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R(15)042905	GNWT increases Number of RCMP officers in the North.
R(15)050306	North Slave Adult Correctional Facility Opens.
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R(15)070736	Setting the Scene for Diamond Tourism in the NWT
R(15)071337	Minister McLeod Opens Community Hall in Wha Ti
R(15)080438	Prime Minister to Visit Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk



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## News Release

R(15)-004

# IMA Schedules Signed

## GNWT, Canada and Northwest Territory Métis Nation Agree

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 5) -- The Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN), the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada have signed three schedules to the NWTMN Interim Measures Agreement. Chief Negotiators for the three parties signed the Disposition of Commissioner's Lands, the Forest Management and the Travel and Tourism schedules in early December.**

The schedules build on five Schedules now in effect: Land Use Permits, Water Licences, Surface Federal Crown Lands, National Parks and Protected Areas and Territorial Parks. They solidify the government-to-government-to-government relationship that is a cornerstone of the Métis negotiations process.

The NWTMN Interim Measure Agreement and the associated Schedules ensure a formalized consultation process for the NWTMN to review and comment on the applications for the Disposition of Commissioner's Land, Travel and Tourism and Forest Management.

"Having the IMA in place and the Schedules in effect is of crucial significance to the Northwest Territory Métis Nation," says Northwest Territory Métis Nation President Robert Tordiff. "It requires government to consult with the NWTMN regarding any proposed developments while land and resources negotiations proceed - a level of protection that gives us a great deal of comfort that negotiations are proceeding in good faith."

"I am very pleased that we have been able to complete all of the Schedules to the Interim Measures Agreement and look forward to moving ahead with the NWTMN negotiation process," Mr. Handley added.

**For more information on this release, contact:**

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R(15)-005

## **Teen Smoking - Major Problem for NWT**

### **New strategy to be aimed at reaching children before they start smoking**

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 22) – A Government of the Northwest Territories survey shows that over one-quarter (26%) of youth in the Northwest Territories smoke - well above the national rate of 19%.**

The *2002 NWT School Tobacco Survey* polled students between the ages of 10 and 17. It showed 17% of children (ages 10 to 14) were smokers, while 42% of teens (ages 15 to 17) were smokers.

“This information is alarming,” says Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger, “particularly in our smaller communities, where the numbers are even worse.”

Two out of every five youth in the NWT’s smaller communities are current smokers.

The survey confirms that more girls smoke than boys, and that more Aboriginal youth smoke than non-Aboriginal youth. There was no significant decrease in smoking youth rates from the previous survey in 1999.

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The average age that children begin to smoke is 12 or 13. Once they start, they become addicted and find it very hard to quit.

“To develop a smoke-free generation, we need to reach children before they become addicted to cigarettes,” the Minister notes.

A strategy is being developed to specifically target children aged 8 to 14 - the age when they are most likely to decide to take up smoking or remain a non-smoker. The aim of the strategy is to keep youth smoke-free during their critical early years and allow them to move through their teens and into adulthood as non-smokers.

“It’s time to show kids that it’s OK to be a non-smoker,” Mr. Miltenberger says.

The *2002 NWT School Tobacco Survey* is available on the Department of Health and Social Services website ([www.hltss.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hltss.gov.nt.ca) - see Reports under the Publications section).

**For more information, contact:**

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R(15)-006

# MOI/Devolution Framework Agreement Signed

## Northwest Territories' governments ready to move forward

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 23) - Leaders of the Aboriginal Summit and the Government of the Northwest Territories have signed a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) on financing Aboriginal governments and capacity building and the *Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Framework Agreement*.**

The two documents were signed last night at a meeting in Yellowknife. Premier Joe Handley says the Government of the Northwest Territories is pleased to take these steps with Aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories.

Devolution is the process of transferring powers from the federal government to the Northwest Territories. The Devolution Framework Agreement sets out the process for reaching a final Devolution Agreement and includes topics for negotiations and target dates.

“It was critical that northern governments sign this agreement,” Premier Handley said. “It indicates clearly to the new federal government that we are committed to moving forward with ~~negotiations to move control over lands and resources from Ottawa to the Northwest Territories~~ and to ensure NWT residents receive a share of revenues from the development of our resources.”

The Memorandum of Intent reconfirms the commitment of the GNWT and Aboriginal governments, reached at previous Intergovernmental Forum meetings, to establish a formal process to deal with the critical issues of financing Aboriginal governments and capacity building.

President of the Northwest Territory Metis Nation Robert Tordiff, speaking for the Aboriginal Summit, says the MOI on financing Aboriginal governments and capacity building is an important step in re-establishing the self-sufficiency of the NWT's communities.

“Together with the framework agreement on Devolution and previous initiatives on economic development, we are now moving forward on each of the four priorities identified by the Intergovernmental Forum,” he said.

At the inaugural meeting of the NWT Intergovernmental Forum (IGF) in May 2000, Aboriginal, territorial, and federal government leaders agreed that transferring the control of public lands and resources would promote the self-sufficiency and prosperity of the Northwest Territories.

...page/2

Formal Devolution negotiations began in September 2002. The Parties aim to reach an Agreement in Principle (AIP) this year. Completion of an AIP will indicate general agreement of all Parties on substantive matters for a Final Devolution Agreement and will contain target dates for completion of the transfer.

The Government of the Northwest Territories and the Aboriginal Summit will transmit both agreements to the Hon. Andy Mitchell, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, for his consideration.

**For more information, contact:**

**The Aboriginal Summit**

Tel: (867) 669-7945

**Bob McLeod**

Deputy Minister,

Aboriginal Affairs

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R(15)-007

## **GNWT To Begin Meningitis Vaccination Program Higher-risk teen population will be vaccinated first**

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 27) – The Government of the Northwest Territories is conducting an NWT-wide vaccination program for all school-aged children against a bacterium that can cause meningitis.**

Type C Meningococcal bacteria have infected two children in the NWT since December 2003. The same strain of bacteria also produced meningitis outbreaks in Alberta in 2002.

“This is a bacteria that, in rare instances, can result in serious illness and sometimes death,” Chief Medical Health Officer, Dr. Andre Corriveau says. “It is prudent that we introduce this vaccination program at this time so that we can prevent another case.”

The NWT was planning to introduce a program within the next two years but the start date has been moved up in light of these recent cases.

“This vaccine stops the spread of the bacteria and gives long-term protection,” Mr. Corriveau notes. “Similar vaccination programs are in place in other jurisdictions in Canada, like Alberta and Quebec.”

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The vaccination campaign will be introduced in a staged approach over the next few months, beginning with the higher-risk teen population. Meningococcal bacteria spread through saliva. Infection can occur through sharing of drinks, cigarettes, food and kissing. For this reason, teenagers (aged 14-19) are at higher risk for the bacteria and will be immunized first, followed by all other school-aged children.

Following this initial vaccination campaign, all young children will be offered the vaccine through an ongoing immunization program. This preventative vaccination program does not include adults as they are not a higher risk group.

Less than one per cent of people who carry this bacterium get sick. However, should the bacterium get into the blood system of a susceptible person, the infection will progress very rapidly, in a matter of 24-48 hours.

Information about the meningococcal vaccine and the NWT’s vaccination campaign is available on the Department of H&SS website [www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca)

**For more information, contact:**

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R(15)-008

## **NWT Employers Gain “Invaluable” Tool**

### **Agreement will Provide Assessment of International Credentials**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 10) -- An agreement between Education, Culture and Employment and the Government of Alberta will allow Northwest Territories' employers to access Alberta's International Qualification Assessment Service (IQAS) to verify out-of-country credentials for individuals applying for work in the NWT.**

IQAS verifies out-of-country credentials on behalf of employers, professional licensing bodies, and post-secondary institutions across Canada and enables individual applicants to get recognition for education they have received outside of Canada. IQAS assessment certificates show how educational credentials from other countries generally compare to standards in Canada.

In today's increasingly complex work environment, Minister of Education Culture and Employment, Charles Dent says the importance of accurately evaluating international credentials is increasing.

“Having the expertise of IQAS to assist NWT employers in establishing qualifications for applicants schooled outside of Canada is invaluable,” he said.

Alberta's International Qualification Assessment Service began offering assessment services to the Northwest Territories in October, 2003. A similar agreement is already in place with Saskatchewan.

“Alberta's International Qualification Assessment Service has long been a valuable resource for newcomers to our province,” said Alberta's Minister of Learning, Dr. Lyle Oberg. “We're very pleased to share it with other provinces and territories. We all benefit when we're able to increase the number of skilled new Canadians that are here and ready to join the workforce.”

**For more information:**

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## #R(15)-008 BACKGROUNDER

### NWT Employers Gain “Invaluable” Tool

#### YELLOWKNIFE (February 10)

#### **About the International Qualification Assessment Service**

Alberta’s International Qualification Assessment Service (IQAS) helps individuals get recognition for education they received outside of Canada. IQAS assessment certificates show how educational credentials from other countries generally compare to standards in Canada. Professional licensing bodies, educational institutions and employers also use IQAS. Clients are charged a fee for their assessments.

IQAS assesses credentials using methodology recognized by the assessment community and national and international educational associations. The criteria used include status of the issuing institution, the level of education, the duration of study the general content of study and the function of the program. IQAS consultants research educational systems from other countries and attend international workshops and conferences to maintain the most accurate and up-to-date information. Assessments are advisory in nature.

#### **The Evaluation Process**

IQAS completes the following steps when evaluating each credential.

1. **Authenticity Review** – All documents are reviewed for consistency and evidence of tampering or alteration.
2. **Translation Review** – IQAS conducts educational assessments using original language documents and their English translations. All translations are spot checked for accuracy.
3. **Recognition Status of Institutions** – IQAS conducts assessments of education obtained at an accredited or recognized institution in the home country. IQAS does not evaluate education obtained through unaccredited or unrecognized educational institutions.
4. **Description of Educational Program** – IQAS describes the educational program on the level of education, the length of study, the general content of study and the function of the program. Although IQAS reviews the general content of a program, IQAS does not review the specific content covered in each course.
5. **General Statement of Comparability** – IQAS issues a statement of comparison that indicates how a program of study from another country generally compares to a program of study in Canada. This means that the credential is considered similar, but not identical to, a credential in Canada.

#### **Accessing International Qualification Service in the Northwest Territories**

Residents of the Northwest Territories can use a new toll-free phone line to access the International Qualifications Assessment Services. The number is 1-866-692-7057.

R(15)-009

# MACA Launches ATLAS Web Site

## Interim Site to provide graphic/written information on lands

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 11) – Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) Henry Zoe has announced the launch of a digital mapping/GIS web site known as ATLAS Interim.**

ATLAS (Administration of the Territorial Land Acts System) is a land information system that uses Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. It was developed through consultation with Northwest Territories communities, community governments, Aboriginal governments, and other stakeholders and provides accurate graphic and written information on each parcel of land within a community's boundaries.

“ATLAS will provide critical lands information in land claims negotiations and will assist community governments as they take on responsibility for land administration,” Mr. Zoe says. “NWT communities will see improved access to land information, more accurate and timely information for improved decision making, and the elimination of barriers to both land administration and GIS.”

Until the full system is put in place in about 2006, MACA will provide an interim system so that users can access digital mapping/GIS in the short term and provide land information for the communities where the land verification process has been completed.

To date, these communities are: Fort Providence, Fort Resolution, Holman, Paulatuk, Rae Lakes (Gameti), Sachs Harbour, Tukoyaktuk, Wekweti, Wha Ti, and Wrigley.

The web site is also available for public use at: <http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/inits/ATLAS-GIS.htm>.

### **For more information on ATLAS, please contact:**

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R(15)-010

# Bob McLeod Appointed as Secretary to Cabinet

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 20) -- Premier Joe Handley has appointed Bob McLeod as Secretary to Cabinet effective April 2, 2004. He replaces Elizabeth Snider who will leave the position on that date.**

Mr. McLeod, currently Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, has also served as Deputy Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) and Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and has held several senior management positions in the GNWT and the Northern Affairs Program of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Mr. McLeod has a diverse background with notable achievements on international and inter-jurisdictional issues. He has strong management skills developed through 24 years of public service and has served on an impressive array of boards and agencies - most recently on the Canadian Tourism Commission and Northern Employee Benefits Services boards.

