibility to inform the public and staff within the system that alternate arrangements for specialist services may be necessary,” Mr. Miltenberger said.

Negotiations with the specialists are continuing, with further discussions planned for later this month.

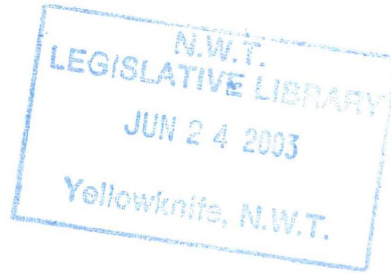
Stanton’s contingency plan is being prepared in partnership with the Department and Health and Social Services Authorities.

**For more information, contact:**

**Tami Johnson**  
Communications  
Department of Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-3253



03-042



## Contingency Plan Developed for Specialist Services

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**For more information, contact:**

**Tami Johnson**  
Communications  
Department of Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-3253

May 12, 2003

## **Alberta, N.W.T. advance co-operation and development**

Edmonton... Alberta and the Northwest Territories have agreed to a five-year extension of a *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* for co-operation and development.

The announcement to advance the agreement until October 2008 followed an Edmonton meeting with Alberta Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister Pearl Calahasen and Northwest Territories Minister of Public Works and Services Vince Steen, who also serves as N.W.T. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

"The approval of the extension is an indication of the importance both governments place on this *Memorandum of Understanding*," said Calahasen. Steen agreed and stated, "We are very good neighbours that share many socio-economic connections."

Both ministers cited examples of progress since their December 2002 meeting in Yellowknife. "We have been able to move forward on a number of tourism-related initiatives, especially in conjunction with the Deh Cho Travel Connection, which will enhance the tourism experience for visitors to Alberta, the N.W.T. and northeastern B.C.," said Calahasen. Steen added, "Since our last meeting, which called for action in the transportation area, a number of significant issues have been addressed, including the development of a joint transportation action plan."

Also participating in the meeting were Northwest Territories Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes and Chair of the Northern Alberta Development Council, Gary Friedel, who is the MLA for Peace River.

"Work undertaken on the development of a strategy related to research and innovation has significant potential and is of tremendous importance," said Ootes. "By working together on research initiatives, Alberta and the Northwest Territories will be able to better identify initiatives that will assist in advancing northern development. As well, we have made substantial progress on increased co-operation and education."

Friedel noted that transportation was again given top priority at the interprovincial gathering. "Maintaining and enhancing our mutual air, rail and road transportation systems is paramount," he said. "Specifically, emphasis was placed on the importance of the Mackenzie Highway and the Mackenzie Northern Railway, essential connectors to our suppliers and to our markets."

The Alberta-Northwest Territories *Memorandum of Understanding* to promote co-operation and development between Alberta and the Northwest Territories was signed in 1998. The next *MOU* meeting is scheduled for this fall in Yellowknife.

-30-

### **For further information contact:**

Peter Tadman, Communications  
Alberta Aboriginal Affairs and Northern  
Development (780) 415-0876

Drew Williams, Communications  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
(867) 669-2304

Tom Baldwin, Executive Director  
Northern Alberta Development Council  
(780) 624-6274

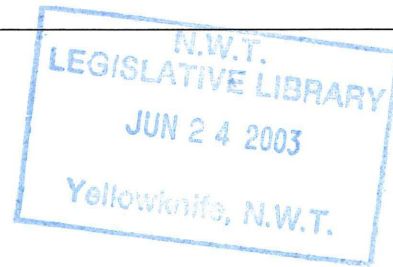
Bernie Hughes, Senior Policy Advisor  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
(867) 920-6378





## News Release

03-044



# New Board Members Appointed for WCB

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 23) -- Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) in the Northwest Territories Joseph Handley has appointed two new members to the organization's Board of Directors.**

Steve Petersen of Yellowknife has been appointed for a one-year term as worker representative. Denny Rodgers of Inuvik, has been appointed for a one-year term as a public interest representative. Both appointments commenced May 1, 2003.

Mr. Petersen is an involved member of the labour movement, and an experienced representative of injured workers. He has served as Regional Vice President of the Northern Territories Federation of Labour, on the Board of the Council for Disabled Persons, and as a labour representative for the WCB Legislative Review Panel.

Denny Rodgers, of Inuvik, is serving his third consecutive term as a member of the Inuvik Town Council. He is the Finance Manager of the Inuvik Housing Authority and an active volunteer in his community.

The Workers Compensation Board serves both the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The Minister Responsible for the Workers Compensation Board in Nunavut Kelvin Ng has recommended that Alain Carriere of Iqaluit be re-appointed as a Public Interest Representative for a term of one-year, commencing April 1, 2003.

### **For information contact:**

**Dave Grundy**  
Manager, Public Affairs  
WCB of the  
NWT and Nunavut  
Tel: (867) 699-4442

**Teresa Sanderson**  
Public Affairs Officer  
WCB of the  
NWT and Nunavut  
Tel: (867) 920-3849

**Shawn McCann**  
Public Affairs Officer  
WCB of the  
NWT and Nunavut  
Tel: (867) 920-3845



## News Release



03-045

# Specialist Negotiations End Without Contracts

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 3) – Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger announced today that negotiations with physician specialists, as a group, have ended with specialists declining the offer by the Government of the Northwest Territories to resolve differences through binding arbitration.**

The GNWT has offered specialists a 27 per cent pay increase over two years. Specialists are asking for 57 per cent pay increase over two years. The GNWT proposed arbitration because it felt that the difference separating the two parties is too great and would not be resolved through the negotiation process before July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003.

In March, twelve specialists from the Stanton Territorial Health Authority served notice to the GNWT that on July 1, 2003, they would: *terminate their contracts of employment and cease to provide any medical services unless a negotiated settlement is reached.*

Binding arbitration would have required both parties to accept the recommendation of an independent arbitrator.

“It became apparent, during the final round of negotiations, that each party believed their proposal was fair, reasonable and competitive,” Mr. Miltenberger said. “An independent arbitrator could have assessed the proposals and identified what they considered to be fair, reasonable and competitive. We were prepared to accept that independent assessment.”

The Minister said he’s extremely disappointed that negotiations were unsuccessful. He says the GNWT proposal included a comprehensive package of pay and benefits that offered specialists, as salaried employees, a means to ensure a better balance of professional and family/personal interests.

As is its standard procedure, when there is a vacancy in the health profession, the Stanton Territorial Health Authority will take the necessary steps to ensure NWT residents continue to have access to specialist services, with a priority on cases requiring urgent care.

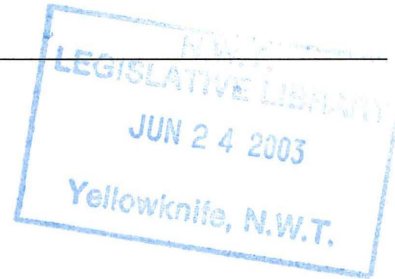
Physician Specialists in the Northwest Territories sign individual employment contracts. “We value our specialist workforce and the services they provide,” Mr. Miltenberger said. “The process of bargaining with the specialists as a group has been unsuccessful. It is now up to each specialist to decide whether or not they wish to stay in the Northwest Territories and address their individual employment situation with the government.”

**For more information, contact:**

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



**#03-045 BACKGROUNDER**  
 Specialist Negotiations End Without Contracts  
 YELLOWKNIFE (June 3)



**Highlights of GNWT and Specialists Proposals**

The Stanton Territorial Health Authority (STHA) is funded for 18 physician specialists, excluding three positions recently approved in the *Interim Health Profession Plan*. The following table presents the compensation and benefits under:

1. the existing contract;
2. a revised contract proposed by the GNWT/Stanton negotiating team; and
3. a revised contract proposed by the Physician Specialists negotiating team.

	Current Contract	GNWT/STHA		Physician Specialists	
		2002/03	2003/04	2002/03	2003/04
Number of positions	18	18	18	18	18
Direct payments (Note 1)	4,335,004	5,060,999	5,692,494	5,243,897	7,326,993
Benefits (Note 2)	1,328,804	1,415,265	1,492,725	1,499,190	1,566,194
<b>Total compensation</b>	<b>5,663,808</b>	<b>6,476,264</b>	<b>7,185,219</b>	<b>6,743,087</b>	<b>8,893,187</b>
Annual increase		14.34%	10.95%	19.06%	31.89%
<b>Increases compounded over two years</b>			<b>26.86%</b>		<b>57.02%</b>
Leave entitlements	56 to 61 days	36 to 46 days		56 to 66 days	
Locum requirements (Note 3)	800,000	378,000	378,000	796,500	796,500
<b>Total cost to GNWT/STHA</b>	<b>6,463,808</b>	<b>6,854,264</b>	<b>7,563,219</b>	<b>7,539,587</b>	<b>9,689,687</b>

**Note 1:** Direct payments include base salary, signing bonuses, recruitment bonuses, retention bonuses, and payments for on-call.

**Note 2:** Benefits included Northern Allowance; professional fees; continuing medical education; medical texts; pension and retirement payments; dental, health and life insurance benefits; and professional insurances. In addition to these benefits, physician specialists receive moving allowances, and may be eligible for severance payments.

**Note 3:** Locums tenens are physician specialists hired on a daily basis to ensure ongoing coverage of specialist services at times when employed physician specialists may be unavailable due to vacation, medical education, or other planned absences. Leave entitlements for specialists have a direct impact on the number of locums required to ensure coverage.

While direct comparisons are difficult, the NWT specialist physician employment model is competitive to other jurisdiction's physician employment models. Most specialist physicians in Canada are employed through a fee-for-service model where, in order to generate income, physicians must see a large number of patients and perform a significant number of procedures. Fee-for-service physicians are independent business providers, who must pay clinic overhead, staff salaries and benefits, capital costs, insurances and other O&M requirements. A fee-for-service physician loses income when they take time for vacation or continuing medical education as they self-fund their leave. In the NWT specialist employment model, all of the above are provided to the specialist in a salary and benefit package that includes clinic space.

## **Specialist Services and Coverage at Stanton**

**Note: The information presented in this section is subject to change. The following information is based on the best estimate of specialist resources that will be available as of July 1, 2003.**

In the event of vacancies in physician specialist positions, it will be necessary to reduce patient services within the hospital and clinics until arrangements are made for locum coverage and recruitment of permanent specialists. The level of service available will increase as staff contract locums or recruit specialists.

### **1. Medical Clinic and Medical Centre**

The Medical Centre and Medical Clinic will be closed for regular specialist appointments in program areas that do not have regular physician specialists or locum coverage. With locum coverage the first priority will be provision of emergency services. The locum physician workload will determine if regular clinic visits can be maintained. Full services at both clinics will be intermittent through July and August.

All physician specialists have long term patients that require regular follow up. The clinic nursing staff and the Medical Director will be coordinating services to ensure that patients requiring regular follow up are seen by the appropriate practitioner in Yellowknife or (in some cases) the Capital Health Authority in Edmonton.

### **2. Anesthesia**

Resources: One physician specialist and four general practitioners with anesthesia skills will provide anesthesia services.

Services: Anesthesia services will be available as required.

### **3. Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)**

Resources: To date locum services have not been arranged.

Services: Clinic appointments and operating room services will not be available. Emergency cases will be transferred to Edmonton.

### **4. General Surgery**

Resources: Locum services have been arranged for July and August.

Services: Clinic consults will depend on availability of resources and the workload of the locum physician. Initially elective surgery will be cancelled. Emergency surgeries will be performed.

### **5. Internal Medicine**

Resources: Two physician specialist-internists are available. One internist is the Medical Director who will assist with coordinating services.

Services: Initially regular clinic services will be limited. Endoscopic services will continue but may be slightly reduced. The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) will remain open. Chemotherapy and dialysis will continue.

### **6. Obstetrics/Gynecology**

Resources: Locums have been arranged for July and early August. Search for a second locum is underway.

Services: Clinic consults and operating room procedures will depend on the number of locums and workload. Emergency Caesareans and other emergencies will be the priority. If guaranteed emergency coverage for obstetrics is not available, physicians will make appropriate patient care arrangements. The availability of pediatricians directly impacts on the level of obstetrical services that can be offered.

### **7. Ophthalmology Clinic**

Resources: To date locum services have not been arranged. Ophthalmology technicians will be available.

Services: Ophthalmology technicians services require ophthalmologist support in order to continue regular services. There is a possibility of ophthalmologist support via telephone. Emergency services will require transfer to Edmonton. The level of ophthalmology services remains unknown at this time.

### **8. Orthopedics**

Resources: To date locum services have not been arranged.

Services: At this time regular clinic appointments and operating room services will not be available. Emergency cases will be transferred to Edmonton.

### **9. Pediatrics**

Resources: To date locum services have not been arranged.

Services: Clinic appointments and inpatient services will not be available unless we are able to obtain locum physicians. Emergency cases will be transferred to Edmonton. Some high-risk pregnancies may need to be transferred to Edmonton.

### **10. Psychiatry**

Resources: One general practitioner with additional training in psychiatry is available.

Services: Psychiatrist clinic appointments will not be available. The general physician-psychiatry will be available for some consultation and limited emergency services. Patients with severe mental distress will be sent to Edmonton.

### **11. Radiology**

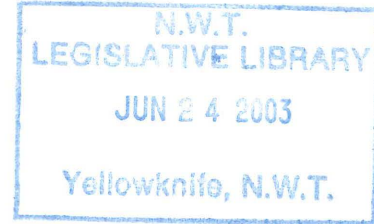
Resources: To date services have not been arranged.

Services: Procedures requiring radiologist services will only be available if we have a radiologist on site. The technologists will provide routine services. General practitioners will provide the initial interpretation for their patients. All films will be sent south for second interpretation by a radiologist.



## News Release

03-046



# Premier Says Investment Will Pay Off

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 4) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi says current and projected economic activity in the Northwest Territories will soon make the NWT a net contributor to Canada - contributing more than it receives.**

In his Sessional statement to Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Premier called upon his colleagues to look beyond its short-term fiscal challenges and maintain a commitment to investment.

"We have consistently addressed our fiscal situation positively and with confidence; and always with the fundamental belief that investment now - in our territory and its residents, will pay dividends in the future," Mr. Kakfwi said.

The Premier told the Legislative Assembly that the Northwest Territories has outgrown its funding agreement with Ottawa.

"There is growing recognition in Ottawa that changes are needed to the Northwest Territories formula financing agreement and per capita funding arrangements are inadequate," he said.

The Premier urged members to remain focused, united and committed to the agenda identified almost four years ago.

"By the end of this summer, I believe the results and successes of our collective commitment will be clearer," the Premier said.

Copies of the Premier's Sessional Statement can be found at:

<http://www.gov.nt.ca/thisweek/news/index.html>

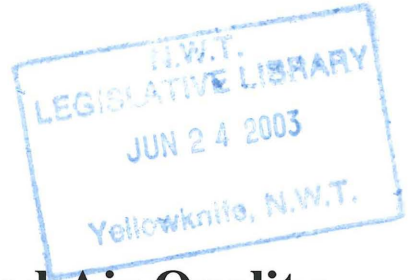
**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Executive Council  
Tel: (867) 669-2304



## News Release

03-047



# Annual Report Shows Improved Air Quality

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 4) – Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine marked Canada Clean Air Day today by releasing the 2001-2002 Annual Report on the state of air quality in the Northwest Territories.**

The report, summarizing information collected on air quality since 1989, shows a continued improvement in air quality in Yellowknife with sulphur dioxide and arsenic concentrations at or close to background levels and dust readings the lowest in 10 years.

In Fort Liard, sulphur dioxide and hydrogen sulphide monitoring indicate no measurable effects in the community from natural gas exploration and development in the area.

While this is good news the Minister says it is critical that NWT residents remain vigilant. "All of us, as individuals and members of our communities, must make choices that help to create a cleaner and safer world for our families, future generations and ourselves," he said.

Thanks to new partnerships with the Government of Canada and municipalities, the Northwest Territories has been able to establish a network of 'state of the art' air quality monitoring stations. The Government of the Northwest Territories has recently upgraded existing air quality monitoring stations in Yellowknife and Fort Laird and opened new stations in both Norman Wells and Inuvik.

Results from the expanded monitoring network will be reported in 2004. The 2001-2002 Air Quality Report can be found on-line at: <http://www.rwed.gov.nt.ca/RWED/eps/new.htm>

**For more information, contact:**

**Emery Paquin**

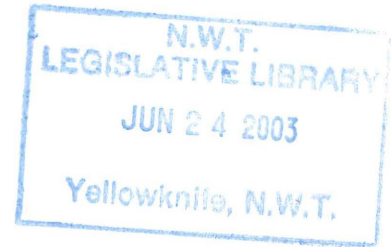
Director, Environmental Protection Service  
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development  
Tel: (867) 873-7654





## News Release

03-048



# Family Violence Protection Act Introduced

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 10) – Minister of Justice Roger Allen today introduced Bill 21 - the Family Violence Protection Act. When passed, the Act will provide new protections for people who are threatened with, or are victims of, family violence.**

“This Act provides for 24 hour access to emergency protection orders when there is a threat, or situation of family violence,” Mr. Allen said. “It provides victims of family violence with long-term protection through protection orders.”

An emergency protection order can include a number of provisions, including granting sole use of a home or other property, restricting communication between the people involved, and the seizure of weapons or firearms by the police. Protection orders may include the same protections as an emergency order. They can also include financial compensation or require counseling.

Protections under the proposed Act will be available to anyone in a family or intimate relationship who have lived together. A spouse or former spouse, someone who has had a child with the accused, or the parent or grandparent of any of these people may also apply.

“By including parents and grandparents, we are helping to address some of the concerns of elder abuse raised by community organizations and members of this Legislative Assembly,” Mr. Allen noted.

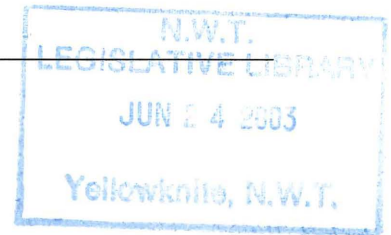
The Minister today recognized the support of Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Coalition Against Family Violence for the draft legislation. “These new protections provide yet another tool aimed at eliminating family violence,” he said. “We must continue to work together to develop other solutions to address this problem.”

**For more information:**

**Glen Rutland**  
Policy Advisor, Communications  
Justice  
Tel: (867) 920-3130



**#03-048 BACKGROUNDER<sup>1</sup>**  
Family Violence Protection Act Introduced  
YELLOWKNIFE (June 10)



**Key Terms**

Respondent - is the person who committed, or is accused of committing, an act of family violence. Applicant - is the person who is a victim of, or threatened with, family violence or someone applying on their behalf

**Who can apply for protection under the FVPA?**

The following people can apply for protection under the Act

- a spouse or former spouse
- anyone who has or is living with someone in a family or intimate relationship (i.e. a parent, grandparent, sibling, child, or boy/girlfriend who have lived together)
- anyone who has had a child with the respondent
- a parent or a grandparent of any of the above people

**What is family violence?**

Family violence occurs when someone through their action or inaction causes any of the following to happen to another person in a family or intimate relationship:

- hurts or damages a person or property
- causes someone to fear for their safety
- causes someone to fear for the safety of a child in their care
- causes a child in their care to fear for his or her safety
- sexual abuse of a person or child in their care
- psychological, emotional or financial abuse that causes harm or fear of harm to someone or a child in their care

**What protections are available under the FVPA?**

Emergency Protection Orders can be issued 24 hours a day from a justice of the peace who is satisfied that family violence has taken place or there is an immediate danger of family violence.

An emergency protection order may:

- remove the respondent from the home
- give the applicant sole use of the home and/or other property
- not allow communication between the people involved
- require the seizure of weapons or firearms by the police

All emergency protection orders are reviewed by the Supreme Court, who may agree with the order, or hold a hearing where they can agree with, change, or revoke the order.

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<sup>1</sup>This Backgrounder is provided as a summary for convenience and public information. It is not intended as legal advice or as a legal or full interpretation of the Act. When necessary, please refer to the official version of the Act.

**Protection Orders** are available on application to the Supreme Court. They may be ordered when the Court is satisfied that family violence has occurred. A protection order may contain similar provisions as an emergency protection order. It can also include financial compensation and counselling orders.

**A Warrant of Entry** is available 24 hours a day and may be issued by a Justice of the Peace who is satisfied someone who may be a victim of family violence can not be reached and is likely in the place to be entered. This gives someone the right to enter and search the place named in the warrant, help the person who may have a victim of family violence, and remove anything that may be evidence of family violence.

**How will someone apply for an order?**

It is proposed that someone could apply for an order by contacting the RCMP or through a 1-800 number, 24 hours a day. A Justice of Peace would hear the evidence and could issue an order.

**What if someone does not follow an order?**

The FVPA makes it illegal to not follow an order. If convicted of breaking an order, preventing someone from performing part of an order, or publishing information not allowed under the Act, a person could face a fine up to \$5000 and six months in jail.

**Can someone change a protection or emergency protection order?**

After an order has been made, the applicant or respondent can apply to the Supreme Court to change or revoke the order.

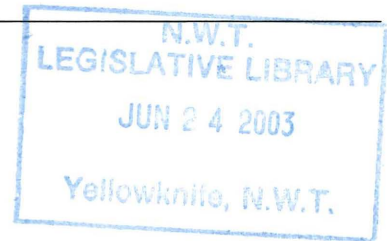
**When will the Act come into effect?**

The FVPA will come into effect on a day to be fixed by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. It will take time to implement the legislation, including planning, training and putting in place new resources to support the Act. A public education campaign will take place before the bill comes into effect.



## News Release

03-049



# New Youth Justice Legislation Introduced

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 10) – The Youth Justice Act, introduced today by Minister of Justice Roger Allen, will change how youth who commit territorial offences are dealt with.**

The Youth Justice Act, which will replace the current Young Offenders Act, will apply to youth between 12 and 17 years of age accused of committing offences set out in territorial legislation like the Motor Vehicles or Liquor Acts, or in municipal bylaws.

“The Youth Justice Act is based on Canada’s Youth Criminal Justice Act,” the Minister noted. “The same principles of crime prevention, rehabilitation, and meaningful consequences are included in our bill.”

The proposed Act will require police to consider alternative measures before charging a youth. These measures could include appearing before a community justice committee, meeting with an elder, warnings, cautions, referrals or formal sanctions.

The Act also provides for ‘conferences’ that can be called by police or the Court. Community and family members, teachers and others can be called to a conference to provide input on how to deal with a youth accused of a territorial offence.

“The Department of Justice has supported the use of alternative measures and community justice initiatives for many years,” Mr. Allen said. “This Act will support the RCMP in considering all possible alternatives to Court when dealing with youth.”

The Youth Justice Act also sets out the sentence a youth justice court may impose when a youth is convicted of a territorial offence. If passed, custody sentences will not exceed six months.

**For more information, contact:**

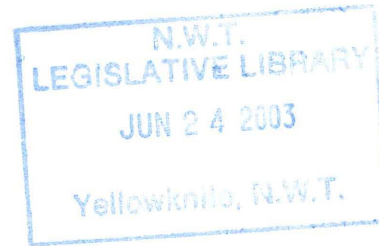
**Glen Rutland**  
Policy Advisor, Communications  
Justice  
Tel: (867) 920-3130



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## News Release

03-050



# Waste Recovery and Reduction Act Introduced

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 12) – New legislation, introduced this week by Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine, will pave the way for the recovery, reuse and recycling of materials throughout the Northwest Territories.**

The proposed Waste Reduction and Recovery Act, developed in consultation with industry, environmental organizations and the public will, through the development of regulations, allow the Government of the Northwest Territories to establish programs to recover, recycle and reuse waste materials in NWT communities. When passed, it will also allow the GNWT to designate materials for recovery, collect deposits and provide refunds on materials such as beverage containers.

“This Bill reflects our commitment to the environment and the wise use of our resources,” Mr. Antoine said. “Our goal is to reduce the impact of these wastes on the northern environment, greenhouse gas emissions and the costs of handling garbage while increasing the lifespan of community landfill sites.”

The new legislation will allow for the establishment of an Environment Fund to finance recovery, reuse and recycling programs in NWT communities and for the enforcement of recovery programs.

“This legislation is designed to be flexible enough to allow recovery of different kinds of materials over time,” Mr. Antoine noted. “Research and experience in other parts of Canada show more jobs can be associated with recovery programs than with putting garbage in landfills.”

**For more information, contact:**

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



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## News Release

03-051

### Minister Questions Written Consent for NIHB

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 12) – Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger has joined Nunavut Health Minister Ed Picco in voicing concerns over the federal government’s requirement to have signed consent from First Nations and Inuit people accessing the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program.**

“It is clear that First Nations and Inuit people are concerned about how this consent form will be used,” Mr. Miltenberger said.

In September 2002, Health Canada began requesting written consent from clients accessing the NIHB program in order to meet federal privacy requirements.

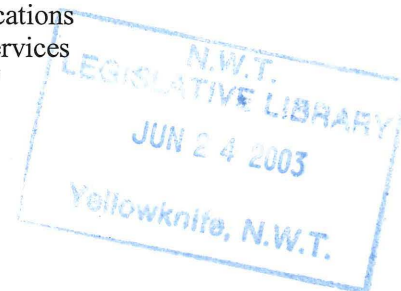
Mr. Miltenberger says Health Canada has not responded to questions about how this new requirement will impact the GNWT’s administration of the program.

“There has not been adequate consultation with the GNWT on this new requirement,” he said. Mr. Miltenberger will raise his concerns with federal Minister of Health, Anne McLellan at her next meeting with Canada’s three territorial health ministers. He says he wants a resolution to the issue well in advance of the proposed September 2003 implementation date.

“Our first priority is to ensure all NWT residents, including those eligible for NIHB benefits, have access to the services they require. It is not an option for us to decline services to residents because of a unilateral decision made by the Federal Government on how the NIHB program will be run.”

**For more information, contact:**

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





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## News Release

03-052

# Changes to Medical Travel Reduce Burden

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 13) – Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger, today announced interim changes to the medical travel policy to reduce travel costs for NWT patients without third party insurance coverage.**

The following changes take effect immediately:

The medical travel co-payment will not be collected for a patient requiring medical travel if the patient's family income is less than \$80,000 per year;

A patient with a family income of less than \$80,000 per year will be provided the same benefits for accommodation and meals as currently offered for indigent patients; and

A patient with a family income of more than \$80,000 per year will receive an accommodation allowance of \$50 per day and meal allowance of \$18 per day.

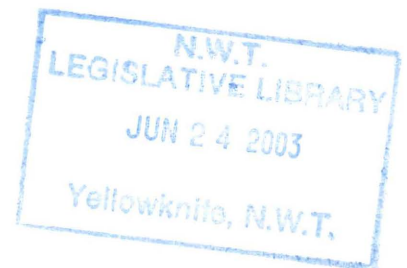
"These interim measures will reduce the financial burden on NWT families when a family member must travel to receive medical treatment," Mr. Miltenberger said.

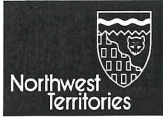
The changes will remain in place until a broader review of all supplementary health benefits is completed.

"These improvements respond to some of the gaps identified in the Medical Travel Policy by this government and concerned residents," the Minister noted. "They reflect the northern reality that residents may be required to travel in order to access medical care."

**For more information, contact:**

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





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## News Release

03-053

# Mineral Processing Technicians – Canadian First

**Yellowknife (June 16) –Thirteen Northwest Territories residents have become the first in Canada to be certified as Mineral Processing Technicians with specializations in either gold or diamond minerals.**

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jake Ootes introduced the new designated occupations: Mineral Processing Technician – Gold Specialization, and Mineral Processing Technician – Diamond Specialization along with the thirteen inaugural recipients of the certification at a ceremony this weekend in Yellowknife.

The Government of the Northwest Territories, along with key industry partners, has recognized the need to develop standards recognizing the expertise required for these important mining positions.

“These individuals are highly skilled but have traditionally received no formal recognition for their knowledge, skills and abilities,” the Minister noted. “We realized the need to change that.”

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment worked with BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc, Diavik Diamond Mines, Kinross Gold (formerly Echo Bay Mines), Miramar Con Mine, De Beers Canada and Aurora College to identify and develop occupational standards for these new mining occupations.

Occupational standards are just one tool that industry can use to assess the skills and expertise of individuals on the job. An occupational standard outlines the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes a person requires to perform competently in a given occupation. Certification in a designated occupation indicates that an individual has attained an established level of competency as determined by industry.

The addition of these two new designated occupations brings the total of NWT certified occupations to fourteen. They include other precedent setting certifications developed in the NWT like Diamond Polisher, Crossworker and Diamond Polisher, Brillianteer.

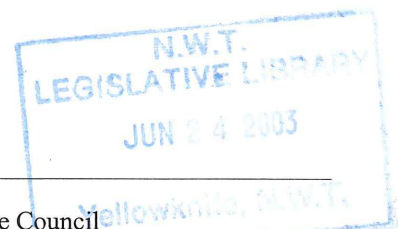
**For more information, contact:**

**Evan Walz**

Executive Assistant to:

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

Tel: (867) 669-2366







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## News Release

03-054

# Minister Wants BSE Compensation to be Flexible

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 16) - Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine is urging the federal government to ensure compensation for producers affected by the BSE outbreak in Western Canada is flexible enough to meet the needs of all businesses impacted.**

Speaking at the emergency meeting of federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Agriculture in Vancouver on Friday, Mr. Antoine noted that many businesses and producers beyond cattle producers are being impacted by the BSE outbreak.

“Northern producers of caribou and musk-ox meat products for export markets as well as outfitters are feeling the effect of the ban on meat products destined for the United States,” he said.

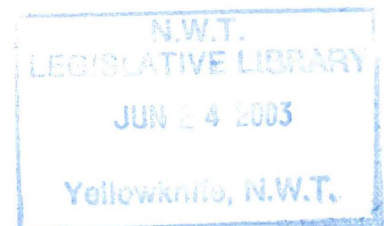
The Minister commended the Government of Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency on their handling of the BSE outbreak. “While we support the proposals to provide financial compensation to western producers, we want to ensure it is flexible,” he said.

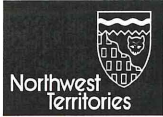
He brought a similar message from the Nunavut Minister of Sustainable Development Olayuk Akesuk.

“We want to assure northern businesses that their concerns are being considered equally with those of western producers,” Mr. Antoine said.

**For more information, contact:**

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





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## News Release

03-055

# GNWT Applauds Aboriginal Pipeline Deal

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 18) -- Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine says today's announcement by the Mackenzie Delta Producer Group that agreements have been reached with the Aboriginal Pipeline Group (APG) and TransCanada Pipeline Company (TCPL) marks the official beginning of the Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline project.**

The Minister commended Trans-Canada pipelines and producers for reaching the funding agreements that will allow the APG and Aboriginal people to become full participants in the proposed Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline.

"These historic commercial agreements signal a new era of partnership, co-operation and mutual respect that will help to ensure the project's success," Mr. Antoine said.

A Preliminary Information Package on the proposed pipeline route and development of proven Mackenzie Delta gas fields is being submitted to the boards, committees and agencies responsible for assessing and regulating energy developments in the NWT.

In preparation for this announcement, the GNWT facilitated and strongly supported the development of the June 2002 Cooperation Plan by the regulatory authorities establishing a coordinated review process for the proposed pipeline.

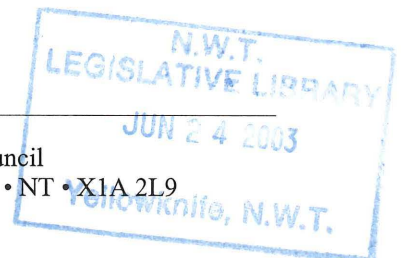
"The filing of the PIP initiates this coordinated regulatory process," Mr. Antoine said. "This will be good for Canada."

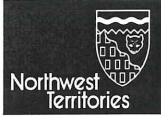
Over the next 20 years, resource development in the Northwest Territories, including gas development and diamond mining, will contribute \$65 billion to the national GDP, create 270,000 person years of employment across Canada and generate \$17 billion in royalties and tax revenues nation wide.

"With today's announcement, it is critical that we continue to make important progress towards the completion of a fair resource revenue sharing and devolution agreement," Mr. Antoine said. "Having control over our resources, and a share of resource revenues will ensure that we can be a strong self-reliant Territory."

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Executive Council  
Tel: (867) 669-2304





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## News Release

03-056

# Guides to Provide Valuable Information

**Yellowknife (June 18) – Five new informative guides will provide NWT residents with clear, simple and understandable information about the programs and services available under the territorial Income Support Program.**

The guides, prepared by the Department of Education Culture and Employment (ECE), were developed in consultation with non-government organizations, advocacy groups, program participants and members of the public. They answer commonly asked questions, advise clients on how to apply for programs, outline what benefits are available and what program users can expect in terms of service.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jake Ootes says the new guides highlight the benefits and supports available to all NWT residents in need of financial assistance.

“Parents, students, adults and seniors all deserve to know what their rights are, and to know what is expected from them when they apply for assistance,” he said.

The new guides will be available throughout the Northwest Territories at ECE’s career development offices, income support offices, regional offices and senior citizen’s centres. They can also be accessed or downloaded by visiting [www.ece.gov.nt.ca](http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca)

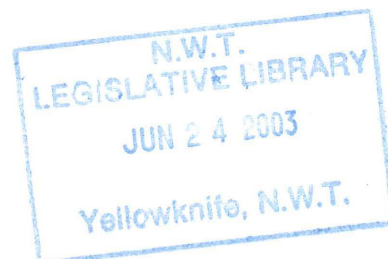
**For More Information:**

**Evan Walz**

Executive Assistant to:

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

Tel: (867) 669-2366





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## News Release

03-057

# GNWT and Specialists Reach an Agreement

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 19) – Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger and President of the NWT Medical Association, Dr. Ken Seethram are pleased to announce that the Government of the Northwest Territories and NWT Physician Specialists have reached an agreement on contract terms.**

The new contract, effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002, provides NWT Physician Specialists with a two-year contract that is mutually believed to be beneficial for retention and recruitment of Specialists.

“This agreement addresses market conditions in the rest of the country caused by the high demand and national shortage of Specialists,” Mr. Miltenberger said. “With these changes the NWT is extremely competitive in the market place. This package will help retain the Specialists we have and aid in building our Specialist workforce to its full complement of 21 positions.”

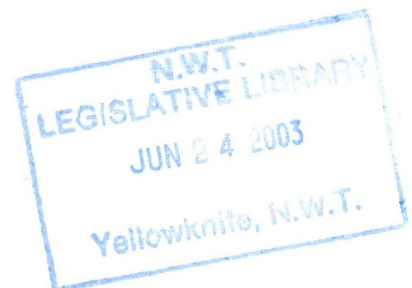
Specialists have confirmed that, with this agreement, their resignations will not take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003. “Specialists are pleased that negotiations have been successfully concluded,” Dr. Seethram said. “This has been a difficult process for all parties, and the Physician Specialists of the NWT Medical Association wish to continue to focus their full attention on providing health services to NWT residents. The NWT Medical Association wishes to continue working with the Department of Health and Social Services to ensure long term sustainability of Physician Services.”

Stanton Territorial Hospital’s Chief Executive Officer, Al Woods, further stated: “We have hired a recruiter to offer this package to southern Specialists so that we can fill our current vacancies, including the three new positions identified in the *Interim Health Profession Plan*.”

**For more information, contact:**

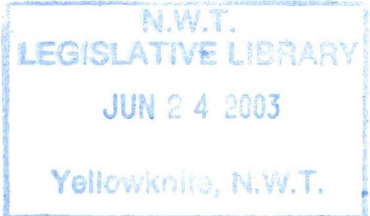
**Laura Seddon**  
Manager, Communications  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 920-8927

**Diane McFadden**  
Executive Director  
NWT Medical Association  
Tel: (867) 920-4575



**#03-057 BACKGROUNDER**

GNWT and Specialists Reach an Agreement  
YELLOWKNIFE (June 19)

**Highlights of The New Agreement**

The specialist negotiations were based on funding for the 18 positions at Stanton Territorial Health Authority at the time negotiations commenced in 2002. The following table presents the compensation and benefits under the Physician Specialist Contract:

	Old Contract	Agreement	
		2002/03	2003/04
Number of positions	18	18	18
Direct payments ( <b>Note 1</b> )	4,335,004	5,370,322	6,291,950
Benefits ( <b>Note 2</b> )	1,328,804	1,464,063	1,537,733
Total compensation	<b>5,663,808</b>	<b>6,834,385</b>	<b>7,829,683</b>
Annual increase		20.67%	14.56%
<b>Increases compounded over two years</b>			<b>38.24%</b>
Leave entitlements	56 to 61 days	46 to 56 days	
Locum requirements ( <b>Note 3</b> )	800,000	378,000	453,000
<b>Total cost to GNWT/STHA</b>	<b>6,463,808</b>	<b>7,212,385</b>	<b>8,282,683</b>

**Note 1:** Direct payments include base salary, signing bonuses, recruitment bonuses, retention bonuses, and payments for on-call.

**Note 2:** Benefits included Northern Allowance; professional fees; continuing medical education; medical texts; pension and retirement payments; dental, health and life insurance benefits; and professional insurances. In addition to these benefits, physician specialists receive moving allowances, and may be eligible for severance payments.

**Note 3:** Locum tenens are physician specialists hired on a daily basis to ensure ongoing coverage of specialist services at times when employed physician specialists may be unavailable due to vacation, medical education, or other planned absences. Leave entitlements for specialists have a direct impact on the number of locums required to ensure coverage.