A Metis, born and raised in Fort Providence, Mr. McLeod has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Alberta and an Honours Diploma in Administrative Management from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. He also participated in a program of national and international studies at the National Defence College in Kingston, Ontario in 1988/89.

“Mr. McLeod’s extensive experience and knowledge will provide the strong guidance we need as we prepare to address and balance our government’s priorities,” Premier Handley said.

Ms. Snider has served 30 years in the public service. Prior to joining the GNWT 14 years ago, she worked for the Government of Canada. She has held the position of Secretary to Cabinet for the past four years.

“I would like to thank Ms. Snider for her dedicated and professional service, Premier Handley said, “and particularly for assisting with the smooth transition for our newly elected government.”

The Secretary to Cabinet is the Deputy Minister of the Executive and the most senior official within the GNWT's public service. The Secretary to Cabinet provides coordination and leadership to the executive branch of government and the public service.

**For more information, contact:**

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Communications,  
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## News Release

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R(15)-011

### **New Report Profiles Cancer in the NWT Overall Rate is Low**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 24) -- A new report summarizing cancer in the Northwest Territories over a 10-year period indicates that the overall cancer rate is low but lung cancer kills more people in the NWT than any other cancer.**

*Cancer in the Northwest Territories 1990-2000: A Descriptive Report*, presents an overview of cancer incidence and mortality for various types of cancers, and provides information on cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, support and rehabilitation.

“This report provides the health care system with a valuable reference to plan for and implement the necessary services and supports to prevent, detect and treat cancer,” says Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger.

The report highlights risk factors for certain cancers: Smoking causes one in three cancer deaths and almost all lung cancers, and can also cause cancers of the mouth, throat, stomach and other organs; Alcohol abuse is linked to cancers of the liver, colon, breast and throat; and inactivity and poor diet can increase the risk of colon, prostate, breast, uterine and ovarian cancer.

“It is clear from this report that there are actions that we can take to reduce the risk of certain cancers,” Mr. Miltenberger says. This report reinforces the benefit of health promotion and activities that encourage and empower people to take steps to improve their health.”

**For more information, contact:**      **Megan Holsapple**  
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R(15)-012

# NWT Roads Busier And Safer But 2002 Stats Show Increase in Traffic Accidents

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 24) – Despite an increase in the number of traffic accidents in 2002 and the fact that more drivers and vehicles were on the road it was safer to drive in the Northwest Territories in 2002 than a decade earlier.**

A total of 807 reportable collisions caused injuries to 232 people in 2002 - an increase of 12.7 per cent when compared to 716 collisions and 205 injuries a year earlier.

However, while accidents increased in 2002, statistics contained in the department's 2002 Traffic Accident Facts report show a net decrease in the total number of reportable collisions, property damage or personal injury from 1992. Total collisions declined from 866 in 1992 to 807 in 2002 while personal-injury accidents declined from 181 in 1992 to 154 in 2002.

Three people died in motor vehicle accidents in both 2001 and 2002.

“While it's encouraging to note that NWT highways are safer overall than they were in 1992, these most-recent statistics point to an unfavourable trend and emphasise the need to continue our efforts regarding accident prevention,” Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod says.

To date, these efforts have included an aggressive highway reconstruction program, public safety awareness campaigns and ongoing dialogue with RCMP and other users.

The amount of traffic on NWT roads has jumped considerably since 1992. There were 20,011 licensed drivers and 21,723 registered vehicles in 1992 and 27,748 and 30,969, respectively in 2002. The volume of traffic, as measured in vehicle-kilometres traveled, is up an average of 3.3 per cent annually from 88.7 million in 1993 to 115.7 million in 2002.

The 2002 Traffic Accidents Facts report can be viewed in the Publications section of the department's website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca).

**For more information, contact:**

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R(15)-013

# Report Profiles NWT's Outstanding Volunteers MACA Celebrates More Than a Decade of Volunteerism

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 24) – Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) is celebrating more than a decade of volunteerism with the release of a report profiling recipients of the Northwest Territories (NWT) Outstanding Volunteer Awards from 1991-2003.**

“It is hoped that their stories will inspire and encourage others to follow the example of these outstanding individuals and groups,” Minister of MACA Henry Zoe says.

The NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards program was initiated in 1991 to recognize the vital contributions that volunteers make to northern society. A total of 460 individuals and groups have been nominated for awards.

The Department expanded the program in 2001 to celebrate International Year of the Volunteer by adding several new categories, including Respected Elder and Youth awards. Another milestone that year was the addition of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation as a co-sponsor of the program.

The report is available from MACA and can be found on the Department's web site at [www.maca.gov.nt.ca](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca).

Nominations for the 2004 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards will be accepted until Monday, March 1, 2004. Information brochures including nomination forms are available at all community and MACA offices or from the MACA web site.

**For more information, contact:**

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Communications and Policy Advisor  
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## News Release

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R(15)-014

### **Minister of Justice Announces Judicial Appointment New Territorial Court Judge to reside in Hay River**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 27) – Today, Minister of Justice and Attorney General Charles Dent announced the appointment of Bernadette Ellen Schmaltz of Yellowknife as a Judge of the Territorial Court.**

“The Government is pleased that we were able to appoint a strong northern candidate to the Court,” said Minister Dent. “Her experience and character are an excellent addition to the Court.”

Ms. Schmaltz was appointed to sit and reside in Hay River. To allow time for training and professional development with the other members of the Territorial Court, Ms. Schmaltz will take up residence in Hay River prior to April 1, 2005.

“Both Judge Bruser and I look forward to working with Ms. Schmaltz and welcome her appointment to the Territorial Court,” said Chief Judge R. Michel Bourassa.

The appointment of Ms. Schmaltz is effective March 8, 2004. A swearing-in ceremony will take place in Courtroom 2, Yellowknife Court House at 4 p.m. on that day.

Ms. Schmaltz was Counsel with Justice Canada’s Criminal Prosecutions based in Yellowknife. She has been with Justice Canada for almost twelve years, ten of those in the North. Ms. Schmaltz received her law degree from the University of Calgary and is a member of the Law Societies of Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

This appointment fills a vacancy on the Territorial Court created by the retirement of former Chief Judge Robert Halifax in September 2003.

Under the *Territorial Court Act*, the Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee reviews and recommends candidates to the Commissioner-in-Executive Council for appointment to the Territorial Court.

**For more information, contact:**

**Charles Dent**  
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## News Release

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R(15)-015

# Inuit-Style Wrestling Manual Unveiled

## Presented to Contingents at Arctic Winter Games

**FORT McMURRAY (March 5) – Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) Henry Zoe today unveiled a new training resource for Inuit-Style Wrestling at the Centre Communautaire Scolaire Boreal in Fort McMurray, Alberta.**

This new resource, presented at the 2004 Arctic Winter Games (AWG), is part of a series of manuals that document the traditional games of North American Aborigines. The series includes Arctic Sports, Dene Games, Inuit-Style Wrestling, and the much-anticipated Snowshoeing and Dog Mushing manuals that will be available later in 2004.

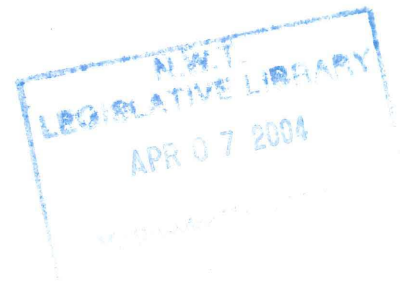
Minister Zoe also highlighted that this manual is dedicated to the late Rick Tremblay of Yellowknife who was a major contributor to wrestling in the north. "We were pleased to include this dedication to Rick Tremblay. He was a personal friend and well known within the wrestling family to be a strong supporter of the traditional roots of wrestling," Minister Zoe noted.

The Governments of Nunavut, Yukon and Alberta, as well as the Sport North Federation, Aurora College and the NWT Amateur Wrestling Association were acknowledged for their financial contribution to this project.

To conclude the launch of the Inuit-Style Wrestling Manual, Minister Zoe was pleased to present each AWG jurisdiction with a complimentary copy.

**For more information, contact:**

**Ian Legaree**  
Director, Sport Recreation and Youth  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 873-7245



R(15)-016

## **NWT Budget Tackles Fiscal Challenges**

### **New federal deal is key Minister says**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 17) – Calling it a stepping-stone towards a balanced budget, Minister of Finance Floyd Roland today presented the first budget of the Northwest Territories' 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.**

While the NWT's economic future and its prospects for long-term success remain bright, the Minister says immediate spending pressures and infrastructure shortfalls must be addressed. Revenue and expenditure projections for the current year show an operating deficit of \$78 million.

"This Budget is the first step in getting the GNWT's fiscal house in order," the Minister said. "Difficult choices will have to be made, but we will work, in consultation with northern and Aboriginal leaders, to ensure that we meet the social and economic needs of NWT residents."

The Government of the Northwest Territories will both increase revenues and reallocate expenditures in an effort to address its budget shortfall and reduce the forecast operating deficit for 2004-05 to \$46 million. Today's budget identifies \$10 million in revenue initiatives and \$15 million in expenditure reallocations. It also includes increases in corporate and personal income tax rates as well as the payroll tax rate.

A further \$20 million in expenditure reallocations will be needed in each of the following two fiscal years to balance the books by 2006-07.

A critical factor, however, in the GNWT's strategy to achieve fiscal sustainability remains the federal government's commitment to address the adequacy of its formula financing arrangements.

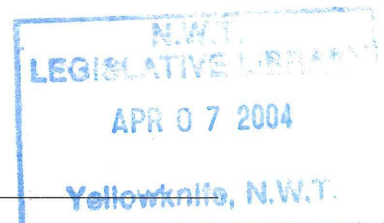
"Without such a deal, we may have to re-examine our options and make further adjustments," Mr. Roland acknowledged.

**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





## Backgrounder

R(15)-016 NWT Budget Tackles Fiscal Challenges  
YELLOWKNIFE (March 17)

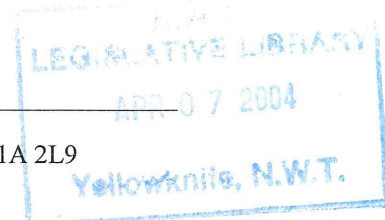
The first Budget of the Fifteenth Assembly is a stepping-stone toward the GNWT goal of long-term fiscal sustainability.

### Economic and Fiscal Review

- ◆ NWT economic growth has been unprecedented over the last four years and is expected to remain strong in the coming year, driven largely by diamond mining. Real GDP grew 53 per cent from 1999 to 2003 and another 8 per cent growth is expected in 2004.
- ◆ However, rapid economic growth is putting pressure on government spending and current fiscal arrangements with the federal government mean that GNWT revenues do not respond to that growth. Final results for 2002-03 show an operating deficit of \$34 million and estimates of the operating deficit for 2003-04 remain virtually unchanged from last year's budget forecast at \$78 million.
- ◆ Despite action on both the revenue and expenditure side, the 2004-05 Budget projects revenues to continue to fall short of expenditure needs by \$46 million. Operating expenditures are budgeted at \$950 million, an increase of less than 2 per cent over 2003-04. Capital investment in 2004-05 will be \$81 million.
- ◆ Total Government debt at the close of 2004-05 is forecast to be \$148 million, well below the \$300 million limit imposed by the federal government. However, without changes in revenue or expenditure outlooks, the GNWT will exceed its debt limit by 2006-07.

### Fiscal Strategy

- ◆ Achieving the GNWT's goals will require a careful fiscal strategy with a goal of a balanced budget by 2006-07. This will be accomplished through reallocation of current expenditures to better reflect priorities, additional expenditure savings and cost avoidance, and some revenue initiatives.
- ◆ The Budget includes a reallocation of \$15 million from lower priority spending in 2004-05, allowing for reinvestment in higher priority areas. In the longer-term, the GNWT will need to find an additional \$20 million in expenditure savings or cost-avoidance in each of the following two fiscal years.
- ◆ The Budget also includes \$10 million in revenue initiatives to help address the growing cost of providing services. However, the GNWT has limited ability to generate all the revenue necessary without creating a tax burden that would jeopardize its fiscal and economic strategies. A key element of the fiscal strategy is a better deal with the federal government, one that addresses the inadequacy of federal/territorial fiscal arrangements; devolution of resource revenues to NWT governments; and an increase to the federally-imposed borrowing limit.



- ◆ Without more flexibility in its ability to borrow, the GNWT cannot address the serious shortfall in the NWT's infrastructure. The Government is considering legislation to establish accountability measures and debt and deficit limits which would make the GNWT's financial management more transparent and open to public scrutiny.

### Expenditure Measures

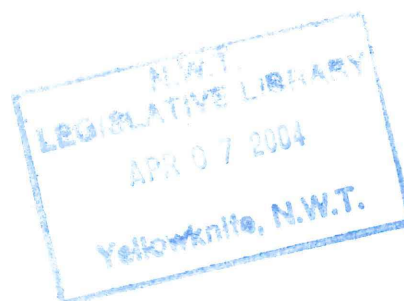
- ◆ Total budgeted expenditures will grow by \$18 million in 2004-05 from the 2003-04 Main Estimates: \$32 million to meet increased costs and demands of existing programs and services, \$12 million in new initiatives, \$15 million in expenditure reductions and \$9 million in reductions for sunsetted programs.
- ◆ The health care system will receive \$18 million for increased costs and new initiatives.
- ◆ Funding for education programs will increase. This Budget provides \$880,000 to Aurora College the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, \$825,000 for the Student Financial Assistance Budget and an additional \$6 million to the Education Boards and Aurora College for increased operating costs.
- ◆ Funding for policing and justice programs will increase. The Budget provides \$2.4 million more for the RCMP. A further \$400,000 is included to provide training to people who will be carrying out responsibilities under the new *Protection Against Family Violence Act*. With assistance from the Legal Aid Renewal Strategy, \$315,000 more per year will be available to provide legal aid services to the NWT residents in 2004-05 through 2006-07.
- ◆ This Budget also includes:
  - ◆ \$500,000 for continued support to the Intergovernmental Forum Process,
  - ◆ \$1.9 million towards the cost of the Northern Communities Insurance Exchange,
  - ◆ \$1.1 million to implement the NWT Beverage Container Recovery program,
  - ◆ \$250,000 to support the Aboriginal Pipeline Group;
  - ◆ \$725,000 for the development of socio-economic monitoring agreements; and
  - ◆ \$471,000 to help the communities of Gameti and Wekweti assume their new responsibilities under the *Tlicho Community Government Act*.
- ◆ The GNWT will invest \$42 million over the next 5 years to match federal funding under the federal Strategic Infrastructure Fund. In 2004-05, this investment will support capital projects on Highways 3, 4, 7 and 8 and construction of several bridges along the Mackenzie Valley Winter road.
- ◆ To increase affordable housing in communities by getting lots ready for development, this Budget provides \$300,000 to fund studies and required legal and engineering surveys in non-tax based communities.
- ◆ The 2004-05 Infrastructure Acquisition Plan being proposed in the Budget includes:
  - ◆ \$9.5 million to continue to improve water and sewer systems in communities,
  - ◆ \$2.3 million to upgrade and increase capacity for tank farms,
  - ◆ \$5.2 million for improvements to hospitals and health care and treatment facilities,



- ◆ \$2.5 million for major medical equipment required by hospitals and health centres,
- ◆ \$9.3 million for schools, and
- ◆ \$1.6 million for fire safety equipment in communities and improvements to community fire halls.

### Revenue Initiatives

- ◆ The GNWT's fiscal situation requires action both to control expenditure growth and to raise additional revenues. While the GNWT is pursuing better fiscal arrangements with the federal government through Formula Financing and resource revenue sharing discussions, NWT taxpayers are also being asked to contribute a share of the growing cost of providing programs and services.
- ◆ The 2004-05 Budget includes the following tax initiatives:
  - ◆ Effective January 1, 2004, the large Corporate Income Tax rate will be increased from 12 per cent to 14 per cent.
  - ◆ Effective July 1, 2004 the Personal Income Tax (PIT) rate on taxable income greater than \$108,101 will be increased from 13.05 per cent to 14.05 and the second highest PIT bracket rate will be increased from 11.70 per cent to 12.20 per cent.
  - ◆ Effective January 1, 2005, the NWT Payroll Tax will increase from 1 per cent to 2 per cent of employment income. To reduce the effect of this change on low-income earners, the PIT rate for the lowest bracket will be decreased from 7.2 per cent to 5.9 per cent and for the second lowest bracket will be decreased from 9.9 per cent to 8.6 per cent. The Cost of Living Tax Credit will be increased from 1.6 per cent to 2.6 per cent of income up to \$12,000 and the minimum credit will be increased from \$250 to \$350 for singles and from \$500 to \$700 for couples. These changes will also take effect January 1, 2005.







R(15)-017

## First Nations Policing Agreement Announced Will Increase Role of Aboriginal People in Policing

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 18) – An agreement with the Government of Canada’s First Nations Policing Program will see the Northwest Territories receive \$1.2 million over two years to support Aboriginal policing initiatives.**

“This will increase opportunities for the participation of Aboriginal people in policing” Minister of Justice and Attorney General Charles Dent says. “The end result will be a police force that reflects, respects and responds to the needs of our communities.”

In addition to monies allocated for existing Aboriginal policing initiatives, this new funding will be targeted to:

1. A Recruitment Strategy – enabling the Department of Justice and the RCMP to identify Aboriginal people who show the potential for success in a policing career and encourage them to consider joining the RCMP.
2. An Access Program - to give Aboriginal candidates who have the potential, interest, and desire for a career in policing the tools they need to meet the RCMP’s entrance requirements.

Candidates will work with RCMP members to complete customized academic and physical development plans to help them pass the entry process. (Once they have met these requirements, candidates will train at the RCMP Training Academy in Regina before returning to the NWT to apply their training in a community setting for a minimum of three years.)

“These candidates will receive valuable exposure to the policing environment and benefit from the guidance and mentorship of experienced RCMP members,” notes Chief Superintendent Everett Summerfield, Commanding Officer, RCMP ‘G’ Division.

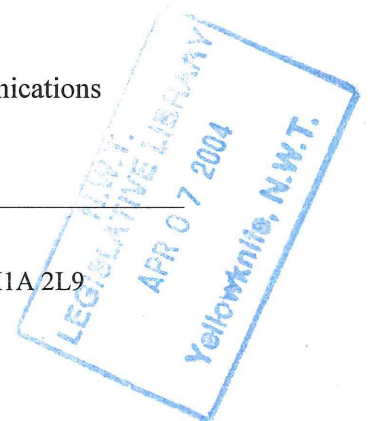
3. A Community Consultation Initiative - to explore the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Justice, the RCMP and residents in making NWT communities safe and secure.

“Our communities are diverse and their policing needs differ,” Mr Dent says, “this initiative will work to help meet and identify these needs.”

**For more information, contact:**

**Shirley Kemeys-Jones**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Justice  
Tel: (867) 920-6437

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



R(15)-018

## Minister Presents 2003 Language Leader Awards Works of Individuals/Groups Support Languages

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 29) – Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Charles Dent today announced the recipients of the 2003 Language Leader Awards.**

“In order for languages to survive, they must become part of everything we do,” the Minister noted. “For the community language leaders we are honouring today, language is more than just talk – it is an integral part of their day-to-day life.

Language Leader Awards are presented annually by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to individuals and groups whose efforts and volunteered time work to ensure the survival and promotion of their respective languages.

Nomination papers are forwarded annually to each of the NWT’s language communities to identify individuals whose efforts are worthy of the award. Each recipient is awarded a certificate highlighting their achievement and a cash honorarium.

For 2003, Mr. Dent is pleased to announce the following Language Leaders:

### **For Chipewyan – The Deninu Kue Chipewyan Language Working Group**

For their volunteer work developing and promoting the Chipewyan language in evening language classes, traditional sewing classes, a youth carnival and maintaining the Chipewyan Language Resource Centre.

### **For Cree – Mary Cardinal**

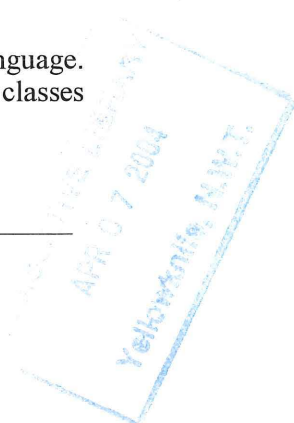
Mary is a devoted individual teaching children in the Head Start Aboriginal Language Program, parents language and craft classes, and performing translation work for the NWT Cree Language Program.

### **For TliCho – David Gon**

David has been a strong advocate promoting language through music; singing, writing, recording and performing in the Dogrib language. As well, David has been involved in many musical programs with students in the Dogrib region.

### **For French – Anne-Marie Vigeant**

Anne-Marie Vigeant has been a dynamic volunteer who is always eager to promote her language. Anne-Marie has been vital in teaching after school programs, adult French conversation classes and organizing all francophone cultural activities in Fort Smith.



**For South Slavey – Philip Constant**

If you ever have listened to the local radio in Fort Providence, chances are you have heard Phillip. He volunteers his time transcribing stories of the elders for learning materials, and assisting the elders to understand and interpret local issues important to them.

**For North Slavey – Lucy Jackson**

Lucy has been very active in her community of Fort Good Hope translating for workshops, organizations and corporations in the area. She is very active on the local radio station scene and uses her language in her capacity as a community leader.

**For Gwich'in – Ann Firth-Jones**

Ann has been instructing Gwich'in on her own time and has made sure that everyone in her place of work is learning a Gwich'in "word of the day". As well, she is an active contributor to the Gwich'in newsletter in Fort MacPherson and has ensured that traditional crafts and community events have thrived in her home community of Fort Smith.

**For Inuinnaqtun – Holman Sing Along Group**

This traditional group has kept their language alive through sharing their songs in Inuinnaqtun including translating hymns and singing traditional songs throughout their communities for special occasions and in times of hardship.

**Inuvialuktun – Mary Teddy**

Working as a resource person for language officers at the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre in Inuvik, Mary has also been instrumental in working on the original dictionaries and subsequent updates. She uses, and encourages others to use their language on a daily basis.

**For more information, contact:****Sue Glowach**

Manager Public Affairs

Education, Culture and Employment

Tel: (867) 920-6222

R(15)-019

# Open House - North Slave Correctional Centre

## Public Invited to Tour New Correctional Facility

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 30) – The new North Slave Adult Correctional Centre in Yellowknife will open to the public tomorrow from 6 to 9 p.m. Minister of Justice and Attorney General Charles Dent says it will be an opportunity for residents to see the new focus of corrections in the North – the safe and secure custody of offenders in an environment that promotes rehabilitation.**

The North Slave Correctional Centre will replace the thirty-eight year-old Yellowknife Correctional Centre, which will close this spring.

The new 154-bed facility can hold minimum, medium and high-security offenders, as well as offenders with special needs and those on remand. In addition, the facility includes increased programming space to allow the Department to expand on rehabilitation programs currently offered.

“Corrections has evolved, the Minister notes. “The North Slave facility is a completely different design from the Yellowknife Correctional Centre. It allows for more direct supervision and interaction between employees and offenders.”

The North Slave facility will also give the GNWT the opportunity to repatriate more offenders from the North serving time in federal facilities.

“It will enable families and communities to play a role in their rehabilitation and return to society,” Minister. Dent noted.

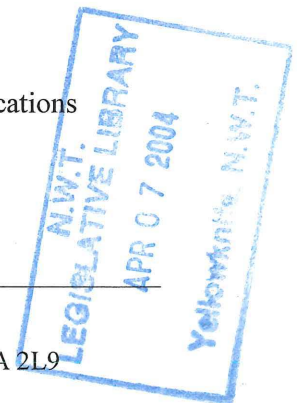
The Governments of Canada and Nunavut both have existing agreements to place offenders in NWT facilities.

The adult centre is the second phase of the North Slave project. Phase one, the North Slave Young Offenders Facility, opened in January 2003.

**For more information, contact:**

**Shirley Kemeys-Jones**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Justice  
Tel: (867) 920-6437

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



R(15)-020

# Aviation Bursaries Available Program Provides \$40,000 Boost for Aviation Careers

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 01) –Northwest Territories students pursuing careers in the aviation field are being given the opportunity to apply for one of eight \$5,000 bursaries, for the upcoming academic year, through the Aviation Career Development Program.**

The program, now in its fourth year, is co-sponsored by the Department of Transportation and Canadian North with support from the Northern Air Transport Association - the umbrella organization for northern air carriers.