The employment agreement identifies three base salary bands (each with 5 pay steps) for compensation of different groups of NWT specialists:

- Group 1: \$237,408 - \$260,015  
pediatricians, psychiatrists
- Group 2: \$256,021 – \$280,400  
general surgeons, anesthesiologists, internal medicine,  
obstetrics/gynecologists, radiologists
- Group 3: \$265,591 - \$290,882  
otorhinolaryngologists (ENT), ophthalmologists, orthopedics

### **Specialist Services at Stanton**

In addition to the 18 positions at Stanton, three new positions were recently approved in the *Interim Health Profession Plan*, bringing the total to 21 positions.

- Internal Medicine: 3 positions (includes 1 NEW)
- General Surgery: 3 positions (includes 1 NEW)
- Obstetrics/Gynecology: 3 positions (includes 1 NEW)
- Radiology: 2 positions (1 under contract)
- Anesthesia: 1.5 positions
- Pediatrics: 2 positions
- Ear, Nose & Throat: 2 positions
- Orthopedics: 2 positions
- Ophthalmology: 1 position
- Psychiatry: 1.5 positions

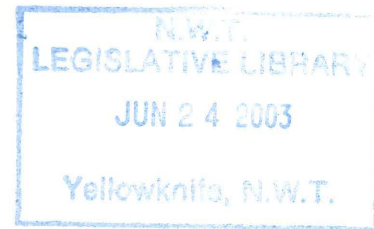
Stanton has access to the full range of specialists available through referral to the Capital Health Authority in Alberta, and has visiting specialists providing services in the NWT in the following specialty areas: Nephrology, Neurology, Urology, Dermatology, Rheumatology, Orthopedics back/spinal column sub-specialty), Pediatric-cardiology, Gyne-oncology, Infertility Clinics and Pathology.



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## News Release

03-058



# BSE Compensation Fair Says RWED Minister

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 19) - Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) Jim Antoine says the financial program aimed at reducing some of the economic impacts arising from the outbreak of BSE in the cattle industry is fair.**

The Minister worked with his federal, provincial and territorial colleagues to develop the program, which will provide immediate, short-term relief to those directly affected by the BSE outbreak.

“The number one priority has been, and continues to be, the re-opening of borders,” Mr. Antoine said. “This program will meet the most immediate and pressing need. I will continue to work with my federal, provincial and territorial colleagues to monitor and respond to developments as they emerge.”

Officials from RWED have surveyed various sectors in the Northwest Territories to determine if there is any cause for immediate concerns.

Outfitters in the NWT have received protocols that they are to follow to ensure their clients do not run into problems at the Canada/United States border. While, the Canadian Tourism Commission has provided the protocols, NWT Arctic Tourism is distributing updates to its membership including outfitters.

“It is essential that we get the message out that these protocols are in place and that we are open for business,” Mr. Antoine said. “We will continue to provide updated information to outfitters so that they are current with custom requirements. It is critical that our industry follow these protocols.”

There has been no disruption in the commercial export of musk-ox meat because harvests only occur in the winter months. However, new procedures may have to be established once the ban on the export of meat into the US is lifted.

**For more information, contact:**

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



NORTHERN AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION



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## News Release

03-059

# NWT Students Receive Aviation Bursaries

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 20) – Eight NWT students selected to receive \$5,000 bursaries under the Aviation Career Development Program were recognized during presentation ceremonies today.**

The bursary program, co-sponsored by the Department of Transportation and Canadian North and supported by the Northern Air Transport Association, assists northern students pursuing careers in the aviation industry. Twenty-three students applied for the bursaries this year, the third year of the program.

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.

This year's recipients are: William Blaudel of Fort Smith, Tyler King of Hay River; Peter Siemens of Rae-Edzo, Chris MacDonald of Norman Wells and Yellowknife residents Scott McRae, Celine Gauthier, Colin Fraser and Chad Blewitt.

"We're very pleased that this program has been so successful in encouraging and assisting NWT students pursuing an aviation career," said Joseph Handley, Minister of Transportation. "As our northern economy continues to grow, so will career opportunities in the aviation industry."

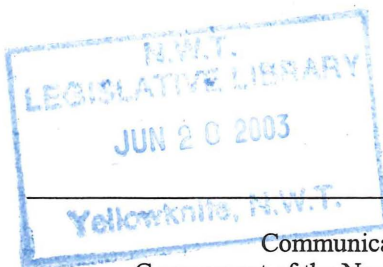
"Canadian North is proud to play a role in helping these students fulfill their dreams of a career in the aviation industry," said Carmen Loberg, president of Canadian North. "Programs that support the aviation industry are an investment in the future of the North."

"The Northern Air Transport Association and it's members would like to congratulate all of this year's bursary recipients," said Bob Davis, president of NATA. "We look forward to following their progress and their future contribution to our industry."

Information on the Aviation Career Development Program can be obtained from the Department of Transportation website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca).

**For more information, contact:**

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



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Communications • Office of the Premier and Executive Council  
Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9  
Tel: (867) 669-2304 • Fax: (867) 873-0111





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## News Release

03-060

# Tourism Awareness Week in the NWT

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 23) – Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) Jim Antoine has declared June 22 – 28 as Tourism Awareness Week in the Northwest Territories.**

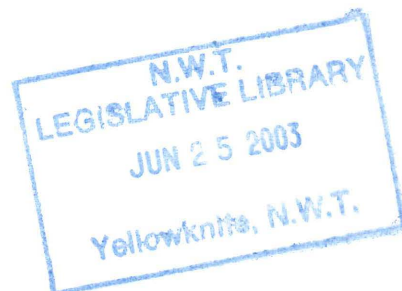
“Recent world events have affected Canada's tourism industry and we need to raise awareness that the Northwest Territories is a safe, clean and exciting tourism destination,” Mr. Antoine noted. “To further that goal, we are working with provinces, other territories and the federal government to effectively communicate the many attractions the NWT has to offer.”

RWED is partnering with NWT Arctic Tourism to celebrate Tourism Awareness Week with a contest called the Northwest Territories Best List. Contestants are being asked to submit their favourite NWT location or destination.

The tourism industry generates about \$39-million a year for the Northwest Territories economy and employs many NWT residents in the hunting, fishing, transportation, accommodation and food and beverage sectors.

**For more information, contact:**

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





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## News Release

03-061

### Small Claims Limit Raised to \$10,000

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 2) – The Government of the Northwest Territories has increased the dollar amount for civil claims that can be heard by the Territorial Court from \$5,000 to \$10,000.**

Minister of Justice Roger Allen says increasing the limit will allow more people to resolve their disputes in the Territorial Court. "The procedures there are more informal, faster and cheaper than in other Courts, and although lawyers sometimes appear, people most often represent themselves," he noted.

The types of small claims most frequently heard by this court include the failure to repay loans, pay for work done or to pay for merchandise bought on credit. Claims can also be made in Territorial Court for damages incurred in the breaking of a contract.

The Territorial Court operates across the Northwest Territories and hears small claims in all communities that it visits. NWT residents living in communities that are not on the Territorial Court circuit can have their case heard in the closest community where it does visit.

To start a small claim action, NWT residents must contact the Court Registry in Yellowknife, Hay River or Inuvik. Forms are available upon request and come with a complete instruction guide on how to initiate a claim.

Before beginning a small claim, however, people are encouraged to resolve the dispute themselves.

"The Territorial Court should be considered a last resort after having tried to resolve their dispute on their own," Mr. Allen said.

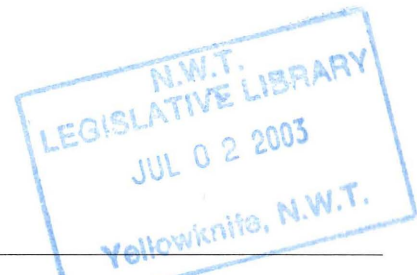
**For more information:**

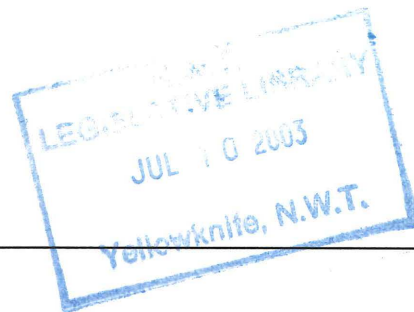
**Glen Rutland**

Policy Advisor, Communications

Justice

Tel: (867) 920-3130





03-062

## **Kakfwi to Seek Premiers' Support for New Deal**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 3) – Ensuring a fair deal for the Northwest Territories as Canada reaps huge benefits from development of the NWT's vast gas and diamond resources will be on the table at next week's Annual Premiers Conference in Charlottetown, Premier Stephen Kakfwi said today.**

It is one of a number of initiatives being put forward by Canada's provincial and territorial leaders in an attempt to reverse deteriorating relations with the federal Government and renew and strengthen the Canadian federation.

The NWT is set to increase its production of rough diamonds – already \$1 billion a year. Meanwhile, the development of the rich Mackenzie Delta gas fields took a major step last month with a historic partnership agreement between the Aboriginal Pipeline Group, TransCanada Pipelines Ltd, and the Mackenzie Delta Producer Group.

These developments will contribute \$89 billion to the Canadian economy, provide governments with \$31 billion in revenues and create 384,000 jobs - the majority of which will go outside of the NWT. (See attached backgrounder for detailed breakdown of benefits.)

However, under the existing funding arrangements with Ottawa, the NWT has no control over the development of these resources, receives no resource royalties and sees the majority of tax revenues generated by economic growth clawed back from its federal funding.

“A system that denies a jurisdiction any control over its resources and leaves behind less than 4% of the revenues those resources generate is clearly unfair,” Mr. Kakfwi said.

“It is also a barrier to our sustainable growth and the ability of the NWT to achieve its potential of becoming a proud, self-reliant and net-contributing partner in Canada. That clearly is not in the national interest.”

Mr. Kakfwi has written to Canada's premiers asking them to use next week's annual conference to endorse a statement by the Western Premiers calling on the federal Government to devolve control over northern resources to northern governments, together with a share of resource revenues.

Premier Kakfwi will also ask next week's conference to endorse an initiative launched by the Western Premiers to develop a national diamonds strategy.

The NWT Premier is scheduled to visit Quebec on Sunday to discuss issues of mutual interest with Premier Jean Charest in advance of next week's Annual Premiers Conference.

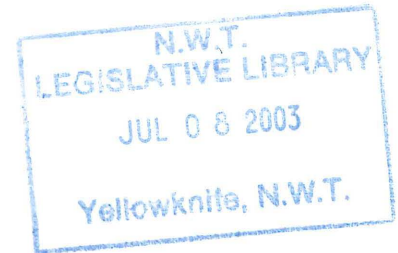
**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Office of the Premier/Executive Council  
Tel: (867) 669-2304



## News Release

03-063



### Manufacturers Approved to Buy Rough Diamonds

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 7) – The Government of the Northwest Territories has approved four NWT-based manufacturers as potential buyers of rough diamonds from Rio Tinto Diamonds, the sales agent for Diavik Diamond Mines Incorporated, 60 per cent owners of the Diavik Diamond Mine.**

The four manufacturers are: Sirius Diamonds Ltd, Canada Dene Diamonds, Arslanian Cutting Works and Tiffany & Co. They will also require the approval of Rio Tinto Diamonds and are currently in discussions with that company.

Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine says the GNWT's approval is another significant step in the development of the secondary diamond industry in the NWT and Canada.

“Enabling these manufacturers to have additional supplies of rough diamonds will mean more employment and business growth in the NWT,” Mr. Antoine noted.

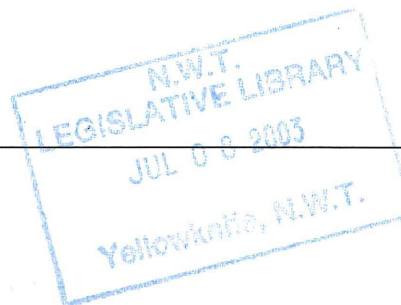
The NWT has two operating diamond mines, Ekati™ Diamond Mine, and Diavik. By the end of this year, the two mines will produce 12 per cent of the world's rough diamonds by value.

**For more information, contact:**

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



## News Release



03-064

# National Plan Needed to Reap Gemstone Bonanza

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 7) – Premier Stephen Kakfwi says Canada’s political leaders must move quickly if the country is to turn the Northwest Territories’ booming diamond mining industry into even more lucrative, job-generating national industries.**

“Canada is now one of the world’s top diggers of diamonds,” the Northwest Territories Premier notes, “now we must also become one of its foremost providers of finished diamond products.”

Premier Kakfwi will urge his counterparts at the Annual Premiers’ Conference in Charlottetown to work together to create a national strategy aimed at ensuring the development of secondary diamond industries in Canada - including those in diamond cutting and polishing, jewelry design and manufacturing and retail sectors.

The Northwest Territories has two operating diamond mines. By the end of this year, they will make Canada the world’s third largest producer of rough diamonds, with a value of \$1 billion. Once these diamonds are cut, polished, turned into jewelry, their value will increase to \$7.2 billion.

“But 99 per cent of rough diamonds are leaving the country and the value-added work is being done elsewhere,” Mr. Kakfwi says.

In addition to those in the NWT, advanced diamond mine projects exist in Nunavut, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Significant projects are also underway in Alberta, and Quebec and there are exciting prospects in Manitoba and possibilities in the Yukon. Diamond cutting and polishing facilities exist in the NWT, British Columbia and Quebec, and there are significant jewelry centers in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal.

“This is a truly national opportunity,” Mr. Kakfwi, says, “if we are to seize it, the time to plan and act is now.”

At their annual meeting last month in Kelowna, western Premiers initiated a process to create a national diamond strategy. Premier Kakfwi has since written to all of Canada’s premiers asking them to endorse and advance the initiative this week in Charlottetown. On Sunday, he met privately with Quebec Premier Jean Charest to discuss the diamond file and other areas of mutual interest.

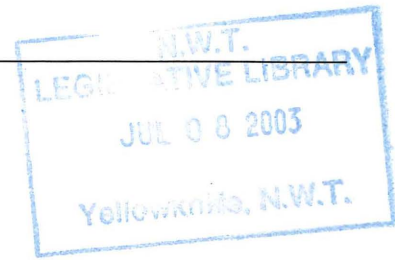
On Wednesday, Prince Edward Island Premier Pat Binns has invited his colleagues to join him and Premier Kakfwi at a cutting and polishing demonstration of NWT rough diamonds at Norton’s in downtown Charlottetown.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams, Communications**  
Office of the Premier/Executive Council  
Tel (867) 669-2304



**#03-064 BACKGROUNDER**  
National Plan Needed to Reap Gemstone Bonanza  
YELLOWKNIFE (July 7)



**Q: Why do we need a national strategy on diamonds?**

There is ongoing diamond exploration across Canada. Advanced projects are located in Nunavut, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Significant exploration projects can be found in Alberta and Quebec, with encouraging discoveries in Manitoba and possibilities in the Yukon

As mining projects across Canada are developed, we need to increase our participation in this multi-billion dollar sector. But this will not happen without planning and cooperation. Currently, there is no coordinated national strategy to ensure that benefits and opportunities from the diamond industry are realized for Canadians.

A national strategy is essential if we are to create a strong, competitive value-added diamond industry in Canada and become known for finished diamonds and jewelry, and not simply as diggers of rough diamonds.

**Q. Why is the NWT so anxious to see a national diamond strategy?**

The NWT's two operating mines will produce \$1 billion worth of rough diamonds this year, making Canada the third largest producer of rough diamonds, ahead of South Africa and behind only behind Botswana and Russia.

The \$1 billion worth of rough diamonds we will produce this year will be worth \$7.2 billion when cut, polished, designed, manufactured as jewellery and retailed.

Canada currently participates in less than 1 per cent of the downstream opportunities flowing from our diamond mines. We must now plan to benefit from the extraction of our natural resources by developing value-added industries such as cutting and polishing, and design, manufacture and retail sectors.

A strong Canadian industry will be good for the NWT industry – and the NWT is happy to share the experience it has gained over the last decade to help create one.

**Q. Has the NWT taken any steps of its own?**

Most definitely, a Canadian approach to the diamond industry will require the development of standards to ensure Canadians are properly trained and their training is recognized. The NWT has developed a pre-employment course, the first of its kind in Canada that is now attracting students from all over the world.

Together with industry, the Government of the Northwest Territories has also developed occupational standards and certification for a variety of diamond positions including Sawing, Bruting, Crossworking, Brillianting and Fancy Cut Specialist. This represents another "world

first' for Canada's diamond industry and the Northwest territories is prepared to share these standards and programs with the rest of Canada.

**Q: What would a national strategy deal with?**

There are a number of issues that need to be addressed in a national diamond strategy. These include: training, security, labour force needs, immigration of skilled labour, marketing of Canadian diamonds, developing a value added industry and competition issues.

**Q: Is there a problem with the current tax laws?**

Yes, the sole remaining luxury tax in Canada is on jewellery and includes everything from watches and tiepins to large jewellery pieces. It does not apply to luxury cars, yachts etc. This 10% hidden is not harmonized with GST, so tourists and visitors cannot get a rebate for it. This means Canadian diamond products are less expensive in United States than in Canada, making it even more difficult to build viable industries such as jewellery making and retail.

**Q: What is wrong with simply mining rough diamond and shipping them out? Isn't there a lot of money to be made from royalties?**

There is money to be made (though the NWT is not currently entitled to royalties), but simply being a provider of natural resources, will not allow Canadians to develop value-added industries and will limit our ability to be a key player in the world diamond industry.

Canada be involved in the entire diamond pipeline. We will see more money and jobs for all Canadians if we look beyond just being a supplier of rough diamonds to all the other opportunities that come with this industry.

**Q: How much money is the existing diamond industry in the NWT worth to Canada?**

In 2001, the Ekati Diamond Mine contributed \$510 million to the GDP. In 2002, the mine contributed \$640 million. Over the life of three mines (Ekati, Diavik and De Beers Snap Lake), contribution to the GDP is expected to be more than \$25 billion.

**Q: What is the potential value for secondary industries in Canada.**

The scale of value added of the diamond pipeline is very significant. For example, \$1 billion revenue in diamond mining would translate to \$1.74 billion in cutting and polishing and \$7.2 billion in retail and diamond jewelry manufacturing.

**Q: Is it feasible to create secondary diamond industries in Canada? What about the cost? Can we compete with countries with low wages, such as India? What about finding the necessary manpower and training?**

Is it feasible to create secondary diamond industries in Canada but we need to start now because it takes time to develop workforce, expertise, technology, etc. We have done this with other resource industries and have never let competition stop us before.



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## News Release

03-065

### **Diamond Demo Reflects Bright Future for NWT Gems**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 9) -- Arslanian Cutting Works (NWT) Ltd. cut and polished a Northwest Territories diamond in Prince Edward Island today - the first time that a Canadian diamond has been crafted in PEI.**

NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi and PEI Premier Pat Binns hosted the live display of diamond crafting at Norton's Jewelers in Charlottetown to coincide with the Annual Premiers Conference that begins today.