“The aviation industry employs close to 2,000 people in the NWT, either directly or indirectly,” notes Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod. “I hope this bursary program encourages northern students to train for the many exciting career opportunities in this growing sector.”

Bursary recipients will be selected based on scholastic history, career plan, letters of recommendation and an essay, by the applicant, explaining their reason for pursuing a career in the aviation industry.

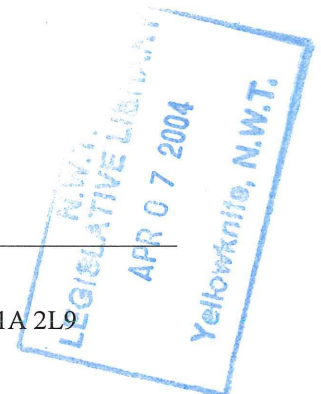
~~“Canadian North is, once again, delighted to jointly fund the Aviation Career Development bursary program with the GNWT,”~~ says Canadian North president Carmen Loberg. “This innovative program definitely helps young northerners launch careers in an industry that is so important to the North.”

“The Aviation Career Development Program is a terrific program for northern students looking forward to a career in the most important sector of the North's transportation industry,” says Bob Davis, president of the Northern Air Transport Association. “The association and its members all actively support this program and the opportunities it provides to Northerners.”

Students have until May 31<sup>st</sup> to submit an application for the bursaries. 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 at (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





## News Release

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R(15)-021

# Justice Launches New Legislation Web Site GNWT legislation now available online

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 2) – Minister of Justice and Attorney General Charles Dent says changes to the Department of Justice web site will make Government of the Northwest Territories legislation more accessible.**

All current consolidations of statutes, regulations and rules of court are now available through the Justice web site at [www.justice.gov.nt.ca](http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca) by clicking on the 'legislation' link.

The new site includes alphabetical, title, and keyword searches of statutes, regulations and rules of court. Searches will pull up both the Act and the relevant regulations to make it easier to find information. All documents are available in both PDF and WordPerfect format and each statute is available as a single document, which allows it to be opened and searched for information.

"I am pleased that the Department could develop an in-house solution so that all residents, whether in a personal or professional capacity, have access to current and complete legislation," the Minister said.

All legislation passed by the Legislative Assembly and proclaimed into force is available on the Justice web site. For information on Bills currently before the Legislative Assembly, visit the web Assembly's web site at: [www.assembly.gov.nt.ca](http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca).

**For more information, contact:**

**Glen Rutland**  
Communications and Policy Advisor  
Department of Justice  
Tel: (867) 920-3130



R(15)-022

# Heritage Centre Project Recognized

## Finalist in international Information Technology (IT) Award

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 6) -- The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre-based project, 'Lessons from the Land,' has qualified as a finalist in the prestigious Stockholm Challenge - an awards program for pioneering IT projects worldwide.**

'Lessons from the Land' was one of 103 finalists chosen from 900 projects from more than 100 different countries.

"We are extremely proud of the work that has been accomplished by the staff at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre", Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Charles Dent said. "Although we have a small population, our work is recognized as being among the best in the world."

The Stockholm Challenge was initiated in 1994 to promote the benefit that information and communication technology can bring to people and society. Projects are judged annually in six different categories including e-government, culture, health, education, e-business and environment. Recognition is given to those projects that, through inspirational approaches, are deemed to benefit people society and the environment.

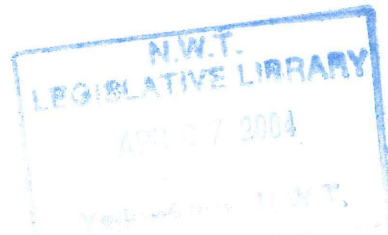
Being recognized as a finalist will give staff from the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre the added opportunity to network and showcase their work with entrepreneurs and enthusiasts from around the world at a final event in May.

'Lessons from the Land' is a collection of online cultural explorations based upon the traditional travel routes of the NWT's Aboriginal people. The first module of the interactive website is the Idaa Trail which was used by the Dogrib to travel between Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lake.

You can visit the virtual exhibition at [www.lessonsfromtheland.ca](http://www.lessonsfromtheland.ca). For more information about the Stockholm Challenge, visit: [www.challenge.stockholm.se/index.html](http://www.challenge.stockholm.se/index.html)

**For more information, contact:**

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



R(15)-023

# GNWT and NWT Physicians Reach Agreement New Contract Ensures High Quality Care and Stable Services

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 6) – Minister of Finance, Floyd Roland, Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger, and the President of the NWT Medical Association, Dr. Nicholas Ivanans, are pleased to announce the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories' Medical Association have reached an agreement on contract terms for both general practitioners and specialist physicians.**

The new contract is effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004, and provides for a four-year agreement with a 3% per year increase to base pay. The parties have also agreed to a dispute resolution mechanism to be used in future rounds of negotiations. This dispute resolution agreement provides for mediation and binding arbitration if the parties are not able to agree to a new contract.

“This agreement provides increases to physician contracts that ensure the Northwest Territories remains competitive when recruiting and retaining these professionals,” Mr. Miltenberger said. “I am very pleased that the parties came to a four-year agreement that will now provide the people of the Northwest Territories with a stable healthcare system.”

~~“The length of the agreement and the new dispute resolution framework are big steps forward for both parties,” Mr. Roland added. “It ensures that patients will continue to receive high quality care without service disruption in the future.”~~

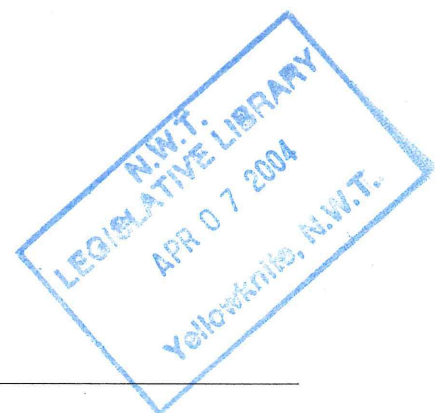
“The physicians are pleased that negotiations have been successfully concluded,” Dr. Nicholas Ivanans said. “The physician community of the NWT wishes to continue to focus their full attention on providing health services to NWT residents. The NWT Medical Association looks forward to ensuring long-term sustainability of physician services in the Northwest Territories.”

Work is now underway to implement the new contracts in each of the Health and Social Services Authorities.

**For more information, contact:**

**Megan Holsapple**  
Media Relations  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 873-7066

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







## News Release

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R(15)-024

# Co-Management Agreement Signed Deninoo Community Council/ MACA to work together

**FORT RESOLUTION (April 6) - Chair of the Deninoo Community Council Dave Pierrot, and Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Henry Zoe signed a Community Co-Management Agreement Monday in Fort Resolution.**

The Agreement establishes a joint management committee to oversee all community delivered programs, service and financial activities. It outlines specific actions that both the Council and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) will take over the next year, including governance training for Council members, development of clear policies and procedures, and ongoing monitoring of finances. A plan for training a community resident to fill the Senior Administrative Officer position will also be developed.

“This is a positive step towards community empowerment for the Deninoo Community Council,” said Minister Zoe at the signing ceremony.

The Deninoo Community Council has experienced a considerable turnover in administrative staff over the past several years. “The Settlement Council has been concerned about our ability to maintain sound financial and human resource practices without continuity in the Senior Administrative Officer position,” Mr. Pierrot said. The Council approached MACA for assistance in addressing the situation.

The agreement was signed at a luncheon meeting, following a tour of the community by the Minister. The luncheon was held in the community hall, and was attended by community leaders and members of the public, including Chief Robert Sayine and Raymond King, Vice President of the Fort Resolution Metis Council.

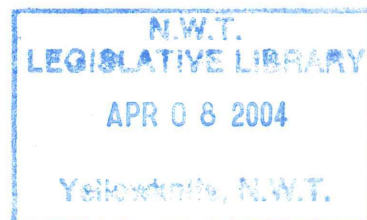
**For more information contact:**

**Jack Poitras**

Regional Superintendent, South Slave Region

Municipal and Community Affairs

Tel: (867) 872-7286



R(15)-025

# Outstanding NWT Volunteers Honoured National Volunteer Week is April 18 – 24th

**Yellowknife (April 14) — Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), Henry Zoe today announced the recipients of the 2004 Northwest Territories Outstanding Volunteer Awards.**

“We, in MACA, believe it is important to recognize the contributions of all our volunteers, especially during National Volunteer Week, because they make the NWT a better place to live,” said Minister Zoe.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, in partnership with the NWT Power Corporation, presents these awards annually during National Volunteer Week to individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions to the quality of life in the NWT through their work as volunteers.

Recipients of the NWT Outstanding Volunteer awards for 2004 are:

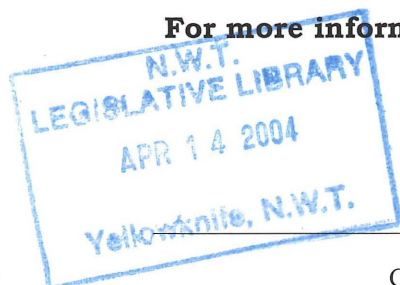
- Outstanding Youth Award – Michelle Mandeville, Fort Resolution
- Outstanding Elder Award – Lillian Kristensen, Fort Smith
- Outstanding Volunteer Award – Deleigh Rausch, Yellowknife
- Outstanding Group Award – Aven Manor Entertainers, Yellowknife

“I would like to thank each and everyone of the NWT’s Outstanding Volunteer Awards recipients – and every one of the 85 nominated for an award – for making their communities better places to live,” said Minister Zoe. “Volunteers have always played an important role in northern life. Many programs and services would not exist without the efforts of these community-minded citizens.”

The presentation of the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards is part of celebrations for National Volunteer Week, which takes place from April 18-24, 2004. An awards ceremony will be held in Rae next week.

**For more information: Roslyn Smith**

Senior Advisor Volunteer Development  
Sports, Recreation and Youth Division  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 873-7756





## News Release

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R(15)-042103

21 April 2004

### **Premier Initiates Review**

(Yellowknife, 21 April) – Former Justice Ted Hughes, Q.C. has agreed to review the actions of government department officials in matters relating to the Northwest Territories Liquor Licensing Board, the Premier announced this morning. After consultation with the Ministers of Finance and Justice, the Premier has chosen to initiate this review to confirm his government's continued commitment to the principles of openness and transparency.

“These are serious allegations questioning the impartiality and integrity of the public service and the reputations of senior public servants. As a former Judge and the current Ethics Counsellor in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Hughes is well-suited to ensuring a fair and thorough review of these matters”, said Premier Handley.

Mr. Hughes has been asked to review this matter and report back at his earliest convenience. The report will be made public.

#### **For further details contact:**

Julia Mott  
Cabinet Communications  
867 669-2304

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## News Release

R(15)042304

### **Yellowknife Youth is Prepared for his Financial Future Matthew Grundy Wins *Test Your Financial IQ Contest* in NWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 23, 2004) – Yellowknife resident Matthew Grundy is the NWT winner of the Canadian Securities Administrators' (CSA) *Test Your Financial IQ Contest* organized locally by the Securities Registry of the Department of Justice.**

NWT youth aged 14 to 18 were challenged to write an essay answering the question: *It's your future, so how are you going to pay for it?*

Minister of Justice Charles Dent congratulated Mr. Grundy during a conference call today announcing the winner. Mr. Grundy is currently studying at the University of Oregon.

“Matthew’s essay demonstrates his understanding of financial issues, and presents a clear plan for how he is preparing for his financial future,” said Minister Dent. “Even at his young age, Matthew has recognized and taken advantage of the economic opportunities available in the Northwest Territories.”

Mr. Grundy’s essay will represent the Northwest Territories at the national level of the *Test Your Financial IQ Contest*, where he could win the grand prize of \$2500. The national winner will be announced by the CSA in the next few weeks.

“The mandate of the Securities Registry includes promoting investor education and awareness,” explained Tony Wong, Registrar for the NWT Securities and Corporate Registries. “The *Test Your Financial IQ Contest* is an important way of encouraging young people to think about their financial future and learn about investing.”

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) 920-3318 or visit their web site at [www.justice.gov.nt.ca](http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca).