Premier Kakfwi says today's event reflects the tremendous potential of Canada's emerging diamond industry. "It is an industry that extends well beyond simply mining rough stones in the Northwest Territories," he said. "It encompasses cutting polishing, designing and crafting jewelry.

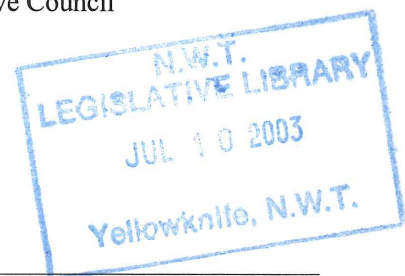
NWT cutter/polisher Chad Snider prepared and finished the featured 0.3-karat Canada™ diamond. He received hands-on assistance from Saskatchewan Premier Lorne Calvert, Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie as well as Premiers Kakfwi and Binns.

The stone, along with a certificate authenticating its unique production process, will be auctioned Thursday with proceeds benefiting the Anderson House Women's Shelter in Charlottetown.

Premier Kakfwi is asking Canada's Premiers to support the development of a national diamond strategy to ensure that Canadians benefit fully from the economic returns and opportunities presented by the NWT's emerging diamond industry.

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Executive Council  
Tel: (867) 669-2304





03-066

## **Community Expertise Recognized**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 10) -- The Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) has recognized five new professions as Designated Occupations: Senior Administrative Officer, First Nation Administrator, Finance Officer, Assistant Housing Manager and Tenant Relations Officer.**

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, through the School of Community Government, has worked with individuals and groups across the Northwest Territories to develop standards that recognize the expertise required in these important community positions.

Occupational standards allow industry to assess the competency of individuals on the job. Certification in a designated occupation indicates that an individual has attained an established level of competency as determined by industry.

The development of standards for these five positions has also been a collaborative effort between key community government partners including: the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the NWT Association of Communities, the NWT Housing Corporation, the Aboriginal Finance Officer's Association, local government administrators of the NWT and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jake Ootes says certification is an important element in recognizing the knowledge and expertise demonstrated by individuals working in these occupations. "We are proud to have these professions join our roster of Designated Occupations," he said.

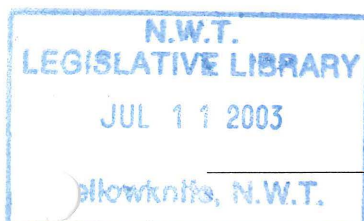
"Individuals working in these vital community government positions can now be recognized as the professionals they are - and for the valuable contributions they make to our Territory," Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Vince Steen added.

The first Certificates of Competency in these occupations were awarded at the NWT Association of Communities' Annual General Meeting in Inuvik (June 14, 2003) to: Eleanor Young - Senior Administrative Officer, Ruby Landry - First Nation Administrator and Diana Tingmiak - Tenant Relations Officer.

**For more information:**

**Sue Glowach**  
Manager of Public Affairs  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-6222

**David Earle** Support Services Officer  
School of Community Government  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 920-6308





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## News Release

03-67

### **GNWT Enhances Environmental Assessment Team**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 11) -- A new Environmental Assessment Unit has been formed within the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) to co-ordinate the thorough environmental evaluation of all proposed resource developments in the Northwest Territories.**

Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine says the new unit will assess the potential impact of proposed developments on residents of the Northwest Territories and work to ensure that development continues in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and beneficial.

“The growth of the non-renewable resource sector, particularly the diamond and oil and natural gas industries, continues to drive the economy of the Northwest Territories,” he said. “As a government, it is our responsibility to protect, not only the natural environment of the NWT but, the social, cultural and economic well-being of its residents as well.”

The need for an expanded environmental assessment capability within RWED has become a major priority because of the unique role the territorial government plays in environmental and regulatory processes.

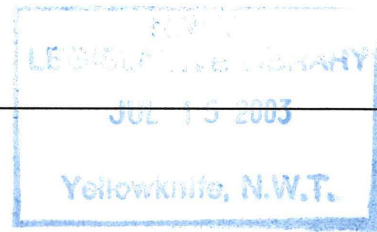
**For more information, contact:**

**Bob Bailey**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development  
Tel: (867) 920-6389



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## News Release



03-068

# Community Leaders in Languages Announced

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 14) – Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jake Ootes today announced the winners of the 2002-2003 Community Language Leader Awards.**

The awards were created as a means to publicly recognize the work of individuals who are committed to the survival of the NWT's official languages. Minister Ootes notes, "These awards acknowledge people's tireless devotion to developing and implementing language resources, programs, and to preserving and promoting languages."

This year's award winners were chosen by language communities at a local level, as those who most embodied the principles of supporting and preserving our languages.

The ten 2002-2003 award winners are:

Mary Heron for her work in Chipewyan. Mary serves on the Regional Chipewyan Language Advisory Committee and provides the Chipewyan language community with a needed link with the community elders.

Louis Beaver for his work in Cree. A fluent Cree speaker who grew up on the land, Louis is an active member of the Cree language program. He helped a great deal in the production of the Bush Cree Dictionary and Medical Terminology.

Rosa Mantla for her work in Dogrib. Rosa's family is traditional Dogrib people who know the value of the Dogrib language. She is a teacher and currently a principal at the Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School in Rae-Edzo. For many years, Rosa has developed materials for students, teachers and community people in the Dogrib language.

Neil Colin for his work in Gwich'in. Neil uses the Gwich'in language on a daily basis, within his home and in the public community. He speaks Gwich'in on the street when he meets people, on the local radio station, on the bush radio when speaking with others who live on the land, within the school when speaking with the students. He constantly reminds the community of the importance of learning and speaking Gwich'in.

Edna Elias for her work in Inuinnaqtun. Fluent in the Inuinnaqtun dialect, Edna uses her skills interpreting for the community. Her skills are a big part of the communities' ability to communicate from English to Inuinnaqtun.

Leonard Harry for his work in Inuvialuktun. Harry does translation work for corporations and the Inuvialuit Communications Society and he attends all culture-based activities in the community.

Maurice Mendo for his work in North Slavey. Maurice is always quick to respond to working with the North Slavey Language Coordinator. He helps by offering his knowledge of the North Slavey culture and history to the coordinators', which in turn helps with their interpreting and translation work.

Andy Norwegian for his work with South Slavey. Andy has researched and studied the syntax and prose of the language of the Deh Cho. He teaches classes in the South Slavey language and was involved in the creation of the Slavey dictionary.

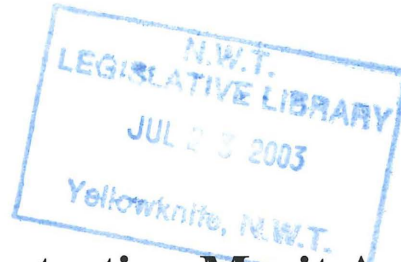
And, finally, Lilly Borges Oldham (posthumously), who promoted the French language in the community, Yellowknife schools and provincially. Some of her accomplishments were: organizing the French Pre-Immersion Program; developing Camp de Neiges (annual language winter camp); writing articles for various French magazines and media publications; developing Core and Immersion pamphlets for distribution; and facilitating the birth of École Alain St.-Cyr, the first francophone school in the Northwest Territories.

Ms. Lilly Oldham passed away on August 26, 2002, in Yellowknife. The Lilly Borges Oldham Memorial Second-Language Scholarship Fund has been set up in Lilly's memory. The fund will help students entering post-secondary studies in a second language.

For more information contact:

**Sue Glowach**  
Manager Public Affairs  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel (867) 920-6222

03-069



## **NWT Community Fire Protection Merit Award**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 23) Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) Vince Steen, is pleased to announce the Town of Norman Wells as the Northwest Territories' first Community Fire Protection Merit Award winner.**

The Town was selected for this award for its work in 2002 to update the fire protection by-law and maintain up-to-date standard operating procedures. The Town also maintains an active training program for its fire fighters, supported by the necessary facilities and equipment to provide effective and safe training. The Town's Fire Department is working with the Department on establishing a regional live fire training facility to serve all Sahtu communities.

"The award recognizes the work undertaken by the Town and the Fire Department in 2002 to improve the overall fire protection system. The Town has set an example for other communities in ensuring that fire fighters are prepared to conduct effective emergency response operations and training," said Minister Steen.

Norman Wells is the inaugural winner of the community merit award. This prestigious award will be presented on an annual basis to the community fire department determined to be most deserving for its advancement in the fire service.

This community award is part of the Fire Service Recognition Program initiated by MACA in 2002. This program was created by the Department to recognize the important contribution to fire protection made by communities and fire fighters in the Northwest Territories.

Mayor Kevin Diebold and Fire Chief Al Kuyten accepted the award on behalf of the community fire department.

**For more information, contact: Eric Bussey**  
Director Emergency Services  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Telephone: (867) 920-6133

03/070

NORMAN WELLS (July 28, 2003) The burn out operation completed July 25 on the wildfire northwest of Norman Wells was successful. Crews are making good progress mopping up and securing the fuel break near the town. The fire continues to burn away from the town. Current size of the fire is about 15,000 hectares.

A burnout operation is planned for a wildfire burning 22 kilometres east of Norman Wells. This will prevent the fire from coming towards town from the southwest corner. Timing of the burnout will depend on conditions. It is tentatively scheduled for this afternoon. This fire is current about 1,100 hectares.

Both fires were started by lightning on July 21.

Norman Wells is extremely smoky at times during the day, depending on the wind, and visibility is limited. Aircraft flying into the area are advised to contact local flight services for updates.

Crews are working today on 22-hectare fire burning 13 kilometres northwest of Deline. The fire was one of three started by lightning near the community yesterday. Action is also being taken on the other two fires.

A fire 28 kilometres east of Fort Good Hope is under control and a crew is mopping it up today.

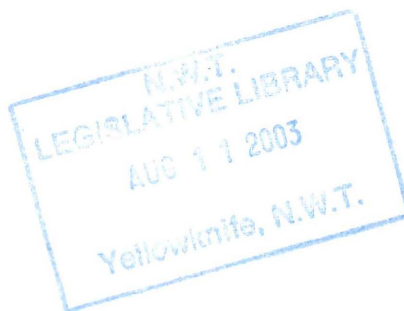
Several wildfires are burning in the region but none are threatening people and/or property. These fires are being monitored.

There are 80 fire personnel, two air tanker groups and 9 helicopters are in the Sahtu Region to work on these fires.

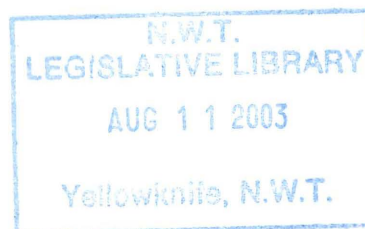
Conditions remain extreme in the Sahtu region. People are advised to avoid lighting any fires.

For more information, contact:

Judy McLinton  
Fire Information Officer  
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
Tel: (867) 587-3509  
Email: judy\_mclinton@gov.nt.ca



## PRESS RELEASE



July 28, 2003

For Immediate Release

### **Current Wildfire Situation in the Sahtu Region**

**Norman Wells** - The burn out operation completed July 25 on the wildfire northwest of Norman Wells was successful. Crews are making good progress mopping up and securing the fuel break near the town. The fire continues to burn away from the town. Current size of the fire is about 15,000 hectares.

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03-070



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## News Release

03-071

### **RWED Urges Comprehensive Reclamation Planning for CanTung**

**Fort Simpson (July 29, 2003) — The Department of RWED is recommending that the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board take meaningful steps to ensure a thorough and effective abandonment and reclamation effort at the CanTung mine site.**

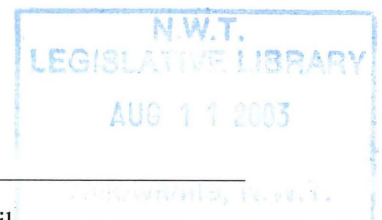
Speaking at the public hearings convened by the Board to determine the future of the mine site, RWED officials strongly recommended that the CanTung mine's existing Water License be renewed for a period of two years — accepting the owner's (NATCL.) estimate of the projected life of the mine, based on proven ore reserves as the most accurate assessment available at this time.

"We believe a two-year time period is both logical and fair," said Doug Doan, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of RWED. "We also believe that a two-year renewal will afford NATCL ample time to conduct extensive exploration for new ore deposits."

In addition, RWED recommended that the Board establish a reclamation planning committee. The proposed committee would be responsible for:

- providing advice to the Board on the abandonment of the reclamation site, including alternate uses of the site;
- ensuring that the abandonment and restoration is carried out in a manner that engages all stakeholders; and
- overseeing the monitoring of the abandonment and reclamation activities conducted on the site.

RWED also recommended that the Board establish a security deposit equal to the total outstanding reclamation liability. This is consistent with the Mine Site Reclamation Policy of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, which placed the cost of reclamation on the developer, so that costs are not passed onto the government and the taxpayer.





Mr. Doan also noted that, to date the residents of the Northwest Territories have received very limited benefits from the operation of the CanTung Mine. He strongly recommended that the Board seek ways to ensure economic opportunities for NWT residents to participate in the abandonment and reclamation phase of the mine's operations.

**For more information, contact:**

Robert McLeod  
Deputy Minister  
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development  
867-920-8048

03-072

### COMMUNITY INITIATIVES PROGRAM LAUNCHED

**Yellowknife – (July 30, 2003) Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Honourable Vince R. Steen, announced today the approval of funding for 22 projects through the Department's new Community Initiatives Program (CIP).**

The CIP was developed to address community priorities in the areas of families and youth, healthy lifestyles and safety education with a special emphasis on active living. The annual \$1 million available through this program is targeted at non-tax-based communities. Projects are limited to a maximum contribution of \$100,000 per community per year, and communities are encouraged to use this funding to stimulate contributions from other partners.

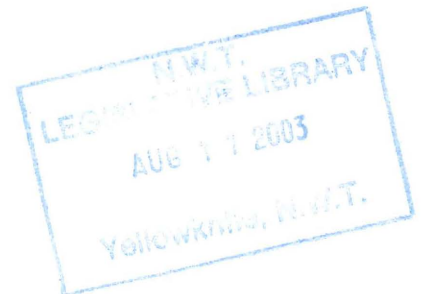
Minister Steen noted, "My Department is pleased to contribute to these projects in order to assist smaller communities in addressing local priorities and interests through improvements to local wellness, sport, recreation and youth programming. By doing so, we hope residents will become more physically active."

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs works with community governments to keep encouraging residents to become more physically active. Physical activity has been shown to help improve self-esteem and reduce the chances of getting diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease.

A summary of the approved projects is attached.

For more information contact:

Mr. Ian Legaree  
Director, Sport Recreation and Youth  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Phone: (867) 873-7245



**COMMUNITY INITIATIVES PROGRAM  
2003-2004 APPROVED PROJECTS**

## **Inuvik Region**

Aklavik	Baseball diamond (\$50,000)
Fort McPherson	Youth center (\$50,000)
Paulatuk	Youth center (\$50,000)
Tsiigethchic	Outdoor rink (\$50,000)
Tuktoyaktuk	Above ground swimming pool repairs (\$50,000)

## **Sahtu Region**

Colville Lake	Community youth center (\$36,082)
Fort Good Hope	Campsite (\$30,400)
Tulita	Above ground Swimming pool (\$100,000)

## **North Slave Region**

Dettah	Outdoor skating rink (\$9,100)
Gameti	Recreational park & golf course (\$59,100)
Rae-Edzo	Above ground swimming pool repairs (\$40,000)
Wekweti	Outdoor rink (\$62,194)
Wha Ti	Sports field (\$45,000)

## **Deh Cho Region**

Fort Liard	Recreation center improvements (\$20,000)
Jean Marie River	Sport/ball field upgrade (\$23,485)
Nahanni Butte	Youth center (\$49,280)
Trout Lake	Playground, swings & picnic tables (\$40,000)
Wrigley	Outdoor skating rink/multi-purpose court (\$67,420)

## **South Slave Region**

Enterprise	Outdoor active living center (\$51,193)
Fort Providence	Baseball diamond (\$33,807)
Fort Resolution	Community youth center (\$80,000)
Katlodeeche First Nation (Hay River Reserve)	Trail system (\$35,000)



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## News Release

03-073

### **Board Chairs To Continue Providing Advice and Guidance To The Stanton Territorial Hospital**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 30, 2003) – The board chairs from the seven Health and Social Services Authorities, through the Joint Leadership Council, will continue to provide the Stanton Territorial Hospital with advice and broad guidance on issues, thereby ensuring regional and community input into the decision making process.**

The Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger, announced today that due to the likely broad discussion surrounding the role of boards by the next government, the establishment of a Stanton Board would be deferred until the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly. This will ensure that the decision regarding any ongoing role for the Board is made in compliance with directions and priorities set by the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

“At this time it appears very likely that the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly will be considering what the role of boards of management should be. Out of respect for the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly, I feel that it is appropriate to defer a decision on the Board, until after the election in November,” said Minister Miltenberger.

For more information, contact: Megan Holsapple  
Communications

Department of Health and Social Services

Tel: (867) 873-7066

[July 18, 2003]

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03-074

## **Premier Releases NWT Energy Strategy**

**WHA TI (July 31, 2003) – Premier Stephen Kakfwi released the Northwest Territories (NWT) Energy Strategy in Wha Ti today.**

The Energy Secretariat, established two years ago, developed the strategy after extensive consultation with energy providers, industry, business and the public.

“This strategy outlines the directions the NWT can take to reduce the cost of energy, the use of imported fossil fuel and the impact of energy development on the natural environment,” said the Premier. “It will also serve as a roadmap for future governments in dealing with the complex energy policy decisions that will be facing our territory in the coming years.”

Wha Ti was selected as the site for the release of the NWT Energy Strategy because of the work its citizens and leadership have done to deal with their sustainable energy future.

“The efforts of the people of Wha Ti over the past several years has been exemplary,” said Mr. Kakfwi. “They should be congratulated for their efforts and leadership in looking for ways to deal with their energy costs.”

Through the Wha Ti Sustainable Community planning program, youth and elders have actively participated in education on energy issues, examined their hydroelectric options and completed a community energy audit and a number of solar energy demonstration projects.

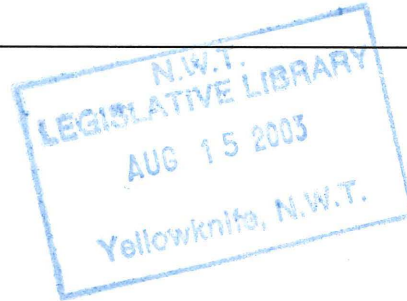
“The NWT Energy Strategy is this government’s commitment to guide the sustainable development of our vast energy resources, both renewable and non-renewable,” added the Premier. “Energy, in all its many forms, is a critical resource and commodity for residents of the NWT”.