**For more information contact:**

**Glen Rutland**  
Communications and Policy Advisor  
Department of Justice  
Tel: (867) 920-3130

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## News Release

R(15)042905

### GNWT Increases Number of RCMP Officers in NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (29 April, 04) – New funding, announced in the 2004 Budget, has provided the RCMP with 12 additional officers, allowing for increased patrols and maintaining police presence in communities across the NWT. The new officers have been hired and are on the way to their new communities.

“These new positions are an important step towards our goal of making communities safer,” said Minister Dent. “Increasing the police presence in communities will not only help respond to crime but allow the RCMP more time to spend on crime prevention activities.”

Six of these new officers will provide relief to two- and three-member detachments in small communities across the NWT ensuring a constant police presence in these communities. The relief officers will also increase the number of patrols into communities without resident RCMP.

The RCMP has indicated that the remaining six new officers will be assigned to Inuvik, Yellowknife, Rae and Hay River to help address current demands for service.

“Through this resource increase, the Government has created more opportunities for the RCMP in “G” Division to work closely with the communities we serve and to provide a service that is proactive and responsive to community needs,” said Chief Superintendent Everett Summerfield, Commanding Officer of ‘G’ Division.

“Although these resources help to address some of the most immediate needs of the RCMP, the Department will continue to work with the RCMP to enhance police services over the long-term,” added Minister Dent.

**For more information:**

Janice Laycock  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Justice  
(867) 920-3131



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## News Release

R(15)050306

### North Slave Adult Correctional Facility Opens

YELLOWKNIFE (03 May, 04) – The new North Slave Adult Correctional Facility opened today. As of Monday May 3, 2004 the Yellowknife Correctional Facility is closed and the new facility is open and occupied.

During the weekend all inmates were moved from the Yellowknife Correctional Facility to the North Slave Adult Correctional Facility. The move went without incident.

Family or friends wishing to contact someone in the facility should call 669-8600. Normal visiting hours apply.

**For more information:**

Janice Laycock  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Justice  
(867) 920-3131

R(15)04040407

### **New campaign to keep NWT kids smoke free**

YELLOWKNIFE (May 6, 2004) – Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger, today unveiled a new and innovative campaign designed to keep young people from ever starting to smoke. Through an animated character, Butthead, the campaign helps youth discover facts about the effects of smoking, and encourages them to make a commitment to be smoke free.

“Don’t Be a Butthead – Be Smoke Free” will make its debut at the Yellowknife Spring Trade Show, and will be rolled out at community events. “We plan to bring “Butthead” to community summer festivals, youth sporting events, even summer camps,” says Minister Miltenberger. “We also want communities and schools to get involved. We’re looking for opportunities to meet with community, school, and recreation leaders across the territory to tell them about the campaign, and get their support in helping youth in their community to be smoke free.”

Central to the campaign is “The Challenge to Be Smoke Free”. Once youth have been introduced to facts about smoking and its effects, they are asked to commit to remain smoke free. Youth who make the commitment receive a Butthead T-shirt, and their names are entered in prize draws to be held January 2005 and May 2005. Two prize packages, each valued at over \$1,000, will be awarded. A sport package features a mountain bike and trampoline and an electronics package features a digital camera and photo printer.

“We’re very excited about this campaign,” said Dr. Andre Corriveau, Chief Medical Health Officer. “We think young people will react well to this initiative, and learn a lot from it. We’ve tested several of its components - such as the character Butthead, and the website – with youth, and used their input to build a campaign that should stimulate their interest and active participation.”

**For more information contact:**

Megan Holsapple  
Media Relations  
Department of Health & Social Services  
(867) 873-7066



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## News Release

R(15)04040408

### **Focus on Family – New Funding for Aboriginal Language Nests Announced**

YELLOWKNIFE (04 May, 04): New funding for early childhood development programs was announced today. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Charles Dent and Sandy Lee, Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, announced that \$877,000 will be available this fiscal year for community based early childhood development programs with a focus on Aboriginal language nests.

Languages nests are preschool immersion programs that offer parents the opportunity to have their children learn in an Aboriginal language. "We have seen the positive impact that language nests have on language revitalization", says Dent, "I am very pleased that the GNWT will be able to continue to fund this vital early childhood development initiative."

Through regular daily activities children learn an Aboriginal language. Language instruction occurs through participation rather than just through instruction. Preschool teachers, Elders and other community members play a vital role in creating language nests. "The language nest approach reinforces language learning by the whole community", says Lee, "and provides a strong foundation for successful transition to school."

The allocation of funding to support language nests comes after calls for the GNWT to continue supporting selected early childhood development initiatives. "During the Budget Session of the Assembly, in February and March 2004, legislators called upon the GNWT to continue support for key early childhood development initiatives," said Ms. Lee. "We are very pleased the Government has responded to the recommendation of the Assembly".

Last year the GNWT supported 18 language nest sites where there were more than 350 spaces available for young children. This funding expired in late March. The new funding will be used to support successful programs. It will be distributed on an application basis to programs in each of the NWT's language areas.



Funding of language nests will be ongoing. "Over time we hope to integrate Language Nest activities with other community-based early childhood development programs," noted Minister Dent. The GNWT also provides support for early childhood development programming in the form of funding for the ongoing operational costs of childcare centres and enhanced support from the Healthy Children Initiative. The GNWT continues to provide subsidies to families in need through its Day Care Subsidy Programs.

For more information, please contact:

Dan Daniels  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Education, Culture and Employment  
920-8061

Sandy Lee  
Chair, Standing Committee on Social Programs  
669-2290



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## News Release

R(15)050509

### **Don Kindt Named Chair of the NWT Liquor Licensing Board**

YELLOWKNIFE (05 May, 04): Long-time Northerner, Don Kindt, was appointed Chair of the NWT Liquor Licensing Board today. His appointment is effective immediately.

Finance Minister Floyd Roland made the announcement saying, "I welcome Mr Kindt to the position of Chair of the Liquor Board. Mr Kindt brings considerable skills to the position. He has extensive board experience and a history of dedication to Northern community service. I am looking forward to working with him."

Mr Kindt has worked in educational, strategic planning and board management settings for many years. Minister Roland added, "I am confident Mr Kindt will work effectively with other board members in carrying out the mandate of the NWT Liquor Licensing Board."

Mr Kindt has been appointed for a two-year term.

For further information:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator – Cabinet Communications  
867-669 2304



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## News Release

R(15)051810

### New Telephone Nursing Service

YELLOWKNIFE (May 18, 2004) – Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger, today launched a new service that will provide health and family support advice to NWT residents.

Tele-Care NWT is a telephone nursing service that is available to NWT residents 24 hours a day. It is free to use and will complement the services that are already provided through the existing health and social services system.

“The new service will help people to take care of themselves, and to know when they need help from a professional,” said Minister Miltenberger. “Tele-Care NWT is easy to use and all conversations are confidential.”

Tele-Care NWT’s nurses can quickly triage patients with symptoms and can then refer them to professionals within the community or advise them how to treat their symptoms at home. The nurses can also provide general health advice about a wide variety of topics.

Tele-Care NWT is not an emergency line like 911. People who have emergencies should go to the local health centre or emergency room right away.

The nurses speak both English and French, and interpretation is available in over 100 languages from around the world, including most NWT aboriginal languages.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple  
Media Relations  
Department of Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 873-7066



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## News Release

R(15)051711

### School fire in Inuvik

Early this morning, a fire broke out at the Samuel Hearne Secondary School. Ministers Dent and Roland were notified immediately.

Regulatory authorities are working together to inspect and assess the damage and interim plans are being developed to ensure students continue to receive instruction. The RCMP, the fire department and Public Works and Services are investigating the cause of the fire and the extent of the damage. The school is closed until further notice.

“While in Inuvik on the weekend, I visited the school and was pleased to hear that, through the concentrated efforts of government and education authority staff, it was going to re-open today. We are now dealing with an unexpected and unfortunate situation and are working to re-establish normal operations as soon as possible.” Said Minister Roland.

For further information:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
867 669-2304

R(15)051912

## JOINT STUDY TO ASSESS CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON NORTHERN TRANSPORTATION

**(YELLOWKNIFE May 19, 2004)** — Warmer temperatures are creating both challenges and new opportunities for transportation systems in Canada. The Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories today announced their financial support of a joint study on the effects of climate change on transportation in the Northwest Territories. Other areas across northern Canada will also benefit from the results.

The project, which began in early 2004 and will continue until March 2006, is the result of a partnership among Natural Resources Canada, the Northwest Territories Department of Transportation, Transport Canada and Environment Canada. The Department of Transportation will manage the project.

“The project will answer important questions about whether the current transportation system is capable of withstanding projected climate changes in the North,” said the Honourable R. John Efford, Minister of Natural Resources Canada. “This assessment is an important step in ensuring a safe and reliable transportation system in the future.”

Researchers will assess the susceptibility of the existing road and runway infrastructure to potential climate changes in the Northwest Territories, and will develop strategies to reduce the impacts. A best practices model will also be developed to ensure other northern communities will benefit from the results.

It is well understood that northern Canada is particularly sensitive to future changes in climate. This is especially true of its transportation system. For example, winter roads, constructed by clearing a route across frozen ground, lakes or rivers, are essential in many areas for transporting supplies and other resources to communities year-round. Milder winters could reduce their durability and reliability, with significant economic and social implications for many northern communities.

“The benefits of this research will be far-reaching for the Northwest Territories as well as for the rest of Canada,” said Michael McLeod, Minister of Transportation for the Northwest Territories. “By being proactive, we will be able to identify what can be done to prepare for and adapt to climate changes — thereby reducing the vulnerability of transportation systems.”

The Government of Canada’s Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program is contributing \$150,000 to this \$424,000 project with matching support from the Northwest Territories Department of Transportation, and in-kind contributions by Transport Canada, Environment Canada and Natural Resources Canada. Government of Canada funding for this project is built into the existing fiscal framework.

The Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories are committed to better understanding the impacts of climate change and developing ways to adapt to these changes. This program supports the Government of Canada’s agenda of strong social foundations, a strong economy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and ensuring Canada’s role in the world.

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FOR BROADCAST USE:

For more information, media may contact:

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Government of the Northwest Territories  
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**NRCan's news releases and backgrounders are available at [nrcan.gc.ca/media](http://nrcan.gc.ca/media).**



## News Release

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R(15)04051813

### **NWT Receives ASEP Funding from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada**

YELLOWKNIFE (19 May, 04): The announcement of \$14.8 million in federal funding for Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership is good news for the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT).

“We welcome our federal partners on board with this significant funding contribution,” said Charles Dent, “This is a result of a tremendous amount of commitment and dedication by a number of partners working together to ensure Northerners, especially Aboriginal Northerners, will get the skills training necessary to obtain long-term employment in the mining sector.”

This new partnership evolved from work initiated in 1996 when the Mine Training Committee was first formed by Minister Dent. The work of the Committee has led to this multi-year training strategy which brings together funding from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, aboriginal governments, industry partners and the GNWT.

”I would like to thank all the partners who have worked so hard to make this happen. Particularly, I would like to mention the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew and thank her for her support. Without the continued commitment of all partners this funding would not have been secured,” said Minister Dent.

Funds will be used to train adult learners and provide them with skills directly related to, and required by, the mining industry. As well, grassroots programs for school-aged students and basic skills programs will now be available. It is estimated as many as 550 will receive employment in mining or mining-related industries as a result of this funding, of which an estimated 350 will be Aboriginal.

- 30 -

For more information:  
Mark Cleveland  
Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment  
Government of Northwest Territories  
(867) 920-6240

R(15)-051915

### **Terms of Reference for Hughes Review Released**

YELLOWKNIFE (19 May, 04): The terms of reference under which former Justice, Ted Hughes, will conduct a review into the conduct of government officials relating to the business of the Northwest Territories Liquor Licensing Board, have been released today.

In his letter to Mr. Hughes, Premier Joe Handley asks him to consider and report back on four main issues:

- whether there is any reason to believe any department official from the Government of the Northwest Territories attempted to interfere with the legitimate autonomy of the Liquor Licensing Board;
- if interference is found to have occurred, in what manner and under what circumstances did it occur and what consequences, if any, flowed from it;
- whether any official from the GNWT attempted to interfere with the proper release of documents from the Liquor Licensing Board under the ~~Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act~~; and,
- any other allegations of government interference with the administration and operation of the Liquor Licensing Board.