Copies of the NWT Energy Strategy are available at regional RWED offices or on the Internet at: <http://www.gov.nt.ca/RWED>

**For more information contact:**

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

Dennis Bevington  
Special Advisor, Energy  
Tel (867) 669-6109



## Premier Recognizes Excellence in Public Service

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 6) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi has announced the 2003 recipients of the Premier's Award for Excellence. The award is presented annually to public service employees in the Northwest Territories who have demonstrated excellence innovation and dedication in their work.**

This can include finding unique and creative solutions that improve government-wide systems or processes, exceptional performance on a continuing basis and outstanding commitment to complex projects or ongoing activities.

This year's individual winners are: Dr. Anne Gunn, Ungulate Biologist - Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development; Keith Hickling, Manager, Fish and Wildlife - Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development; Karyn Hicks, Programs Advisor, Budgeting and Evaluation - Financial Management Board Secretariat; John Nishi, Bison Ecologist - Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development; Raymond Tuccaro, Traditional Counsellor, Yellowknife Correctional Centre - Department of Justice; and Al Woods, Chief Executive Officer, Stanton Territorial Health Authority.

The Premier also recognized the exceptional team efforts of: the Equal Pay Team - Financial Management Board Secretariat; the Territorial Biomedical Engineering Team - Stanton Territorial Health Authority as well as the Tlicho Negotiation Team; the Idaa Trail Project Team and the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Centre Project Team, which are comprised of individuals from varying departments, boards and authorities.

A ceremony recognizing all 2003 Premier's Award Winners will be held during the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

**For more information, contact:**

**Lynn Elkin**  
Executive Director,  
Corporate Human Resource Services  
Executive  
Tel: (867) 920-3398.

03-076

## **RWED Minister Applauds Lifting of US Ban**

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 13) – Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine is applauding the United States' decision to reopen its borders to wild meat from caribou, muskox, sheep and moose.**

“This is welcome news for outfitters in the Northwest Territories as big game hunters will again be able to transport wild meat home to the United States,” Mr. Antoine noted.

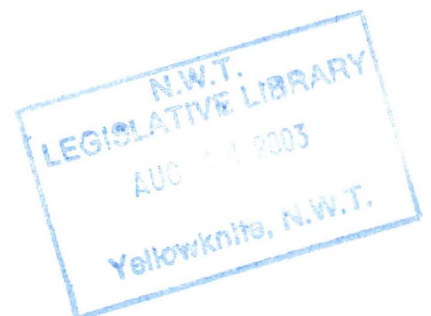
Mr. Antoine originally raised the issue with all agricultural Ministers in Vancouver in early June whereupon the federal government made the US government aware of the broad economic impacts of their ban.

The announcement of the partial lifting of the ban on Canadian beef and other products considered at low risk of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was made Friday by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Meat from hunter-harvested animals can gain immediate entry into the U.S. under permit.

**For more information, contact:**

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

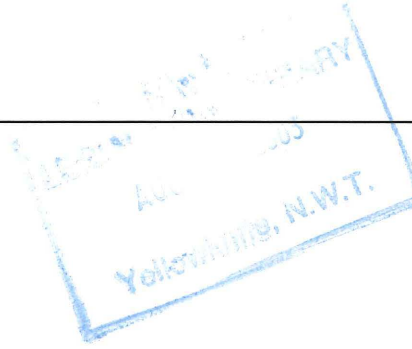




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## News Release

03-077



# Revised Business Incentive Policy Released

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 15) – Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) Jim Antoine today released the Government of the Northwest Territories' revised Business Incentive Policy (BIP).**

The improved policy clarifies the definition of a BIP business to emphasize its contribution to the NWT economy and to ensure bona fide northern businesses benefit from the policy. It establishes a formal complaint mechanism to address contract administration issues and sets new thresholds for the application of BIP bid adjustments in favour of northern businesses.

“The NWT economy has changed dramatically since the original BIP was established 11 years ago,” Mr. Antoine noted. “The revised BIP is designed to support an NWT economy in which non-renewable resource development and its spin-offs are driving growth more than government spending once did.”

The BIP applies to any procurement contracts, other than employment, entered into by Government of the Northwest Territories departments and applicable agencies.

“There is still a need for a policy to encourage and support the development of a healthy private sector, particularly in our smaller communities, to ensure that Northwest Territories businesses can be competitive,” the Minister said.

The revised policy will be effective on October 15, 2003. Registered BIP businesses will receive information kits on the revised policy with their renewal notices.

Copies of the revised policy are available from Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development's BIP Monitoring Office in Yellowknife at (867) 873-7215 or on the Internet at: <http://www.gov.nt.ca/RWED/iea/bip/index.htm>

**For more information, contact:**

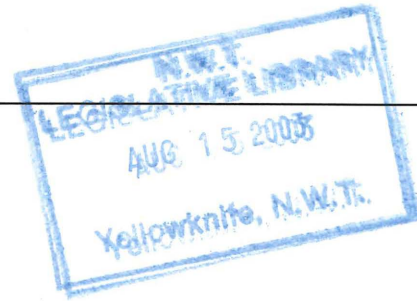
**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Executive Council  
Tel: (867) 669-2304





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**#03-077 BACKGROUNDER**  
Revised Business Incentive Policy Released  
YELLOWKNIFE (August 15)



**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 requires GNWT contract authorities to apply BIP bid adjustments to bids of approved NWT and local businesses during the bid evaluation process. Pursuant to the BIP, a Registry of approved NWT businesses is maintained by the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED).

**Why was the BIP revised?**

The present BIP has been in place since 1992. During the past 11 years, 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 NWT economy has changed dramatically since 1992. Today, non-renewable resource development and its spin-offs are driving growth more than government spending once did. Capital expenditures by the GNWT have significantly declined over the past 11 years in response to increased fiscal pressures and increased demand for government services.

The NWT business community has grown in number and strength since 1992 and has benefited from recent non-renewable resource development activities. There are currently 1,422 registered BIP businesses employing 7,673 NWT residents.

The revised Policy is based on the comprehensive consultation done with the public and the business community across the NWT during the winter of 2001/2002 and the spring and fall of 2002.

**What were the key issues and design considerations in shaping the revised BIP?**

Major issues included accountability and transparency; policy definition of a northern business and monitoring and enforcement.

**What are the six major changes in the revised BIP?**

The six major changes include:

- scope of the policy;
- 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 revised Policy ensures this is taken into account. The BIP now applies to businesses that pay corporate, property and payroll taxes in the NWT. It encourages employment creation by locating businesses in the NWT, which provides a greater benefit to the economy rather than residency of owners.

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 revised 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 consultations, the NWT business community expressed the need for a dollar value cap on the application of BIP bid adjustments. The caps recognize that NWT 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 majority of GNWT contracts fall within the range of the bid adjustment thresholds. The thresholds are also consistent with those contained in the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT). The BIP Review recognized that larger NWT businesses have become more competitive with increased capacity to undertake a wide range of contracts.

## **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.

03-078

## **Minister Announces Judicial Changes**

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 19) – Minister of Justice Roger Allen today announced the retirement of Chief Judge of the Territorial Court, Honourable Robert W. Halifax.**

Chief Judge Halifax was appointed to the Territorial Court (formerly Magistrate's Court) in 1977. He became Chief Judge in 1989. His current term expires on September 1, 2003.

"I want to thank Chief Judge Halifax for his twenty-six years of dedicated service in the Courts, and specifically for his service as Chief Judge," the Minister said.

Judge R. Michel Bourassa has been appointed as Chief Judge of the Territorial Court, effective September 2, 2003.

Judge Bourassa has more than twenty years experience as a member of the Territorial Court. He was appointed as a Judge in 1982. His appointment as Chief Judge is for a five-year term, ending September 1, 2008.

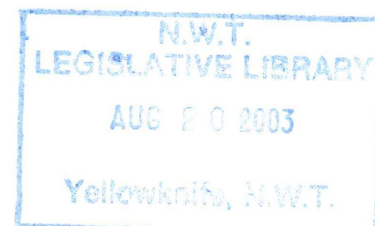
"I have full confidence that the effective administration of the Territorial Court will continue under Judge Bourassa," Mr. Allen said.

The Territorial court hears criminal cases and civil matters, including family matters, child protection and small claims. Additional responsibilities of the Chief Judge include the assignment of judges for Territorial Court hearings and supervision of Justices of the Peace.

Judge Brian Bruser is the third member of the Territorial Court.

**For more information:**

**Glen Rutland**  
Policy Advisor, Communications  
Justice  
Tel: (867) 920-3130



03-079

## **Draft Water Management Strategy Released**

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 28) – The Government of the Northwest Territories today released its draft framework and strategy for the management of drinking water in the NWT.**

Titled, *Managing Drinking Water in the Northwest Territories*, the report calls for a three-way approach to protecting drinking water in the NWT: keeping NWT water supplies clean, ensuring water is safe to drink and providing proof that drinking water is safe.

The document provides a framework to guide GNWT departments and other agencies involved in the co-operative effort to ensure clean drinking water. The work is shared between four GNWT departments: Health and Social Services, Municipal and Community Affairs, Public Works and Services, and Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

“Shared responsibility for safe drinking water ensures that back-up processes are in place,” Minister of Public Works and Services Vince Steen says. “This multi-agency approach provides the necessary checks and balances to safe-guard our system.”

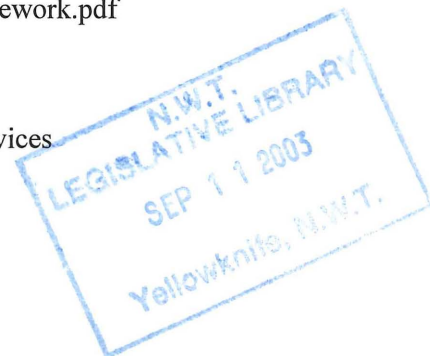
Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger says safe and healthy water supplies are a priority for all NWT communities. “The water we consume is critical to our well-being,” he noted.

The document has been provided to stakeholders and organizations that share responsibility for water quality. They will have until September 30, 2003 to respond. Copies of the framework and strategy document are available at:

<http://www.pws.gov.nt.ca/pdf/WaterAndSanitation/WaterFramework.pdf>

**For more information, contact:**

**Megan Holsapple**  
Communications  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 873-7066

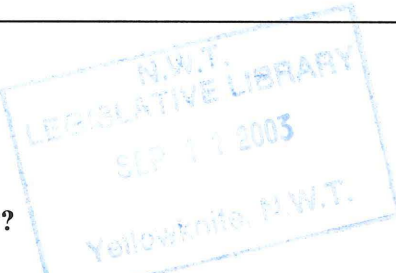




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**#03-079 BACKGROUNDER**

Draft Water Management Strategy Released  
YELLOWKNIFE (August 28)

**Why are we implementing a Safe Drinking Water Strategy?**

Safe drinking water has always been an issue, but the incidents in Walkerton, Ontario and North Battleford, Saskatchewan have really brought the issue to the front lines. It has emphasized the importance of each step involved in providing safe drinking water and encouraged governments to critically examine their water supply systems to ensure that history doesn't repeat itself. It has been determined that one of the most effective methods to ensuring safe drinking water is through a management approach that includes multiple barriers. Since the Walkerton disaster, the majority of Canadian provinces have adopted a multi-barrier approach to drinking water management. Multiple barriers provide multiple layers of protection in case one barrier fails. Implementing a Safe Drinking Water Strategy in the NWT will help to ensure that this type of tragedy doesn't happen here.

**What is the purpose of this document?**

The purpose of this document is to propose a safe drinking water framework and strategy for the NWT. The framework and strategy describe the existing and new activities that form the NWT drinking water system. The framework will act as a guide for GNWT departments involved in this cooperative effort to ensure that NWT drinking water is safe.

**What consultation is taking place? Why aren't we holding public consultation?**

The framework and strategy is undergoing stakeholder consultation. Specific organizations have been targeted for the consultation process. Although there are no public meetings scheduled, if a request for community meeting is made, a meeting will be held.

**Where can I get a copy of the framework?**

The framework and strategy can be viewed on the PW&S, H&SS, MACA, or the RWED website. (<http://www.pws.gov.nt.ca/WaterAndSanitation/Index.htm>) If you do not have access to the Internet and you would like a paper copy please contact your Regional MACA or PW&S superintendent. Comments are invited until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

**Are we the only jurisdiction doing this?**

No. Most other Canadian provinces, including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island have already adopted a drinking water management strategy. The Northwest Territories is the first of Canada's Northern territories to adopt a drinking water management framework and strategy. Although the strategies may differ between provinces/territory to best suit the individual needs of each province/territory they are all based on similar principles and share the same common goal of protecting public health.

**What drinking water are we talking about?**

The framework and strategy is concerned with the public municipal water supply. Bottled water and private drinking water systems are not included.

**Why treat drinking water?**

Generally the NWT community water supply sources are abundant and less threatened by the types of contaminants found in more populated southern Canada. However, most raw water worldwide contains some contaminants, which are often colourless, odourless and tasteless. Other contaminants can make water look bad and some make it unsafe to drink. For example, wildlife that carry contaminants such as E.coli, 'crypto' and giardia are abundant in the NWT. Therefore, source water treatment is necessary to eliminate these and other contaminants from the drinking water supply to ensure the water is safe for human consumption.

**Who tests drinking water?**

Community governments are responsible for operating the water treatment plants and providing a safe water supply. This includes submitting routine water samples to the laboratory for bacteriological and chemical analysis according to direction given by the Environmental Health Officer. In communities where the GNWT is the designated operator of the water treatment facility, it becomes the responsibility of the department of PWS to submit routine samples. The Environmental Health Officer, as the regulatory authority, ensures routine water sampling is carried out and conducts additional compliance testing as required.

**Is there something wrong with our water? Why are we doing this?**

No, the NWT has some of the best source water quality in the world. This initiative will help to strengthen the preventative/proactive approach that is currently in place to keep NWT drinking water clean and safe.

**Why are there boil water orders?**

A boil water order is an advisory to the public that they should bring their water to a rolling boil for one minute (or more, depending on the nature of the problem), before use in drinking, making infant formula, juice or ice cubes, washing fruit or vegetables, or dental hygiene. Boiling the water ensures that any disease causing organisms are destroyed.

Boil water advisories are most frequently issued because the disinfection treatment step has been compromised for some reason such as high turbidity levels, unacceptable bacteriological quality, or inconsistent testing procedures.

**What are THMs?**

Trihalomethanes are part of a group of disinfection byproducts that are formed when chlorine reacts with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter. Chlorine is a disinfectant added to drinking water to reduce or eliminate microorganisms, such as bacteria and viruses, which can be present in water supplies. Improvements in treatment methods have meant that less chlorine is

added to drinking water and therefore levels of THMs are also reduced. THM levels in the NWT are generally well below the national guideline value of 100 parts per billion.

### **How and when do I clean my water tank?**

The department of Health and Social Services has developed instructions for cleaning and disinfecting your water tank. These instructions can be viewed online at:

[http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/content/Publications/Brochures/PDF/env\\_health/clean\\_water.pdf](http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/content/Publications/Brochures/PDF/env_health/clean_water.pdf)

Advice on how to clean your water tank can also be obtained from your local Environmental Health Officer.

### **Will water plant operators require certification? Are they currently certified? How many are certified?**

Operator certification is voluntary in the NWT. Most communities try to ensure that their operators are certified. The NWT government is currently working towards increased operator certification. Five operator certification courses are being offered this fiscal year.

### **Who is responsible for drinking water? Isn't water a federal responsibility?**

Everyone plays a role in ensuring drinking water is safe. Local community governments hold primary responsibility for managing and operating water treatment and distribution systems safely, and for testing drinking water quality to ensure it is safe. The Department of Health & Social Services is responsible for enforcing the *NWT Public Health Act* and ensuring water quality meets the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (GCDWQ)*. Municipal & Community Affairs and Public Works & Services work with community governments to ensure the required infrastructure is in place and is properly maintained and operated. Federal, territorial and municipal governments work with the regional Water Boards and local residents to protect raw water quality. Everyone helps out by letting the appropriate authority know if they have a concern and by keeping their own water tanks clean.

### **What about protecting the watershed?**

The regional Water Boards and the Federal Departments of Indian and Northern Affairs, Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans have primary responsibility for managing water resources and maintaining the high quality of our raw water supplies. RWED works with these departments and monitors contaminant spills.

H&SS can also take steps to protect the watershed if they feel that drinking water quality is threatened in any way. Community governments, industry and every resident can help by making sure their activities don't pollute lakes or rivers.

### **What is the role of the community?**

Communities are the first line of defence in ensuring safe drinking water. Communities that operate and maintain their own systems are directly responsible for managing all aspects of the systems, including safety and public education. The treatment plant operators are responsible for operating and maintaining the systems, and for keeping up their certification. Operators are



responsible for sampling and testing for bacteriological and chemical quality, and recording and reporting water quality results.

**What is the role of the Water Boards?**

The role of the Water Boards is to work in conjunction with the communities to ensure that a water license is in place and/or that their current water license is up to date. A number of different agencies are responsible for making decisions that affect drinking water sources. The Water Boards are one of the agencies involved in this coordinated watershed decision making process.

**Where is the funding coming from?**

Many of the initiatives described in the framework are already underway and GNWT funding has already been assigned. Any new initiatives will go through the regular GNWT planning process for funding approval.

**What are we going to do with all of this feedback?**

Once public input is received, the safe drinking water framework and strategy proposed in this document will be revised accordingly, submitted for approval, and set into motion.

**What is the deadline for feedback?**

Feedback on the draft framework and strategy will be accepted until September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003

**How do I get involved?**

Comments and suggestions on the draft framework are being accepted until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Inquiries and comments can be addressed to:

Manager, Water and Sanitation  
GNWT Public Works and Services  
P.O. Box 1320, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 5009 - 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9  
Phone: 867-873-7740 Fax: 867-873-0226  
Email: [PWSfeedback@gov.nt.ca](mailto:PWSfeedback@gov.nt.ca)

**What is next?**

The suggestions received from the stakeholders and the general public will be incorporated into the final draft of the framework and the revised copy will be submitted to Cabinet for approval.

03-080

## Minister Hopes Impact of Con Mine Closure can be Minimized

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 28) -- Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine says the announced closure of underground operations at the Con gold mine in Yellowknife comes as difficult news for residents of Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories.**

“The city of Yellowknife owes its establishment to the Con and Giant mines,” Mr. Antoine said. “Together with their families, the men and women employed by these mines are the foundation and a sustaining force of our community.”

Miramar Mining Corporation, the owner of Yellowknife’s Con mine, announced yesterday that it will terminate underground mining operations at Con on November 30, 2003 due to ongoing operating losses. Giant Yellowknife mine, also owned by Miramar, will continue to mine ore for processing through the Con Mine’s milling facilities.

Mr. Antoine says senior government officials are being asked to review and assess the economic effects that the closure of Con Mine will have on Yellowknife and the NWT and to explore ways that negative economic impacts can be mitigated.