Premier Handley has provided Mr. Hughes with full and complete access to pertinent GNWT records relating to this matter. Legal counsel has been retained to assist Mr. Hughes with legal and procedural issues arising from the review. Whilst the final timeline for the review has yet to be determined by Mr. Hughes, Premier Handley has requested that a report be sent to him by July 15, 2004, if possible.

In keeping with his commitment to open and transparent government, the Premier has stated the report will be made public.

#### **For further details contact:**

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
867 669-2304



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## News Release

R(15)052016

### **Highway improvements in Northwest Territories Increase access, safety and productivity**

**(YELLOWKNIFE – May 20, 2004)** – The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Minister of State (Children and Youth), and Michael McLeod, Minister of Transportation for the Northwest Territories, today confirmed the signing of a \$40-million joint funding agreement to improve three transportation corridors in the Northwest Territories, allowing the long-awaited completion of Highway 3 to begin.

The funding will assist with the construction of 10 Mackenzie Valley winter road bridges between Wrigley and Norman Wells, upgrading of the Dempster Highway (Highway 8) and upgrading of the Slave Province Transportation Corridor (Highway 3 and Highway 4).

“These projects are high priorities for the territory which is dependent on the global trade of its non-renewable resources of diamonds, natural gas and oil,” stated Minister Blondin-Andrew. “This agreement is the first example of the ‘new deal’ for communities at work in the Northwest Territories. We’re pleased to be part of this project that will not only improve the transportation infrastructure but facilitate economic growth and improve the quality of life for all residents of the Northwest Territories.”

“People living, working and visiting in the Northwest Territories will benefit from highway and winter road improvements made possible through this joint funding agreement between the governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories,” Mr. McLeod said. “Access to remote communities, road safety and winter roads will be improved when these projects throughout the territory are completed.”

Imminent growth in oil and gas exploration and development, a Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline, expansion of the diamond mining sector, hydro development and opportunities for the tourism sector will produce numerous jobs, training and business opportunities for Northerners. The improvements to the transportation system throughout the territory will provide the framework needed to support and foster this growth.

Improvements to the Mackenzie Valley winter road bridges will facilitate community access and re-supply, encourage tourism and support exploration activities by resource development companies by extending and stabilizing the operating window for the winter road. On the Wrigley-Norman Wells section of the road, the operating season will be extended from eight to 12 weeks upon completion of the bridges.

The Dempster Highway, the only surface access to Inuvik and the Beaufort Delta from the rest of Canada, is heavily used for tourism and the oil and gas industries. This important link will see

significant improvements in safety and access that will lead to increased opportunities for local employment and oil and gas exploration.

The highway projects in the Slave Province Transportation Corridor will increase safety, improve access for the mining industry and enhance tourism opportunities. On Highway 3, the remaining 7.3 kilometres of gravel highway between Yellowknife and Rae will be reconstructed and paved. Improving the road surface and geometrics on 43.6 km of Highway 4, the Ingraham Trail, will make that road safer for the increasing volume of traffic that travels it.

The Government of Canada's contribution of \$20 million, which was originally announced in October 2003, will be made through the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund (CSIF), that amount is matched by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Transport Canada will work with the Government of the Northwest Territories to implement projects under this agreement.

Through the CSIF, the Government of Canada works with provincial, territorial and municipal governments, as well as with the private sector, to meet strategic infrastructure needs throughout the country. The CSIF supports large-scale strategic infrastructure projects that improve quality of life and further sustainable growth. The fund also supports the Government of Canada's 'new deal' for communities that will help make Canada a world leader in developing vibrant, creative and prosperous cities and communities. Since 1994, the Government of Canada has contributed \$12 billion to over 20,000 infrastructure projects in Canada's communities. This has helped leverage over \$30 billion from all partners.

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For more information on Infrastructure Canada and its programs, please visit:

[www.infrastructure.gc.ca](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca)

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Infrastructure Canada  
Communications and Promotion  
(613) 948-1148

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# Communiqué

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## Améliorations routières dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest Meilleur accès, plus de sécurité et de productivité

**Yellowknife (Territoires du Nord-Ouest) – le 20 mai 2004** – L'honorable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, ministre d'État (Enfance et jeunesse) et Michael McLeod, ministre des Transports des Territoires du Nord-Ouest ont annoncé aujourd'hui la signature d'un accord de financement conjoint de 40 millions de dollars visant trois couloirs de circulation dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Cet accord permettra de lancer les travaux de la route 3 attendus depuis longtemps.

Ces fonds aideront à la construction de dix ponts sur la route accessible l'hiver de la vallée du Mackenzie entre Wrigley et Norman Wells et à la modernisation de la route de Dempster (route 8) et du couloir de transport de la province des Esclaves (route 3 et route 4).

« Ces projets sont une importante priorité pour le territoire qui dépend du commerce international de ses ressources non renouvelables de diamants, de gaz naturel et de pétrole, a affirmé la ministre Blondin-Andrew. Cet accord est le premier exemple du 'nouveau pacte' à l'œuvre dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Nous sommes heureux de participer à ces travaux qui amélioreront l'infrastructure des transports, favoriseront la croissance économique et amélioreront la qualité de vie de tous les habitants des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. »

« Les personnes qui vivent et travaillent dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest et celles qui y viennent en visite profiteront des améliorations aux routes et aux routes accessibles l'hiver qui seront rendues possibles grâce à cet accord de financement conjoint des gouvernements du Canada et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, a déclaré M. McLeod. L'accès aux collectivités éloignées et la sécurité des routes et des routes accessibles l'hiver seront améliorés quand les travaux entrepris sur l'ensemble du territoire seront complétés. »

De nombreux emplois, des occasions de formation et de développement pour les habitants des Territoires seront créés par la croissance imminente de l'exploration pétrolière et gazière, la création d'un pipeline de gaz dans la vallée du Mackenzie, l'expansion de l'extraction des diamants, le développement hydroélectrique et des possibilités touristiques. Les améliorations aux réseaux de transport dans tout le territoire fourniront le cadre nécessaire pour appuyer et favoriser cette croissance.

Les améliorations qui seront apportées aux ponts sur les routes accessibles l'hiver dans la vallée du Mackenzie faciliteront l'accès aux collectivités et leur réapprovisionnement, encourageront les activités touristiques et inciteront les compagnies d'exploitation des ressources à poursuivre leurs activités en prolongeant et stabilisant la période d'activités sur

les routes accessibles l'hiver. La période d'activités sera prolongée de huit à douze semaines sur le tronçon Wrigley-Norman Wells lorsque les ponts auront été construits.

La route de Dempster, qui représente le seul accès de surface à Inuvik et au delta de Beaufort, sert énormément au tourisme et à l'industrie du pétrole et du gaz. De grandes améliorations aux points de vue sécurité et accès seront apportées à cette route, ce qui permettra d'augmenter les possibilités d'emploi et d'exploration pétrolière et gazière dans la région.

Les projets routiers dans le couloir de circulation de la province des Esclaves augmenteront la sécurité et amélioreront l'accès pour l'industrie minière et les possibilités touristiques. Sur la route 3, les 7,3 kilomètres de route recouverts de gravier entre Yellowknife et Rae seront reconstruits et pavés. L'amélioration du revêtement et de la géométrie sur 43,6 kilomètres de la route 4, le chemin Ingraham, rendront cette route plus sécuritaire pour le nombre accru de véhicules qui l'utilisent.

Les 20 millions de dollars investis par le gouvernement du Canada, annoncé en octobre 2003, seront versés par l'intermédiaire du Fond canadien sur l'infrastructure stratégique (FCIS). Le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest versera un montant équivalent. Transport Canada collaborera avec le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest afin de mettre en œuvre les projets annoncés aux termes du présent accord.

Par l'intermédiaire du FCIS, le gouvernement du Canada collabore avec les gouvernements provinciaux, territoriaux et municipaux, de même qu'avec le secteur privé pour répondre aux besoins d'infrastructure stratégique dans tout le pays. Le FCIS appuie les projets d'infrastructure stratégique de grande envergure qui visent à améliorer la qualité de vie et à favoriser la croissance durable. De plus, ce fond appuie le 'nouveau pacte' pour les collectivités du gouvernement du Canada qui aidera ce dernier à devenir un chef de file pour la création de villes et de collectivités vivantes, créatives et prospères. Depuis 1994, le gouvernement du Canada a investi 12 milliards de dollars dans plus de 20 000 projets d'infrastructure, ce qui a suscité des investissements de plus de 30 millions de dollars de la part de tous les partenaires.

Pour en savoir plus long sur Infrastructure Canada et ses programmes, veuillez consulter : [www.infrastructure.gc.ca](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca)

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Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest  
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## News Release

R(15)052118

### NWT Biodiversity Action Plan Released

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 21, 2004)** – Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) Brendan Bell today released a report listing all current biodiversity actions undertaken in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

“The NWT Biodiversity Action Plan honours our commitment to United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity to implement actions that reflect a set of values and way of living that is ecologically sustainable as outlined in the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy,” said Mr. Bell. “This report is a fitting way for the Northwest Territories to mark International Biodiversity Day on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.”

The action plan was developed by the NWT Biodiversity Team, which includes representation from affected federal and territorial government departments, organizations and groups. RWED assumed the task of developing a list of all the programs and actions being carried out in the NWT and assisting in the production of a Biodiversity Action Plan.

“I extend my congratulations to the NWT Biodiversity Team for developing this action plan,” added the Minister. “It will be a valuable tool in conserving biodiversity in the NWT and ensuring we use our biological resources in a sustainable manner.”

A second Biodiversity Action Plan report, to be initiated this year, will analyze gaps and overlaps and outline recommendations for further actions over the next decade.

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Copies of the NWT Biodiversity Action Plan are available from RWED’s Wildlife and Fisheries Division or on the Internet at: [www.nwtwildlife.rwed.gov.nt.ca](http://www.nwtwildlife.rwed.gov.nt.ca)

For more information, contact:

Ray Case  
Acting Director, Wildlife and Fisheries  
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development  
Tel: (867) 920-8067

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## News Release

R(15)052119

### GNWT Signs De Beers Snap Lake Agreements

**Yellowknife (May 21, 2004)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has signed three agreements with De Beers Canada Mining Incorporated (DBCMI).

Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Minister Brendan Bell announced today that the GNWT has signed off on the Environmental Agreement (EA), Socio-Economic Agreement (SEA) and an Agreement to Support the Secondary Diamond Industry in the Northwest Territories (NWT) relating to the Snap Lake Project.

“The successful conclusion of these negotiations reaffirms the GNWT position that sustainable development of our natural resources is essential to the long term economic, cultural and social well being of all NWT residents,” said the Minister. “I commend De Beers Canada for making a significant and meaningful contribution to the NWT through training and development, business opportunities and on-going social investment.”

“These agreements demonstrate that De Beers Canada and the GNWT are aligned in their commitment to sustainable development. Through the negotiations we have developed good working relationships with the GNWT and the Aboriginal groups involved and we will ensure that these relationships continue to grow to the benefit of all NWT residents,” said Richard Molyneux, President and CEO of De Beers Canada.

The De Beers Snap Lake EA was developed with the participation of the Yellowknives Dene Band, Lutsel K'e Dene Band, North Slave Metis Alliance, and Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and the Government of Canada. The agreement calls for the establishment of a monitoring agency, composed of the four affected Aboriginal organizations, to oversee the environmental management of the project. The agency will receive support from a Science and Technical Panel, two Traditional Knowledge working groups, one for water and fisheries issues and one for wildlife

and habitat issues, and a secretariat. DBCMI will fund the agency and during the first two years this will be supplemented with financial contributions from the Governments of Canada and NWT. DBCMI will also prepare environmental management plans and monitoring programs to ensure concerns are addressed.

The Socio-economic agreement includes commitments regarding training, particularly in the areas of literacy, apprenticeships, and encouraging women's interest in non-traditional jobs and the establishment of the De Beers Socio-economic Monitoring Agency. Targets for NWT employment and business opportunities, which include a commitment to prioritize aboriginal hiring are identified. In a sub agreement, De Beers Canada has agreed to support the NWT secondary diamond industry in a number of areas, which fully honour the commitments previously made by the company. One of these commitments is to confidentiality of the commercial terms involved.

"I commend all parties involved in the negotiations of these three important agreements," said Minister Bell. "Their dedication and hard work will assist in meeting our vision of independent, prosperous and vibrant Northwest Territories."

Snap Lake is scheduled to reach full production in 2008. The next step is for the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to sign the Environmental Agreement and issue a water licence.

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For more information, contact:

Brendan Bell, Minister  
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development  
Tel: (867) 669-2388

Linda Dorrington  
Manager – Public and Corporate Affairs  
De Beers Canada  
Tel: 416-645-1710

R(15)052520

## **Yellowknife Marks the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy**

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 25, 2004) - The Government of the Northwest Territories is pleased to partner with the Royal Canadian Legion-Vincent Massey Branch 164, Canadian Forces Northern Area, and Veterans Affairs Canada to hold a parade and a ceremony of remembrance in Yellowknife and to pay tribute to the men and women who fought on D-Day and throughout the Battle of Normandy.**

Sixty years ago Canadians stormed the beaches of Normandy, changing the course of the Second World War and ensuring victory. "The Northwest Territories is pleased to take part in this historic day of remembrance," says Premier Joseph Handley. "We are here not only to remember those who fought on the beaches of Normandy, but to honour all Canadian veterans for their courage and sacrifice – particularly those from the Northwest Territories."

On Sunday, June 6, Veterans, Legion members, Canadian Forces members and Cadets, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, youth groups and members of the public, will march in Yellowknife from the Legion down Franklin Avenue to the Cenotaph, where a wreath-laying ceremony will be held at 10:45 a.m. Following this ceremony, the parade contingent will march to St Pat's/Weledah gymnasium to take part in a remembrance ceremony to begin at 11:00 a.m. The public is invited to attend and commemorate the sacrifices and achievements of D-Day and Battle of Normandy Veterans.

The anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy will also be officially recognized nationally on Sunday, June 6, with a ceremony of remembrance held at the National War Memorial in Ottawa at 10 a.m. A significant number of Canadians travelling to France will also mark the anniversary overseas by attending the Canadian ceremonies in the Normandy area.

**For further information, please contact:**

**Lorne Power, Manager  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Vincent Massey Branch 164  
(867) 873-5566**

**or Julia Mott, Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
Office of the Premier  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
(867) 669-2304**



**June 6, 2004 Day of Remembrance  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day  
Yellowknife, NT**

**Commemorative Ceremony**

- 10:00 Parade Personnel gather (Legion)
- 10:30 Parade (Veterans, Legion members, Canadian Forces members and Cadets, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, youth groups and members of the general public)  
*Transportation will be provided to Veterans who cannot march*
- 10:45 Parade to arrive at St. Pat's/Weledeh School Gymnasium  
- Veterans and VIP seated  
*Cadet to assist with seating*
- 11:00 Remembrance Ceremony
- 11:45 Closing

**Parade route:**

Parade will proceed up Franklin Avenue, turn right at 52 St., right at 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue and onto the Cenetoph. The parade will then proceed down 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue, turn right onto 50<sup>th</sup> St., left onto 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue, turn right onto 48<sup>th</sup> St., and turn left onto 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and proceed to St. Patrick High/Weledeh School Gymnasium.

R(15)052721

# Another Step Toward a National Diamond Strategy

**Yellowknife, May 27, 2004** – Canada took another step in the process of developing a National Diamond Strategy following the National Round Table held in Yellowknife, on May 26 and 27, 2004. More than one hundred representatives from every sector of the diamond industry and from government took part in the meeting, co-chaired by Québec and the Northwest Territories.

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for the provinces and territories to consult representatives of the industry, the federal government, and parties interested in issues of mutual concern. Stakeholders were therefore able to convey their vision concerning regulation, security, taxation and financing, human resources development and training, technology, domestic marketing, and development of diamond export markets.

“By considering these issues globally, we will be in a position to find efficient and effective solutions for all sectors of the diamond industry and, in the long run, for all Canadians,” said the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Brendan Bell, as he welcomed the delegates.

Québec's Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks, Mr. Pierre Corbeil, stated that he was confident that the Strategy's Steering Committee would develop a coherent set of recommendations. “I am convinced that the recommendations will make it possible to boost the supply of diamonds and will help to increase demand, in the context of a growth market with a tailored regulatory framework. That is the way for governments to encourage the development of prosperous businesses that contribute to creating wealth for all Canadians,” he continued.

The Round Table is an important step in the process. Recommendations issuing from the consultations will be integrated into the action plan for the National Diamond Strategy, which will be submitted at the Mine Ministers' Conference, to be held from July 18 to 20, 2004, in Iqaluit.

In July 2003, the premiers of the provinces and territories asked their mine ministers to develop an action plan for a national diamond strategy, to ensure that Canada would be a world leader in the diamond industry and to maximize the benefits for Canadians from all stages of the emerging diamond industry.

Québec's Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks and the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development of the Northwest Territories then laid the groundwork for the process, in September 2003. In fact, they agreed on principles, a draft mandate, and a timetable for the Steering Committee mandated to work on developing the action plan leading to a National Diamond Strategy. The provincial and territorial ministers gave their approval, on September 30, to continued work on the strategy based on that proposal.

- 30 -

**Sources:**

André Ménard  
Press Attaché  
Office of the Minister of Natural  
Resources,  
Wildlife and Parks  
(418) 643-7295

Judy McLinton  
Communications Planning Specialist  
Resources, Wildlife  
and Economic Development  
Northwest Territories  
(867) 873-7379

Québec 





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## News Release

R(15)053122

# Bursaries Available for Aboriginal Law Students

YELLOWKNIFE (31 May 2004) – The Department of Justice is accepting applications for its law School Career Development Program, Minister of Justice Charles Dent announced today. The program provides financial, mentoring and employment support to indigenous aboriginal students pursuing a career in law.

Depending on the number and financial circumstances of applicants, the Department of Justice awards bursaries of up to \$10,000 to Aboriginal students, indigenous to the Northwest Territories, who have been accepted into the first or subsequent years of a Bachelor of Law program at a recognized Canadian university.

“This program is an important way of supporting the development of a culturally representative legal community in the Northwest Territories,” said Minister Dent.

In addition to the bursary, lawyers from the Department of Justice will mentor students accepted into the program. The Department will also provide summer employment ~~allowing students to gain legal experience in the Northwest Territories as part of their~~ education.

“The Department believes by providing support and employment to indigenous aboriginal students studying law, these students will make a long-term contribution to the North practicing law in either the private or public sector,” added Minister Dent. “In fact, one of the early participants in the program is now Legal Counsel with the Department of Justice, and another participant will be articling at Legal Aid.”

The deadline for applications is Friday, July 16, 2004. For more information on the program or to get an application, contact the Department of Justice Legal Division at (867) 920-8074 or visit the Department’s web site at [www.justice.gov.nt.ca](http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca).

### **For more information:**

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

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## News Release

R(15)053123

### **Northerners Recognized with Ministerial Literacy Award**

**Yellowknife (31 May 2004)** – The winners of the 2003-2004 Ministerial Literacy Awards were announced today by the Honourable Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. The annual Ministerial Literacy Awards honour individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving their personal level of literacy or an organization that has worked to promote and foster literacy within their community.

This year's recipients are Effie Tessema of Yellowknife, (Learner Award) Minnie Whimp of Fort Resolution (Tutor Award) and the Lutsel K'e Dene School Literacy Committee from Lutsel K'e (Organization Award).

"I am pleased to recognize the commitment and dedication of these individuals and organizations to literacy. Ensuring a literate population is a responsibility shared by all Northerners," said Minister Dent. "The efforts of those honoured today encourage others to work toward building a more literate society in the Northwest Territories."

Effie Tessema has been an outstanding student at the Literacy Outreach Centre who has made great strides in improving her literacy levels through her dedication and passion for learning.

Minnie Whimp has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to literacy. As an Adult Literacy and Basic Education student and Family Literacy Coordinator, Minnie contributed greatly to improving her personal level of literacy and the literacy skills of others in her community. In addition to being a full-time student and volunteering to coordinate family literacy activities, Minnie won the Fort Resolution Adult Writing Contest and contributed to the elder literacy program by gathering elders' stories.

The Lutsel K'e Dene School Literacy Committee is made up of volunteer teachers and support staff who meet at least once a month, to improve literacy in the community. The members are Dawn Thompson, Jenny English, Doris Bruno, Eleanor Young and Geoff Bunckle. The committee is dedicated to encouraging families to become involved in literacy activities in order to improve the literacy levels of all students in Lutsel K'e.

Shirley Barney, Bernice Bonnetrouge, Mary Louise Grossetete, Wanda Grossetete, Bernice Isaiah, Agnes McPherson, Ann Margaret Sanguetz, Josephine Tonka, Sarah Tsetso, office administration students from Fort Simpson, Julian Tomlinson from Inuvik, Mary Ann Vital from Deline, and the Fort Resolution Community Literacy Committee have all received honourable mentions.

Winners will be recognized during a short ceremony at the Legislative Assembly at 3:00 pm on June 1, 2004.

**For more information:**

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

R(15)060124

## Department of Transportation Honours Veterans With Licence Plate Program

YELLOWKNIFE (June 1, 2004) The Department of Transportation announced today it will honour veterans in the Northwest Territories by introducing a Veteran Licence Plate Program.

The program, to be administered through Royal Canadian Legion branches across the territory, will make special vehicle licence plates available to veterans. The NWT Veteran Plate will be the regular NWT plate with the letters "VET", followed by three numbers. The plate's border and lettering will be poppy red.

"The Veteran Licence Plate Program is a small, but sincere tribute to the men and women who have served their country in so many ways, in so many parts of the world," said Transportation Minister Michael McLeod. "It is one way that we can recognize their contributions in a visible and public manner."

The Veteran Licence Plate will be registered to a veteran's vehicle and displayed in place of a regular NWT licence plate. NWT veterans can apply for a plate through a Legion branch. Once approved, a Veteran Licence Plate will be issued in the name of the veteran at one of the Department of Transportation's Driver and Licensing offices.

Under the program, a veteran is defined as any person who has honourably:

- Served in the Armed Forces of Canada, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies, for a minimum of three years (may still be serving); or
- Served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime; or
- Served in a theatre of war with the Armed Forces of Canada, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies; or
- Performed NATO service or peacekeeping missions with the Armed Forces of Canada.

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

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



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## News Release

R(15)060225

# Premier Announces Portfolio Changes

YELLOWKNIFE (2 June, 04): Ministerial portfolios were shuffled today as Premier Joe Handley welcomed David Krutko as the newest member of the Executive Council.

The Honourable David Krutko becomes Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and Minister Responsible for the Worker's Compensation Board.

The Honourable Michael McLeod assumes responsibility for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

The Honourable Floyd Roland has been appointed as Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board.

All other portfolios assignments remain the same. Ministers assume their new responsibilities effective 5.00 pm today.

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For more information:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
867 669-2304





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## News Release

R(15)06070426

### **Interim Receiver Appointed to Attend at Diamond Factories**

YELLOWKNIFE (07 June, 04): At the request of the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Court has appointed an Interim Receiver to attend at the Arslanian Cutting Works (NWT) Ltd., Sirius Diamonds Ltd. and Sirius Diamonds (NWT) Ltd. factories and operations to preserve and protect security for loan guarantees the Government has provided the Royal Bank in favour of the Arslanian Cutting Works and Sirius Diamonds manufacturing operations.

This action was deemed necessary by the Government due to defaults by Arslanian Cutting Works and Sirius Diamonds of the Guarantee and Indemnity Agreements between the Government and the manufacturing companies. The companies have been served with the default notices and the Government's intention to enforce security. The nature of the defaults cannot be publicly disclosed due to confidentiality covenants and privacy legislation.

The Government has received demands from the Royal Bank to make immediate payment of the guaranteed amounts to the bank. The guaranteed amounts are \$9.2 million for Arslanian Cutting Works and \$8.0 million for Sirius Diamonds. The diamond manufacturing companies have a prescribed period of time in which to reimburse the Government for these amounts.

Appointment of an Interim Receiver is a normal business precaution in these types of circumstances. The Interim Receiver will not interfere with the normal operations of the companies who are free to continue business operations.