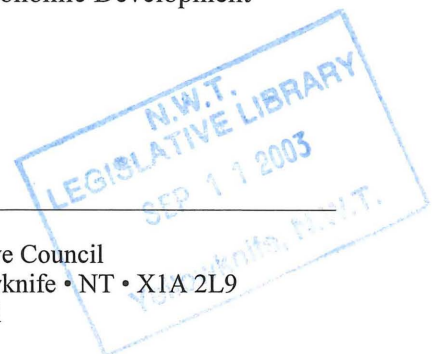
The Minister says he has been assured that the Con Mine will meet its pension obligations and has ensured sufficient funds to more than cover its reclamation obligations.

Miramar Mining Corporation plans to remain a gold producer in the Yellowknife area through mid 2005 generating an estimated 135,000 to 155,000 ounces of gold in that period.

Mr. Antoine expressed his hope that many of the workers displaced by today’s announcement can find employment at Giant mine or at Miramar’s new gold mining project at Hope Bay in Nunavut.

**For more information, contact:**

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





## News Release

### Accord Will Strengthen Voice of Northern Canadians

**CAMBRIDGE BAY, Nunavut (August 29, 2003)** – Territorial premiers will be in Cambridge Bay next week to sign a cooperation accord that will strengthen the North's voice on the national stage.

Premier Dennis Fentie of the Yukon, Premier Stephen Kakfwi of the Northwest Territories and Premier Paul Okalik of Nunavut will sign the Northern Cooperation Accord at a ceremony and a community feast in Cambridge Bay, on September 3.

“We will work cooperatively in areas such as the economy, devolution, aboriginal rights, the environment and social policy,” said Okalik, who will host the forum. “The strength of northern solidarity was clearly demonstrated earlier this year when the federal government committed an additional \$60 million for the North as part a national health care arrangement.”

As part of the accord, the territorial premiers will hold an annual Northern Premiers' Forum. Issues of regional, territorial, national and international interest will be discussed at the forums.

“This accord will reflect the reality that there is much in our history, geography and culture that is shared,” said Kakfwi. “This reality provides a strong foundation to develop and advance a common agenda on matters of mutual concern and interest.”

“We are embarking on a course that will enhance our working relationships and advance a common agenda. Our small populations and the unique and important role of aboriginal people make our territories distinctive in Canada's federal system and we need to make sure our voice is heard so that we can contribute to a strong Canada,” said Fentie.

The accord will be valid for three years and can be amended as well as renewed.

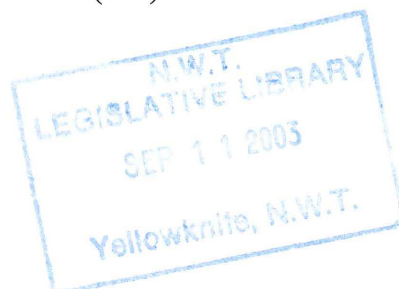
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For more information, contact:

Bill Clay  
Office of the Premier  
Government of Nunavut  
(867) 975-5059

Drew Williams  
Office of the Premier  
Government of N.W.T.  
(867) 669-2304

Peter Carr  
Cabinet Communications  
Government of Yukon  
(867) 667-8688  
[peter.carr@gov.yk.ca](mailto:peter.carr@gov.yk.ca)



03-082

## Governments/Agencies Promise Coordinated Effort to Support Con Miners

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 29) -- Governments and outside agencies will work together to assist employees impacted by the pending closure of Yellowknife's Con Mine.**

Premier Stephen Kakfwi and GNWT Cabinet Members met with Yellowknife MLAs, Mayor Gord Van Tighem, and Union Leaders today while senior GNWT officials met with their federal counterparts and Miramar representatives in efforts to assess the impacts of, and coordinate a joint and effective response to, Wednesday's announcement.

"We are all very concerned about the human and economic impacts of this situation," Premier Stephen Kakfwi said. "A coordinated and measured response is critical to ensuring that every available option is identified and considered in the interest of helping those persons whose lives are being affected."

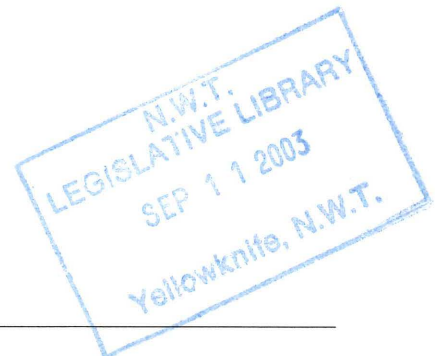
Premier Kakfwi will head a committee comprised of both Cabinet Ministers and Yellowknife MLAs. He says Ministers Ootes, Steen, Handley and Antoine will each take responsibilities for areas within their mandates.

Frame Lake MLA Charles Dent says territorial and civic leaders share a common priority when addressing the mine closure. "The individuals and families impacted by the closure of Con mine are our friends, our colleagues and our neighbors," he said. "We all want to do everything we can to help."

Meanwhile, Mayor Van Tighem says the City of Yellowknife will continue to work cooperatively with Miramar Mining and government departments to address the economic impacts of the mine's closure and to support those residents affected. "We'll meet this challenge together, he said. "That's what Northerners do."

**For more information, contact:**

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





## News Release

### Northern Accord Reflects Spirit of Co-operation

**CAMBRIDGE BAY, Nunavut (September 3, 2003)** – Canada's territorial premiers have signed an accord reflecting a level of co-operation that they hope will be shared by their provincial counterparts in the newly-formed Council of the Federation.

Premier Dennis Fentie of the Yukon, Premier Stephen Kakfwi of the Northwest Territories and Premier Paul Okalik of Nunavut signed the Northern Cooperation Accord today in Cambridge Bay.

"We wanted to demonstrate our commitment to fostering a constructive and co-operative agenda for the people of Canada," said Okalik, who hosted the signing ceremony.

The accord commits the territorial governments to collaborate on matters of mutual concern and interest, to explore opportunities to share information and to develop a common voice on northern issues. At the same time, the accord will not constrain any of three governments from exercising their own powers and responsibilities.

"This is a great demonstration of the kind of co-operation that all Canadians expect from their leaders," said Kakfwi. "We look forward to bringing our ideas forward as a team and working for the mutual benefit of not just Northerners but all Canadians."

"This is an extremely important time for Canada and we intend to bring co-operation and partnership to the forefront in the changes that are taking place," Fentie said. "We look forward to sharing our ideas with our colleagues during the Council of the Federation meetings in October."

-30-

For more information, contact:

Bill Clay  
Office of the Premier  
Government of Nunavut  
(867) 975-5059

Drew Williams  
Communications  
Government of NWT  
(867) 669-2304

Peter Carr  
Cabinet Communications Advisor  
Government of Yukon  
(867) 667-8688  
[peter.carr@gov.yk.ca](mailto:peter.carr@gov.yk.ca)



03-083



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## News Release

03-084

# Northwest Territories Premier Seeks Business Support For Fair Deal

**NEW YORK (September 8) -- A deal on devolution and resource revenue sharing between the Northwest Territories and Canada's federal government will guarantee the strong clear and stable business environment sought by Canadian and US investors, Premier Kakfwi told members of the Canadian Society of New York this morning.**

"The resources are in the Northwest Territories," he said. "They will be developed there, and it is in the Northwest Territories that business relationships must be built and decisions made."

The Northwest Territories Premier is in New York and Toronto this week to address and meet with key representatives of Canada's economic and business community. His trip will highlight the benefits and opportunities that exist in the development of the Northwest Territories' natural gas and diamond industries and seek support from Canada's primary business leaders for a fair and equitable devolution and resource sharing agreement between Ottawa and Canada's northern governments.

Under current agreements, the federal government controls the natural resources of the Northwest Territories almost exclusively. Almost all of the royalties realized from resource development in the Northwest Territories flow to Ottawa.

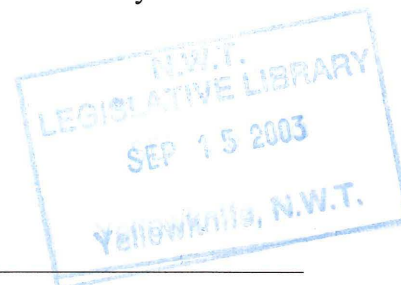
"It costs us more to respond to development than we receive in benefits," Mr. Kakfwi said. "Aboriginal and public governments in the NWT deserve the dignity of being able to provide the physical and social infrastructure to support growth."

While in New York, Premier Kakfwi visited diamond-giant Tiffany's who, later this month, will open a cutting and polishing factory in the Northwest Territories. The Premier also met with Canada's Consul general in New York Pamela Wallin, CIBC World Markets, Lehman Brothers and a number of business, media and diamond industry representatives.

Premier Kakfwi returns to Canada tomorrow to meet with Prime Minister Jean Chretien in Shawinigan. He is scheduled to address the Economic Club of Toronto on Thursday.

**For more information, contact:**

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



03-085

## Kakfwi Wraps up Southern Tour

**TORONTO (September 11) -- Premier Kakfwi has successfully completed meetings and speaking engagements in New York, Shawinigan, Ottawa and Toronto with representatives of Canada's corporate and investment community and the Prime Minister.**

The Premier says he's pleased with the positive response to his message on the tremendous economic potential of Northwest Territories diamond and natural gas resources and with the recognition and support for the involvement of Aboriginal people and their governments in the development of northern resources.

"People expressed to me genuine enthusiasm in learning more and doing business in our part of the world, he said. "Following my speech in Toronto, I was approached by an executive of a Michigan jeweler who wants buy diamonds from the north."

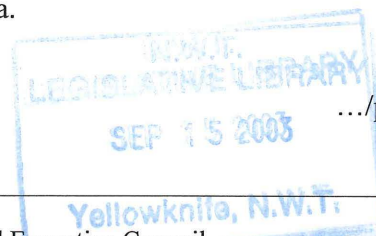
The Premier says there is an appreciation that the Northwest Territories must realize benefits from resource developments through a resource revenue sharing agreement with Ottawa and that northern governments should have jurisdiction over resource development.

"Given the recent blackout in the eastern United States and Ontario, it was an opportune time to make this tour. There is certainly an increasing level of interest in the potential of our natural gas and its ability to contribute to continental energy security," the Premier noted.

In New York, the corporate and investment sector heard the Premier speak to the Canadian Society of New York. The Premier also met with Canada's Consul General and senior representatives of Tiffany's, investment advisors from Lehman Brothers and CIBC World Markets.

Before meeting in Ottawa with the President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Premier was hosted by the Prime Minister and wife at his home in Shawinigan.

Meetings in Toronto focused on representatives of Canada's corporate and banking community. In addition to a morning address to the Economic Club of Toronto, the Premier met with representatives of the Toronto Dominion Bank's Financial Group, Imperial Oil, General Electric, the CD Howe Institute and the Conference Board of Canada.



.../page 2

“I believe we will soon see an increasing number of major corporate and investment representatives coming north to meet with our business, government and community leaders to explore partnerships which will maximize benefits for our territory,” Kakfwi said.

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



03-086

## **Orientation Sessions for Miramar Mine Workers**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 11) -- The first of several orientation sessions to assist Miramar Con Mine workers in identifying and developing new career plans took place this week in Yellowknife.**

The sessions allowed employees to meet with representatives of Human Resources and Development Canada, (HRDC) and career counselors from the GNWT's Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

Interested employees were able to sign up for career workshops, arrange career counseling and receive information about retraining options and employment insurance benefits.

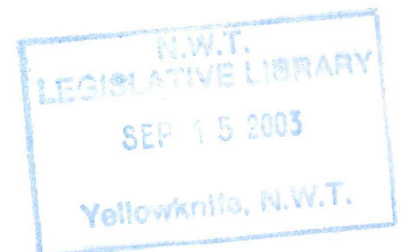
Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jake Ootes says he hopes all workers from Miramar's Con mine will take advantage of the workshops and counselling services being offered to them.

"Governments, agencies and the union will continue to work together to ensure that all affected Miramar employees receive effective and timely assistance," he said.

Additional orientation sessions will be held in the future. Group registration sessions for employment insurance benefits will be held October 29-30, 2003 at the Department of Education Culture and Employment offices in the Lahm Ridge Tower.

**For more information contact:**

**Sue Glowach**  
Manager, Public Affairs  
Education Culture and Employment  
(867) 920-6222





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## News Release

03-087

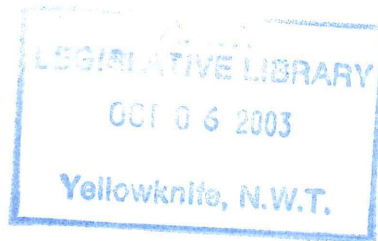
### **Kakfwi Reports Progress With De Beers**

**EDMONTON (September 26) -- Premier Kakfwi met with De Beers Canada President Richard Molyneux today to clarify De Beers' commitment to supply rough diamonds from the proposed Snap Lake Mine for manufacturing in the Northwest Territories.**

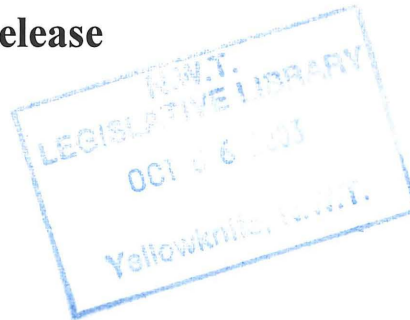
"We had a good frank discussion," Premier Kakfwi said following the meeting. "I am pleased with the progress we made and am confident that De Beers stands behind the commitments they have made to the people of the NWT."

The Government of the Northwest Territories and De Beers will continue working together to finalize an agreement in the near future.

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



03-088



## **Federal/NWT Ministers of Justice Meet in YK**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 26) -- Minister of Justice Roger Allen met recently with federal Justice Minister Martin Cauchon in Yellowknife. The Ministers discussed a number of issues facing the justice system in the Northwest Territories and Canada.**

“Minister Cauchon provided assurances that Justice Canada officials recognize the unique challenges facing the administration of justice in the North - including providing legal aid services and issues related to prosecuting the possession of an unregistered firearm,” Mr. Allen said.

Both Ministers believe the focus should be on compliance with the firearms legislation.

Justice Canada prosecutors will continue, in accordance with existing prosecution policy, to consider on a case by case basis, whether it is in the public interest to prosecute the offence of possession of an unregistered firearm.

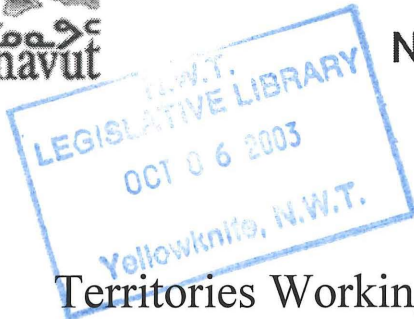
If a charge is laid for possession of an unregistered firearm, Ministers Cauchon and Allen agree that current prosecution policy allowed federal prosecutors to consider, in appropriate cases, community-based alternatives like diversion to justice committees.

The Ministers also discussed recent funding increases for legal aid.

“Minister Cauchon has shown leadership in securing new funding in the last Federal budget to address the challenges facing legal aid in the North,” Mr. Allen said. “The Minister recognizes that our high crime rate, the demands for family law services and the need to serve remote communities place additional pressures on our legal aid system,” he said.

**For more information contact:**

**Glen Rutland**  
Policy Advisor, Communications  
Justice  
Tel: (867) 920-3130



Northwest  
Territories

[03-089]

## News Release

### Territories Working Together on Family Violence Issues

**EDMONTON, September 26, 2003** – The three territories are working together on a new action group whose goal is to develop strategies to deal with family violence in Inuit and other Aboriginal communities.

With the support of all jurisdictions, the working group was formed at the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual federal/provincial/territorial meeting of Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, held in Edmonton on Sept. 24-26, 2003. The Northwest Territories and Canada will take a lead role in steering the working group.

“We are pleased to be the lead with Canada on this working group. The elimination of family violence must be a priority for all jurisdictions. Its devastating effects on our families, communities and society must end,” said Northwest Territories Premier Stephen Kakfwi.

“The goal of this working group is in keeping with our government’s overall goal to improve the quality of life for Inuit women in Nunavut,” said Peter Kilabuk, Nunavut’s Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.

“We are pleased to be taking constructive action to address this very critical issue,” Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie said.

The working group, which will examine the issue of violence against women, with a particular focus on aboriginal women, will report on its progress by Dec. 6, 2003.

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#### Contacts:

Peter Carr  
Communications Advisor  
Cabinet Office  
(867) 667-8688  
*peter.carr@gov.yk.ca*

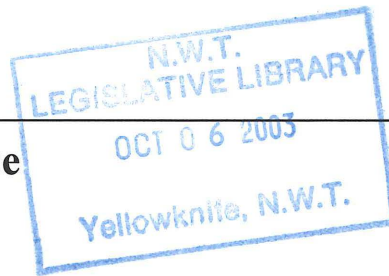
Marcelle Dubé  
Communications Coordinator  
Women’s Directorate  
(867) 667-8269  
*marcelle.dube@gov.yk.ca*

Nino Wischnewski  
Government of Nunavut Communications  
(867) 975-6001

Drew Williams  
Government of Northwest Territories  
(867) 669-2304



News Release



03-090

## Provinces/Territories to Continue Work on National Diamond Strategy

**HALIFAX (September 30) – Provincial and Territorial Mine Ministers have agreed to continue work on a National Diamond Strategy to assist in the development of a diamond industry across Canada that will maximize benefits and opportunities for Canadians.**

Provincial and Territorial Premiers endorsed the development of an action plan for a National Diamond Strategy in July 2003.

The Northwest Territories and Québec are co-leading the development of the strategy that will look at a range of issues across the entire diamond industry including diamond exploration, mining, rough diamonds, polished diamonds, diamond jewelry, diamond retail sales and diamond tourism.

Mine Ministers approved and released a mandate, work plan, and the document “Towards A National Diamond Strategy” presented by the NWT at their meeting in Halifax yesterday. This will be provided to Premiers for their consideration at the Council of the Federation meeting on October 24, 2003.

“The development of a National Diamond Strategy led by the Provinces and Territories is the only process that can effectively deal with all the issues involved for Canada and other stakeholders in a consistent, coordinated and fair manner,” said NWT Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) Jim Antoine.

Sam Hamad, ministre des Ressources naturelles, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec said that everyone will be invited to collaborate. “All stakeholders including the federal government, industry, manufacturers, jewelers and retailers will be consulted and involved in the development of the action plan on the strategy that will lead to a strong and competitive diamond industry across Canada.”

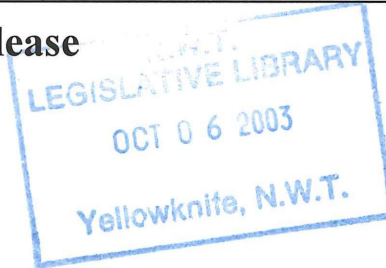
The elected representative for Matane, Mme. Nancy Charest, was also at the conference to provide support for the development of the strategy.

**For more information, contact:**

**Bob McLeod**  
Deputy Minister,  
RWED GNWT  
(Tel) 867-920-8048

**Pierre Choquette**  
Attaché de presse du ministre des Ressources naturelles  
de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec,  
Tel: (418) 643-7295

03-091



## Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority

<sup>1037</sup>  
YELLOWKNIFE (October XX) – Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger has appointed Judith Wright-Bird as Public Administrator for the Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority.

Ms. Wright-Bird has a long history of serving the public on community, regional and national boards including the Tulita District Education Authority, the national Aboriginal Head Start Board and the national Community Health Representatives Board. Currently, Ms. Wright-Bird is the Band Manager for the Fort Norman Band Council in Tulita. She is a former Program Manager for the Salt River First Nation in Fort Smith and Community Health Representative in Tulita.

Ms. Wright-Bird will be joined by Rose O'Donnell-King who has been hired as the new Authority's Chief Executive Officer.

Ms. O'Donnell-King brings extensive experience as a senior manager with government in both the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. She has worked as the Regional Superintendent for Social Services in the Kitikmeot region and as the Regional Superintendent for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment in the North Slave.

"I am pleased to welcome Ms. Wright-Bird and Ms. O'Donnell-King into our health and social services system," Mr. Miltenberger said. "This is an important step in the process of creating the new Sahtu Authority."

The new Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority will provide services to the communities of Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, Tulita, and Deline. The new Authority will be headquartered in Norman Wells, and current staff will officially begin to report to the new CEO on April 1, 2004.

For an updated map of the NWT's Health and Social Services Authorities, visit our website at [http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/content/About\\_HSS/OurOrganization/NWTAuthoritymapnew.pdf](http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/content/About_HSS/OurOrganization/NWTAuthoritymapnew.pdf)

**For more information, contact:**

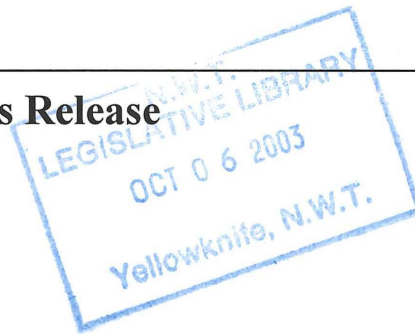
**Megan Holsapple**  
Communications  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 873-7066



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## News Release

03-092



## “Northern Gold” The Sharon Anne Firth Story”

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 3) – A video featuring the inspirational story of NWT resident and four-time Olympian Sharon Firth will be debuted next Wednesday in the Legislative Assembly’s Great Hall.**

“Northern Gold: The Sharon Anne Firth Story” will be used by Ms. Firth’s in her work as a Youth Programs Advisor for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs as she gives motivational presentations to school-aged children throughout the Northwest Territories.

The 15-minute video traces Ms. Firth’s life from her idyllic childhood on the land in Aklavik, to her time in Inuvik training with her twin sister Shirley on the Territorial Experimental Ski Team (TEST); their successes at the territorial, national and international level and how they overcame the tragedy of losing their mother in a house fire just prior to their third Winter Olympics.

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) Vince Steen says Sharon Firth is an ideal role model for young people and for people of all ages.

“Dedication and determination took her from an isolated northern community to the world stage – and back again where she is now giving back to the community that nurtured her,” he noted.

“Northern Gold: The Sharon Anne Firth Story” was produced in partnership by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, ConocoPhillips Canada and Dargo and Associates. The debut screening will be held Wednesday, October 8, 2003 in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Ms. Firth will be on hand to speak, answer questions and meet with people attending the screening. Refreshments will be served.

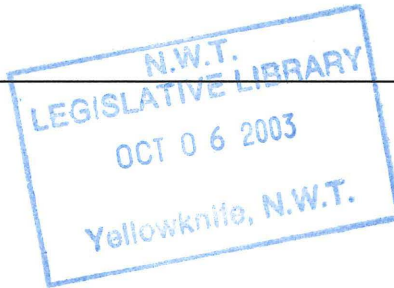
**For more information, contact:**

**Brad Heath**  
Communications and Policy Advisor  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 920-3092



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## News Release



03-093

# Minister Appoints Public Administrator For Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 3) – Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger has appointed Judith Wright-Bird as the Public Administrator for the Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority.**

Ms. Wright-Bird has a long history of serving the public on community, regional and national boards including the Tulita District Education Authority, the national Aboriginal Head Start Board and the national Community Health Representatives Board. Currently, Ms. Wright-Bird is the Band Manager for the Fort Norman Band Council in Tulita. She is a former Program Manager for the Salt River First Nation in Fort Smith and Community Health Representative in Tulita.

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"I am pleased to welcome Ms. Wright-Bird and Ms. O'Donnell-King into our health and social services system," Mr. Miltenberger said. "This is an important step in the process of creating the new Sahtu Authority."

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**For more information, contact:**

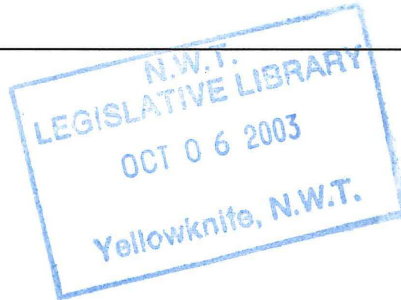
**Megan Holsapple**  
Communications  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 873-7066





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## News Release



03-094

# GNWT takes Action on Official Languages

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 3) – On Tuesday, Minister Responsible for the Official Languages Act Jake Ootes tabled the GNWT’s response to the Final Report of the Special Committee on the Review of the *Official Languages Act*.**

The document provides a detailed response to the 65 recommendations made by the Special Committee earlier this year and details actions the government will take to implement the committee’s recommendations.

Proposed changes to the *Act* include: the formal designation of a Minister Responsible for the *Official Languages Act*; the establishment of an *Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board*, to focus on promotion and revitalization of Aboriginal languages; and the establishment of an *Official Languages Board* to focus on issues of service delivery and to advise on issues surrounding the *Official Languages Act*.

“At the heart of the work completed by Mr. Nitah and members of the Special Committee on the Review of the *Official Languages Act* lies an abiding respect for the role that languages play in the lives of our citizens, and the value that languages contribute to our culture and society,” Mr. Ootes said. “Our government shares these views and goals.

Other legislative changes include the clear designation of eleven official languages and provisions to address the role of a Languages Commissioner. One of the first steps in implementing the Special Committee’s report came today with the introduction of legislation to amend the *Official Languages Act*.

“For those recommendations that will need to be implemented over a longer time period, this report will serve as strong recommendation to the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly,” Mr. Ootes noted.

Copies of the GNWT’s Response to the report of the Special Committee are available through the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, by contacting the Manager of Public Affairs, Department of Education, Culture and Employment at 920-6222 or online at: <http://www.gov.nt.ca/research/publications/index.html>

**For more information, contact:** **Evan Walz**  
Executive Assistant to the  
Minister Responsible for Official Languages Act  
Tel: (867) 669-2366

03-095

## GNWT Welcomes \$80 Million Federal Funding

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 4) - The Government of the Northwest Territories welcomes today's federal funding announcement by Minister of Industry and Minister Responsible for Infrastructure Allan Rock.**

The federal Minister announced that the Northwest Territories will receive a total of \$65 million from the federal government's Canadian Strategic Infrastructure Fund (CSIF) for various transportation projects and another \$15 million under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund to address community infrastructure needs.

Besides enabling the Northwest Territories to upgrade transportation and community infrastructure, Premier Stephen Kakfwi says the new funding will translate into jobs, contracts and other business opportunities for all residents of the Northwest Territories.

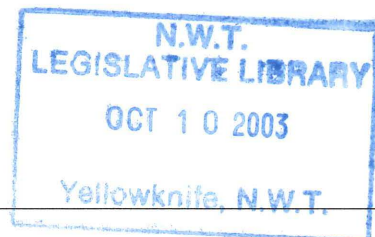
"It has been a priority of this government to address the immediate and pressing challenge of sustaining infrastructure in the face of unprecedented economic growth," Premier Kakfwi said.

CSIF money will help to improve the Slave Geological Province corridor, including Highway 3 and the Ingraham Trail; the Mackenzie Valley corridor, including the Dempster Highway, as well as the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road through the construction of permanent bridges.

GNWT Minister of Finance Joe Handley says the additional money represents a strategic investment in the future of the Northwest Territories.

He says he's grateful for the overwhelming support that *Corridors for Canada*, the GNWT proposal under the CSIF fund, received from Minister Rock, industry, other levels of government, Western Arctic MP Ethel Blondin-Andrew and organizations such as the Northern Business Coalition."

"This announcement demonstrates again that positive results can be achieved through co-operative efforts and partnerships," he said.



.../page 2

Meanwhile, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Vince Steen says the GNWT will use the \$15 million committed under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund for projects that directly benefit residents of communities throughout the NWT.

“Addressing community infrastructure needs is vital to sustaining economic growth and improving the quality of life for our residents,” he said.

**For more information, contact:**

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

**Brad Heath**  
Communications and Policy Advisor  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 920-3092

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



## News Release

03-096

### **No Changes to Business Incentive Policy**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 6) - The Government of the Northwest Territories will not proceed with the revised Business Incentive Policy (BIP) released on August 15. Instead, the existing Business Incentive Policy will remain in effect.**

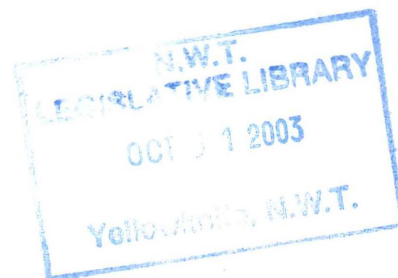
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Minister Jim Antoine announced the decision today.

“Cabinet has heard the serious concerns raised by Members of the Legislative Assembly about the revised policy,” Mr. Antoine said. “In the spirit of consensus government, Cabinet has directed that the 1992 Business Incentive Policy and all of its provisions will continue to apply to government contracts. We are completing the development of a Contract Registry and Reporting System which will document costs of contracting.”

The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development will be informing Northwest Territories businesses accordingly.

**For more information, contact:**

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





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## News Release

03-097

# NWT Fire Service Merit Awards Announced

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 7) – Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) Vince Steen today announced the recipients of the 2003 NWT Fire Service Merit Awards.**

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs annually honours the vital contributions made by fire fighters, fire departments and communities.

“Fighting fires is an extremely dangerous but essential service in the protection of our communities,” Mr. Steen said. “These awards are made more significant as nominations come from the community at large and from fire fighters.”

MACA, community and fire service officials are involved in the selection process.

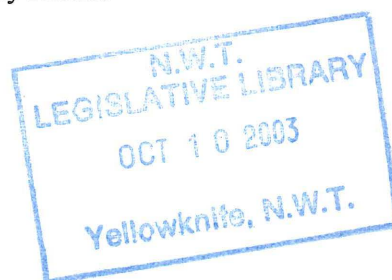
Al Kuyten of Norman Wells and Robert Ansdell of Tsiigehtchic will be awarded Regional Fire Service Merit Awards. Mr. Ansdell will also receive the Territorial Fire Service Merit Award.

The Community Fire Service Merit Award for 2003 is being awarded to the Yellowknife Fire Division and the City of Yellowknife.

For more information about the NWT Fire Service Merit Awards Program and a nomination form for the 2004 awards, please visit the MACA web site at [www.maca.gov.nt.ca](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca). The deadline for 2004 nominations is June 30, 2004.

**For more information, contact:**

**Brad Heath**  
Communications and Policy Advisor  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 920-3092





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## News Release

03-098

# Minister Releases Report on Victims' Services

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 6) – On Monday, Minister of Justice Roger Allen tabled the Annual Report of the Victims Assistance Committee of the Northwest Territories in the Legislative Assembly.**

In the Northwest Territories, victim fine surcharges levied by the Courts are put into the Victims Assistance Fund. The Victims Assistance Committee makes recommendations to the Minister on projects to support from the fund.

In 2002-2003, the Victims Assistance Committee distributed \$148 thousand to support community-based projects and activities that provided services and assistance to victims of crime in Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik, Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith, and the Dogrib communities.

For the first time, the annual report of the Victims Assistance Committee also includes information on victims' services supported by the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice funds community organizations in Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife, Fort Good Hope and Inuvik to provide victims services.

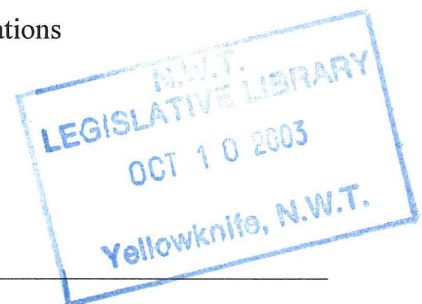
"This report shows the importance of having these services available to all victims of crime," Mr. Allen said. "In a time of need, victims services workers and volunteers are there to provide information and support."

Last year, 774 people were assisted through victims' services. The majority of those served were adult aboriginal women who were primary victims of crime. The services most often provided were information, personal support and consultations with the RCMP.

"I would like to thank members of the Victims Services Committee for their support and advice as well as the many victims' services workers and volunteers," the Minister said. "They provide an important voice and support network for victims of crime in the NWT."

**For more information, contact:**

**Glen Rutland**  
Policy Advisor, Communications  
Justice  
Tel: (867) 920-3130





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## News Release

03-099

# Act to Amend the Safety Act Passed

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 10) - Bill 23, an Act to amend the *Safety Act* was enacted today by the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.**

The Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board in the Northwest Territories says changes included in the Bill will work to make NWT work sites safer.

"We all share in the responsibility of ensuring that safety is a priority for workers and employers," he said.

Many of the changes included in the Bill were identified directly from the input of northern workers and employers during a year-long legislative review of the Workers Compensation Act of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Once the Bill becomes law, employers will be required to provide appropriate safety programs to their employees. A Safety Advisory Committee will also be established to make recommendations on safety regulations.

The Bill also more clearly defines a worker and employer, makes allowances for the Chief Safety Officer to issue orders and will require principal contractors or owners to coordinate the activities of all employers when more than one employer is on a work site.

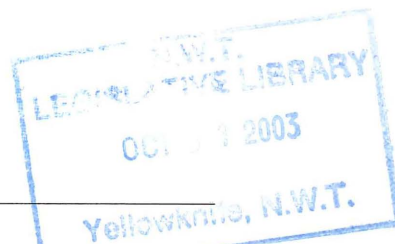
The Nunavut Legislature will consider a similar set of amendments later this month.

**For more information contact:**

**Dave Grundy**  
Manager, Public Affairs  
Workers' Compensation Board of the  
Northwest Territories and Nunavut  
Tel: (867) 669-4442

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

**Corinne Paul**  
Public Affairs Officer  
Workers' Compensation Board of the  
Northwest Territories and Nunavut  
Tel: (867) 669-4443





03-100

## Funding Program a Good Fit for NWT Ootes Says

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 9) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes says he's confident that the Northwest Territories can realize significant benefits from the federal Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) Program.**

The \$85 million five-year program, announced by Hon. Ethel Blondin-Andrew on behalf of Hon. Jane Stewart last week in Inuvik, will provide funds for programs and initiatives aimed at securing and increasing sustainable Aboriginal participation in large economic developments across Canada.

The Government of the Northwest Territories, through its Maximizing Northern Employment initiatives, has already identified various strategies and programs to ensure NWT residents have the training and skills to participate in the extraordinary levels of mining and oil and gas activity that will occur in the NWT.

Two specific strategies, developed over the past two years: the NWT Industrial Mining Skills Strategy and Oil and Gas Industrial Skills Strategy were previously proposed to the federal government and are expected to total approximately \$20 million in new funding. They will be resubmitted under guidelines set out by the new ASEP program.

"This new funding announcement speaks directly to these types of proposals," Mr. Ootes noted.

Studies predict that a Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline would provide almost 60,000 person years of employment over the lifetime of the its related projects and approximately \$3 billion in labour income for the NWT. Additional employment opportunities will also be provided through direct, indirect and induced jobs from the NWT's three diamond mines.

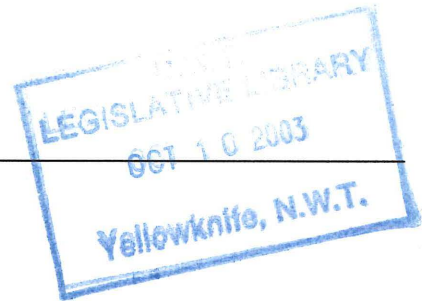
Mr. Ootes says partnership and collaboration between the GNWT, industry and the Aboriginal Summit, have been instrumental in setting the stage for the federal government to provide such funding.

"I am extremely confident that given the level of activity anticipated for this jurisdiction and the excellent work that we have done to date, a large portion of these new federal dollars will be invested here in the NWT," Mr. Ootes said.

**For more information, contact:**

**Evan Walz**  
Executive Assistant to the  
Minister Responsible for Official Languages Act  
Tel: (867) 669-2366





03-101

## GNWT Responds to “A Vision for the Arts”

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 9) – In response to recommendations by the NWT Arts Strategy Advisory Panel, the Government of the Northwest Territories has increased its contributions to the NWT Arts Council by 50% and is doubling funds for the Support of the Northern Performer’s Program.**

Minister of Education Culture and Employment Jake Ootes tabled the GNWT’s response to the Panel’s recommendations in the Legislative Assembly today.

“The arts continue to play an important role in the cultural and economic health of our Territory,” Mr. Ootes noted. “We look forward to furthering our support and assistance of artists, craftspeople and the NWT’s cultural industries in the interest of enriching the lives of all NWT residents.”

The GNWT’s response highlights the actions, both planned and taken, by the government in support of arts and cultural industries in the Northwest Territories.

It includes the planned development of an integrated Arts Strategy by the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) and Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) who share responsibilities for arts and cultural industries in the NWT.

Meanwhile, an additional seat has already been created on the NWT Arts Council and the Department of RWED has designated a staff person to focus on arts and crafts development in the NWT.

“Art and artistic expression, in all forms, serve to enrich our lives and our communities. It is an important part of life – not only socially and culturally, but also economically,” RWED Minister Jim Antoine said.

Co-chair of the NWT Arts Strategy Advisory Panel Sonny MacDonald says he’s pleased by the government’s response to the recommendations of the Northwest Territories arts community.

“I am gratified that the GNWT has examined the NWT Arts Strategy Advisory Panel Report and provided such a categorical, detailed response,” he said.

**For more information, and/or for copies of the GNWT’s response, contact:**

**Sue Glowach**  
Manager, Public Affairs  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-6222

03-102

## **Bathurst Caribou Survey Completed**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 17) – A recent survey of the Bathurst caribou herd's calving grounds shows the size of the herd to be about 186,000 animals.**

The aerial survey was done in June 2003 by the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development with financial assistance from the Nunavut Department of Sustainable Development and the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

The results of this latest survey indicate that the Bathurst caribou herd has been declining by about five percent a year for the past decade.

Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine says it is natural for caribou herds to increase and decrease in size. Elders and biologists have noted changes in the size of the herd in the past however, Mr. Antoine says, the latest survey results raise some concerns about the current status of the herd.

“We will work more closely with our partners and all harvesters to increase monitoring of the herd and to determine what measures may be required to ensure the herd remains healthy and viable,” the Minister said.

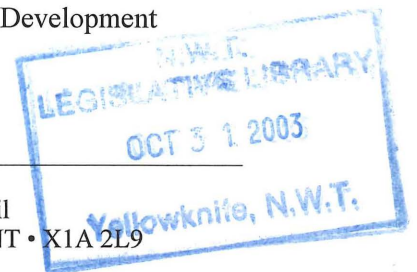
The Governments of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Canada along with Aboriginal governments and co-management boards are responsible for the management of the Bathurst caribou and their range. The range of the herd extends from the calving grounds near Bathurst Inlet south toward Great Slave Lake and further southeast toward northern Saskatchewan.

Aboriginal harvesters from the NWT and Nunavut hunt the Bathurst caribou across their seasonal ranges. Resident and non-resident hunters harvest Bathurst caribou under a tag and quota system. Tags for commercial use are also available to Aboriginal harvesters.

Results of the June 2003 Bathurst Caribou Calving Ground Survey will be provided to the Bathurst Caribou Management Planning Committee. This committee was established in 2000 to draft a 10-year Bathurst Caribou Management Plan. It will ensure that the management plan and recommended management actions reflect the results of this survey.

**For more information, contact:**

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



03-103

## GNWT Steps Towards Waste Recovery Programs

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 24) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will move ahead with developing territory-wide waste recovery programs thanks to the passage of the new *Waste Reduction and Recovery Act* October 10, 2003.**

The new legislation allows the government to establish programs to recover, recycle and reuse waste materials. Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) Jim Antoine says it is a significant step towards reducing the impact of waste on the environment, the amount of litter and the costs of handling garbage in communities and increasing the lifespan of community landfills.

The new legislation also allows the GNWT to ban the distribution or sale of some items that could harm the environment.

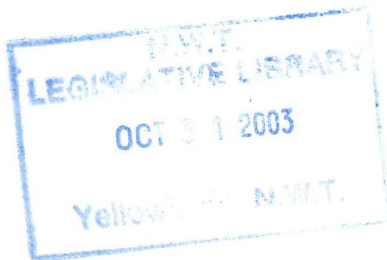
The first program to be developed under the new legislation is a beverage container recovery program. Other programs, such as recovery programs for cardboard, plastics, computers and tires, may be added in the future.

“Residents will be consulted before any recovery programs are established,” the Minister noted. “The success of recovery programs depends on wide-spread public participation and support.”

The costs of establishing, operating and evaluating recovery and recycling programs will be covered by the Environment Fund - a special purpose fund established by the *Waste Reduction and Recovery Act*. All deposits and non-refundable fees collected through recovery programs will be paid into the Environment Fund.

**For more information, contact:**

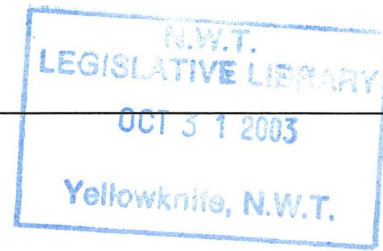
**Emery Paquin**  
Director, Environmental Protection Service  
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development  
Tel: (867) 873-7654





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## News Release



03-104

# PW&S to host Project Management Conference

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 28) - A Project Management Conference to be hosted by the Department of Public Works and Services will promote closer ties within the northern construction industry, prepare it to better meet economic and technical challenges ahead and maximize economic benefits for the industry.**

The Department of Public Works and Services hosts a professional development conference once every two years to help those involved in the northern construction industry to keep up-to-date with the best project management practices, as well as the latest trends and innovations in the industry.

The theme of this year's conference, to be held November 25-27 in Yellowknife, is *Towards a Better Tomorrow*.

Over 250 representatives from all levels of government, plus officials from crown corporations, school and health boards, consulting and contracting companies, associations, manufacturers and suppliers, are expected to attend.

Minister of Public Works and Services Vince Steen says although the NWT has a booming private sector fuelled by diamonds, oil, gas and other mining activities, the public sector faces major challenges.

"Providing and maintaining public infrastructure requires getting the most value from limited resources," he noted. "This means finding innovative and cost-effective project management solutions and can only be achieved when all parts of the construction industry work closely together, sharing their expertise and skills."

A trade show will be held at the Explorer Hotel during the conference. The trade show provides a venue for northern manufacturers, suppliers and service providers to promote their products, supplies and services.

To view the conference program and registration form, click visit:  
<http://www.pws.gov.nt.ca/asset/index.htm>

**For more information, contact:**

**Bruce Rattray**  
Deputy Minister  
Public Works and Services  
Tel: (867) 873-7114

**For conference registration, contact:**

**Sukhi Cheema**  
Manager of Technical Support Services  
Public Works and Services  
Tel: (867) 920-8088

## News Release

03-105

### Premier Appoints Deputy Minister EC&E

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 6) -- Premier Stephen Kakfwi has appointed Mark Cleveland as Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Cleveland replaces Dr. Loretta Foley who will complete her contracted term as Deputy Minister November 14, 2003.**

"I would like to thank Dr. Foley for her deep commitment to improving the programs and services offered by the Department," Premier Kakfwi said.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes also paid tribute to Dr. Foley's contributions over her two-years as Deputy Minister. "Dr. Foley's energy and hard work have been critical to the success of a number of important initiatives," he noted.

Mr. Cleveland returns to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment following assignments as Deputy Minister of the Department of Health and Social Services and the Corporate Review and Transition Planning Secretariat.

He brings to the position broad experience in a number of senior roles within the Northwest Territories education system including serving as Deputy Minister from 1997-2001.

**For more information, contact**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications  
Office of the Premier/Executive Council  
Tel: (867) 669-2304



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## News Release

03-106

### Northwest Territories Rocks in Boston/Chicago

**BOSTON (November 7) -- An exhibit of Canadian Arctic Diamonds™ will be the feature attraction at a reception preceding the annual Maple Leaf Ball hosted by the Canadian Consulate in Boston on Saturday.**

Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine will also be in attendance and will present a Northwest Territories diamond broach to one lucky participant.

Mr. Antoine will attend a similar function hosted by the Canadian Consulate in Chicago on Tuesday to further showcase Canadian Arctic Diamonds™ mined, cut and polished in the Northwest Territories. Aurora College instructor Courtney Keenan will demonstrate the art that transforms the NWT's rough diamonds into brilliant gemstones.

"We are proud and delighted to have these opportunities to showcase our Canadian Arctic Diamonds™ in Boston and Chicago," Mr. Antoine says, "just in time for the Christmas market."

Both events are also intended to highlight the GNWT's Diamond Certification Program, developed with the NWT secondary diamond industry, and in place since 2000. To earn their pedigree, Canadian Arctic Diamonds™ must meet a high standard of cut and are certified to be authentic Canadian diamonds - mined, cut and polished in the Northwest Territories."

The US is by far the world's largest market for diamond jewelry, accounting for fifty percent of the total annual global retail sales of \$56 billion dollars.

Events in Boston and Chicago follow a successful presentation by the Minister on "Branding and Marketing Canadian Diamonds" during the Antwerp Diamond Conference November 3-4, 2003.

**For more information, contact:**

**Tracy St. Denis**

Executive Assistant to Deputy Minister,  
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development  
Tel: (867) 444-1797



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## News Release

03-107

### **Wanted: NWT Youth with Investment Savvy**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 10) – The Securities Registry of the Department of Justice is looking for youth who are planning their own financial future.**

As part of its mandate to raise awareness about informed investing, the Securities Registry is encouraging Northwest Territories youth to enter the Canadian Securities Administrators' second annual *Test Your Financial I.Q. Contest*.

The goal of the contest is to encourage Canadians from 14 to 18 years of age to learn more about investing. To participate, young people must submit a 500 to 750-word essay in English or French answering the question: It's your future. So how are you going to pay for it?

"We want to encourage youth to think about what they do with their money," Minister of Justice Roger Allen said. "It will help to prepare them for the opportunities that lie ahead."

The contest will run until February 27, 2004. One winner will be chosen from the Northwest Territories during Investor Education Month in April 2004. They will receive a prize of \$750 and their essay will represent the NWT in the national competition for a grand prize of \$2,500.

Last year, the Northwest Territories prize was awarded to Duncan Hamre of Yellowknife, whose essay also placed third at the national level.

Contest rules and an entry form can be found on the Securities Registry section of the Department of Justice web site ([www.justice.gov.nt.ca](http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca)) or are available from your local school.

**For more information:**

**Glen Rutland**  
Policy Advisor, Communications  
Department of Justice  
Tel: (867) 920-3130

03-108

## **Dogrib New Testament to Receive Celebration of Biblical Proportion**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 25) -- Leaders and members of Yellowknife's Christian community will gather this week to celebrate the long-awaited release of the Dogrib translation of the New Testament. It is the first full translation of the New Testament in one of the North's Dene languages to be completed in over 100 years.**

While the translation was formally introduced in conjunction with the Tli'cho signing in Rae Edzo this summer, Shawn MacLellan Pastor, Yellowknife Vineyard Christian Fellowship says the Yellowknife Ministerial Association wanted an opportunity to honour the achievement of the Tli'cho people specifically.

"This is an historical accomplishment," he noted. "We wanted to host an event celebrating the historic achievement that it is. We understand the challenges that have been overcome in this endeavour and the tremendous joy that comes with its completion."

"Beyond the extraordinary accomplishment that has been achieved, this is also a celebration of the Dogrib (Tli'cho) language, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jake Ootes, noted, "something we must make every effort to preserve."

Residents of Yellowknife are invited to partake in the event taking place 7:00-9:00pm Thursday November 27, 2003 (tomorrow) in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly.

The event will recount the history of the translation project and include readings and hymns in the Dogrib language.

**For more information, contact:**

**Shawn MacLellan**  
Pastor  
Yellowknife Vineyard Christian Fellowship  
Tel: (867) 920-2446

**Evan Walz**  
Executive Assistant to the Minister  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 669-2366



03-109

## **Minimum Wage to Increase in December**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 28) – Effective December 28, 2003, the minimum wage in the Northwest Territories will increase from \$6.50 to \$8.25 an hour. The Legislative Assembly approved changes to the minimum wage earlier this year.**

“The minimum wage has not been changed since 1991,” Minister of Justice Roger Allen notes, “this new wage is reflective of the increased cost of living since 1991.”

While the current minimum wage differs for youth under 16 years of age and workers in off-road communities, the minimum wage, taking effect on December 28<sup>th</sup>, will be the same for everyone regardless of their age or location of work.

The Northwest Territories will have the second highest minimum wage in Canada behind Nunavut, where the minimum wage is \$8.50.

Employers or employees with questions about the new minimum wage or other labour issues can visit the Department of Justice web site at [www.justice.gov.nt.ca](http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca) or contact Labour Services at (867) 873-7486 or 1-888-700-5707.

**For more information, contact:** **Janelle James**  
Head, Labour Services  
Justice  
Tel: (867) 873-7486

03-110

## **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 5) – On December 6, 1989 fourteen young women were murdered at Montreal’s l’Ecole Polytechnique. In their memory, Canadians declared December 6<sup>th</sup> as their National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.**

“We remember the tragic loss of fourteen young women in the prime of their lives,” Premier and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Stephen Kakfwi said today. “It is an opportunity for all residents of the Northwest Territories and their leaders to renew their commitment to work toward the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women.”

Speaking from Charlottetown, PEI, where he is attending a Council of Federation meeting with his provincial and territorial colleagues, Premier Kakfwi noted that federal, provincial and territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women met earlier this year in Edmonton and agreed that priority must be given to the circumstances faced by Aboriginal women across Canada.

“We need to be mindful of the many forms that this violence can take,” he said. “Particularly in the North, it includes family violence, spousal assault and bullying at schools. We all have a responsibility – as parents, friends, family, schoolteachers and political leaders, to eliminate violence against women.”

In Charlottetown today, Premiers will join millions of Canadians wearing a white ribbon to symbolize their pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.

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

03-111

### Ministers Lang and Antoine Sign Oil and Gas Agreement

**WHITEHORSE (December 5) -- Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Archie Lang and Northwest Territories Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Minister Jim Antoine signed a Yukon-Northwest Territories Sub-Agreement on Northern Oil and Gas Development today in Whitehorse.**

The sub-agreement was negotiated under the Intergovernmental Relations Accord that was signed between the Government of Yukon and the Government of the Northwest Territories Mar. 13. The purpose of the sub-agreement is to undertake cooperative measures to support future oil and gas development in the Yukon and NWT.

“This is one step towards the government’s commitment to help Yukoners receive access to employment, training and business opportunities arising from oil and gas and pipeline development in both territories,” Lang said. “The sub-agreement will also help to gain access to the proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline for north Yukon’s oil and gas resources.”

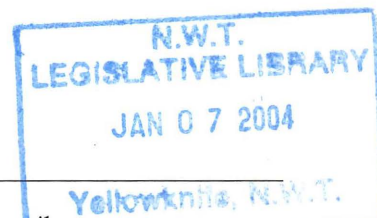
“The signing of this historic agreement demonstrates the renewed spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding that exists between the Yukon and the Northwest Territories,” Antoine said. “It is a solid commitment from which we will work to maximize the benefits of northern development for all of our residents.”

The sub-agreement commits both territories to developing an action plan that will identify options and opportunities in a number of areas related to oil and gas development, benefits from oil and gas activity and sharing of geological information. It also recognizes the need for both territories to work cooperatively in the development and management of Beaufort Sea oil and gas resources.

“Working to reach agreements like this demonstrates our government’s strong preference to work cooperatively with our northern neighbours to support northern oil and gas, and pipeline development,” Lang said. “It’s important that the governments of NWT and the Yukon work together to ensure Northerners benefit, regardless of which pipeline proceeds first.”

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications,  
Office of the Premier/Executive Council  
Tel (867) 669-2304



R(15)-001

## Cabinet Portfolios Assigned Handley Says Premier and Cabinet Ready to Get to Work

**YELLOWKNIFE (Dec XX) -- Promising a positive and united effort on behalf of all residents of the Northwest Territories, Premier Joe Handley today announced portfolio assignments for his new Cabinet.**

“We’re committed, energized and ready to get to work,” the Premier said.

The Premier assigned the following responsibilities:

**Hon. Joe Handley**  
**(MLA, YK-Weledeh)**

- Minister of the Executive
- Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
- Minister Responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs
- Minister Responsible for the NWT Power Corporation

**Hon. Floyd Roland**  
**(MLA, Inuvik-Boot Lake)**

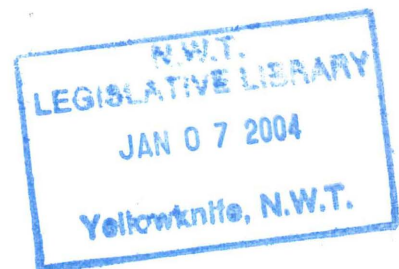
- Deputy Premier
- Minister of Finance
- Chair, Financial Management Board
- Minister of Public Works and Services

**Hon. Charles Dent**  
**(MLA, YK-Frame Lake)**

- Government House Leader
- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment
- Minister of Justice
- Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

**Hon. Brendan Bell**  
**(MLA YK-South)**

- Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
- Minister Responsible for the Workers’ Compensation Board



**Hon. Mike McLeod**  
**(MLA, Deh Cho)**

- Minister of Transportation
- Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation
- Minister Responsible for Youth

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger**  
**(MLA, Thebacha)**

- Minister of Health and Social Services
- Minister Responsible for Seniors
- Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities

**Hon. Henry Zoe**  
**(MLA, North Slave)**

- Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs
- Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board

**For more information, contact:**

**Drew Williams**  
Communications,  
Office of the Premier/Executive Council  
Tel (867) 669-2304



R(15)-002

## Northern Aviation Celebrated DOT/NATA Mark 100th Anniversary of Historic Flight

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 17) -- Celebrations are planned this evening at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first powered flight.**

It was on this date in 1903 that Orville and Wilbur Wright, brothers and bicycle makers from Dayton, Ohio, made history at Kitty Hawk, N.C., when their Wright Flyer, manned by Orville, flew for 12 seconds and 121 feet.

“It is fitting that we in the Northwest Territories observe the birth of an industry that has played such an important role in the development of our vast territory,” Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod says. “Air travel is an essential part of living and working in the North.”

Sponsored by the Department of Transportation and Northern Air Transport Association, this event will celebrate the historic occasion with activities focused on the rich history of aviation in the North.

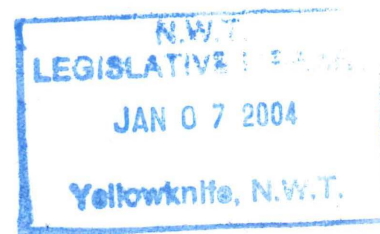
“The Northern aviation industry is not only an important part of the economy, but has been a force that helped shape the social fabric of northern communities,” NATA President Bob Davis notes. “The history of aviation in the North is a story of adventure and entrepreneurship combined with a love for the people and the land.”

One of this evening’s highlights will be a storytelling session with northern aviation pioneers Willy Laserich, Bishop John Sperry, Glenn Warner, Peter Arychuk and Bob Engle. CBC North’s Dave Miller will moderate this story time, which will be recorded for future broadcast.

Various photos and Northern aviation artefacts will be on display at the event, which begins this evening at 7:00pm.

**For further information, contact:**

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



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# MOI Recognizes Aviation Heritage

## Partners wish to promote and preserve northern aviation history

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 19) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), the Northern Aviation Heritage Foundation (NAHF) and the Northern Air Transport Association (NATA) will work together to recognize the spirit of northern aviation in the development of Canada's North at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.**

In a Memorandum of Intent, signed Wednesday, the three parties agreed to pursue a partnership project recognizing, promoting and preserving the history of northern aviation and, in the future, potentially adding an aviation wing to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

The Department of Transportation will also be a partner in this process.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Charles Dent says current renovations at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre present a perfect opportunity for partners to share information regarding renovations and exhibit development at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

"We are looking forward to fully exploring this partnership option presented by NATA and NAHF," he said.

The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre is owned by the GNWT and located in Yellowknife. The twenty-five year old facility is under renovations to upgrade to current day standards. The Centre maintains the Northwest Territories Archives and galleries featuring displays on the heritage of the people of the North including an Aviation Gallery.

### For more information contact:

**Sue Glowach**  
Manager Public Affairs  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-6222

**Bob Kelly**  
Manager Public Affairs  
Transportation  
Tel: (867) 873-7712

**Don Douglas**  
Executive Director  
NATA  
Tel: (780) 487-6512

**Don Yamkowy**  
Executive Director  
Northern Aviation Heritage Foundation  
Tel: (867) 873-2121