For more information:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
867 669-2304

R(15)060827

## Saying 'Thanks' to NWT Firefighters and Fire Departments

Yellowknife (June 09, 2004) - The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, is urging all Northwest Territories (NWT) residents to take an active role in thanking the brave firefighters and fire departments that safeguard northern communities.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) is currently accepting nominations for the 2004 NWT Fire Service Merit Awards. Minister McLeod encourages anyone who knows of a fire department or a firefighter deserving special recognition to submit a nomination to MACA by June 30, 2004.

“Our community firefighters and fire departments play an essential role in protecting the safety of NWT residents and communities – even during the bitter cold of our northern winters,” Minister McLeod said. “Firefighters are called upon to respond to extremely hazardous situations and face the possibility of serious personal injury – or death. So, we believe it is important to show these brave men and women that we appreciate their efforts and sacrifices.”

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Individual awards are presented to regional winners for outstanding achievements. A territorial winner is subsequently selected from the regional winners. The community award is presented in recognition of improvement in community-based fire protection systems.

Nomination forms are available from any MACA office, by calling (867) 873-7944 and on the MACA web site at <http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/safety/meritawards.html>.

For more information, contact:

Don Gillis  
Fire Marshal  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
Tel: (867) 920-3092  
Fax: (867) 873-0152  
E-mail: [Don\\_Gillis@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Don_Gillis@gov.nt.ca)

Brad Heath  
Communications and Policy Advisor  
Department of Municipal and  
Community Affairs  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
Tel: (867) 873-7469  
Fax: (867) 873-0260  
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R(15)060828

## Response to RCMP Access Program Shows Interest in Policing is High

(Yellowknife) - Applications for the RCMP Access Program (RAP) have closed and the response from candidates across the Northwest Territories has been incredibly positive.

“We’ve had forty-six applications for the six positions in the program,” said Darcy Fleury, RAP Co-ordinator with the Department of Justice. “It appears that there are many Aboriginal people out there with an interest in policing. Our goal now is to select those candidates who will make great police officers and through this program help them successfully apply to the RCMP.”

The one-year program is designed to give participants exposure to the world of policing and the chance to upgrade their education and skills in preparation for the entrance exams to the RCMP Training Academy in Regina.

The next step of the program is a selection process to go from 46 applicants to the six candidates who will enter the program. The selection process will be rigorous, and includes academic, medical, security and physical assessments.

A panel of representatives from the RCMP and Aurora College will make the final selection decisions based on the applicant’s academic needs and suitability for policing work. The successful candidates are expected to begin the program in August 2004.

“Due to the number of applications from people wanting to join the RCMP Access Program, an eligibility list will be created from those candidates not chosen for the six positions,” added Mr. Fleury. “If someone excels in the program and completes the RCMP entry exams earlier than in the one-year planned, another candidate will fill their space for the remainder of the program.”

The RCMP Access Program is a joint initiative of the Department of Justice and the RCMP funded by the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada.

**For more information:**

Glen Rutland  
Communications and Policy Advisor  
Justice  
(867) 920-3130

R(15)061529

## Legislative Assembly passes Tlicho Community Government Act

Yellowknife (June 18, 2004) – The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), congratulates the Tlicho people on the passage of the Tlicho Community Government Act recently during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories (NWT).

This groundbreaking legislation is one of the mechanisms through which the Tlicho people are implementing their inherent right of self-government, said Minister McLeod. A new form of government is being created in the four Tlicho Communities – one which brings together Aboriginal and public governments.

“We are taking elements of the Agreement negotiated by the Tlicho to protect their rights and culture, and melding it with the rights all citizens enjoy in our communities,” said Minister McLeod.

“This is an historic step for the Tlicho people who are to be commended for their dedicated work towards finalizing their self-government agreement,” said Minister McLeod. The Minister also acknowledges the role of MACA and the Department of Justice in coordinating the development of the Tlicho Community Government Act.

The Tlicho Community Government Act is the second of three laws required by the Tlicho Final Agreement, which was signed on August 25, 2003 between Canada, the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

The Government of Canada must also approve the Tlicho Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement and pass enabling legislation before the Tlicho can establish Tlicho Community Governments and hold elections.

For more information contact:

Michael Kalnay  
Director, Community Governance  
Department of Municipal and Community  
Affairs  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
Tel: (867) 873-7565  
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## News Release

R(15)061630

# Premier Requests Response from Federal Leaders on Vision for the North and Resource Revenue Sharing

YELLOWKNIFE (17 June, 2004): Premier Joe Handley has written to leaders of the federal political parties asking for clarification on their position on devolution and resource revenue sharing.

Mr Handley indicated how leaders respond provides northern voters with critical information when choosing a candidate. He reminded federal party leaders of the NWT's importance to Canada from a geographic and resource development perspective.

Premier Handley stated in his letter, "It is our view that it is incumbent on all parties and leaders to address the priority of northern development as I have outlined. I am asking that you provide the position of your party on the negotiation of an agreement to transfer responsibility for lands and resources to the Northwest Territories and a resource revenue sharing deal that allows for northern governments to be the primary beneficiary of the revenues from northern resource development." The Premier went on to say, "In order for the electorate to make an informed decision on June 28<sup>th</sup>, they need to know where you stand."

Premier Handley has asked for a response from party leaders by June 23rd. He has committed to making all responses available to the public prior to the election.

For more information:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
(867) 669-2304

R(15)061831

## **Minister Reassures Public There is No Danger from CF-18 Missile**

YELLOWKNIFE (18 June, 04): Following a missile being dislodged from a Canadian Armed Forces CF-18 near the Yellowknife airport this morning, Municipal and Community Affairs Minister Michael McLeod says there is no threat to the public.

The missile was unarmed when it dislodged, no-one was injured and no damage to buildings was incurred.

Minister McLeod is in contact with the Department of National Defence as the situation unfolds. “The DND have control of the incident,” said Minister McLeod, “They will be removing the missile in the next 24-hours. Meanwhile an armed guard is posted to ensure public safety. There is no danger to the public.”

Military personnel from Cold Lake, Alberta will be arriving on the scene to transport the missile back to Alberta by Hercules aircraft.

For more information

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
(867) 669-2304



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## News Release

R(15)061832

### GNWT and Arslanian Cutting Works NWT Ltd. Sign Letter of Intent

YELLOWKNIFE (23 June, 04): A Letter of Intent was signed by Finance Minister Floyd Roland and Arslanian Cutting Works NWT Ltd. (ACWNWT) today setting out the basic elements of a new deal between ACWNWT and the Government of the Northwest Territories. The main element of the deal sees ACWNWT's current \$9.1 million debt repaid to the bank in full. The GNWT continues to work with ACWNWT to finalize a new financing arrangement strengthening the company and allowing it to continue operations and expand.

This new agreement is a result of investment by new shareholders in the company primarily Arslanian Cutting Works bvba, Basal Diamonds and Olympic Diamond Corporation. Polar Ice Diamonds, a related company, will undertake extensive marketing of ACWNWT product in both Canada and the United States.

"I am very pleased we have been able to agree to the basic terms so the current issues could be resolved, including the repayment of the existing loan. Although there are still details to be worked out, we are confident all parties are committed to making this work", stated Minister Roland.

Ron Basal, spokesperson for the proposed owners, said, " We are extremely enthusiastic and optimistic about the potential of the diamond manufacturing industry in the NWT. We believe in the product, the NWT certificate program and our ability to make this a huge success. We will make the NWT name the standard for quality Canadian diamonds throughout the world."

It is anticipated the existing \$9.1 million bank loan will be repaid by June 25, allowing the interim receiver to be removed and the company to continue operations under the new ownership structure.

For more information:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
867 669-2304



R(15)062933

## **NWT Arts Council Announces Contributions to Artistic Projects 2004-2005**

YELLOWKNIFE (29 June, 04): The NWT Arts Council has announced their selections for financial contributions to artistic projects for the 2004-2005 funding season.

Each year, the Government of Northwest Territories, Education, Culture and Employment provides \$280,000 through the NWT Arts Council for Northern artists and festivals as they pursue projects designed to support personal and artistic growth.

“Visual arts, the written word, music, film and the new media provide a vital link to our culture and history,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Charles Dent, “The arts provide us with an expression of social commentary, a source of entertainment and for many, a way of life. We are pleased to be able to provide financial support to artists as they follow their passion.”

During a recent session, the Council considered 93 applications for financial assistance including performing arts, film, writing, musical arts, visual arts, workshops for various art forms and special artistic projects.

Funds in the amount of \$280,000 were distributed between the 52 selected projects. This year’s Arts Council funding recipients come from across the Territories from Holman to Fort Resolution and represent diverse projects from drumming workshops on the land to exploring pigmentation in plastic resins through sculpture.

The 2004-2005 contributions are distributed as per the attached listing.

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For more information:

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



R(15)062534

## GNWT Pipeline Office to Open in Hay River

Yellowknife (June 25, 2004) - The Government of the Northwest Territories will open a Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Office in Hay River.

The decision, based on a recommendation by the Joint Cabinet/Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Pipeline Planning Committee, was made by Brendan Bell, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

“The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline office will provide a comprehensive, coordinated GNWT planning approach to the pipeline project. It ensures all NWT residents benefit from the sustainable development of our natural resources,” said the Minister. “As a transportation hub, Hay River will play an important role in the supply route for the construction of the pipeline and associated developments.”

The eight-person office will include a director, agreements and pipeline specialists, coordinators for interdepartmental planning and information and communications along with support and clerical staff.

The pipeline office will operate temporarily in Yellowknife until new staff is hired and office space is established in Hay River. It is expected to be fully operational in Hay River by April 1, 2005.

The Legislative Assembly approved funding for the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline office on June 2, 2004.

For more information, contact:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
(867) 669-2304

R(15)070835

## **NWT Students Receive \$40,000 in Aviation Bursaries**

YELLOWKNIFE (July 8, 2004) – Bursaries worth a total of \$40,000 were presented today to eight NWT students who plan a career in the aviation industry.

The students chosen to receive the Aviation Career Development Program bursaries, each \$5,000 in value, were recognized during ceremonies today.

The annual bursary program, established in 2001, is co-sponsored by the Department of Transportation and Canadian North and supported by the Northern Air Transport Association, umbrella organization for northern air carriers. It assists northern students pursuing careers in the aviation industry.

Recipients were chosen from a field of candidates 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, bursaries were awarded to: Jeremy Studney, Mark Simmons, Chad Blewett, Samantha Merritt, Darrow Andrews and Stacy Reid, all of Yellowknife, Jason Cutten of Inuvik and Emsley Nasogaluak of Tuktoyaktuk..

“This bursary program has been an outstanding success and a good example of government working together with the private sector to achieve a common goal,” said Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod, who took part in the ceremonies. “There are endless career opportunities for Northerners in the aviation field, so we must help our students get the training they need.”

“Canadian North is delighted that we can continue to jointly fund the Aviation Career Development Program with the Government of the Northwest Territories,” said Tom Ruth, President of Canadian North. “This innovative program definitely helps young northerners launch their careers in an industry that is so important to the North.”

“The Northern Air Transport Association proudly supports the efforts of the Aviation Career Development Program and the opportunities it offers our youth to embark on a promising and rewarding career,” said Hugh Kitchen, NATA president. “The aviation industry is instrumental in our economic growth, sustainability and social well-being, with many career options to play a vital role in our preferred futures.”

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) or:

Operations and Training Officer, Airports Division  
Department of Transportation, Government of the Northwest Territories  
Box 1320  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9  
Telephone (867) 873-7725

For more information, contact:

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



R(15)070736

## Setting the Scene for Diamond Tourism in the NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (July 7, 2004) – A new report supporting the development of diamond tourism in the Northwest Territories was released today.

“The Perfect Setting – Diamond Tourism in the Northwest Territories” report was prepared for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) and the City of Yellowknife.

“The combination of the Northwest Territories unique travel experiences, and the purity and beauty of Canadian diamonds are a perfect fit,” said RWED Minister Brendan Bell. “Diamonds could give us the extra edge in effectively differentiating our tourism offering on the international stage.”

While the report indicates that the majority of visitors will likely continue to be motivated to travel to the NWT for outdoor adventure and to watch the aurora borealis light up the northern skies, diamonds could sway an undecided visitor to choose the NWT over a destination offering similar experiences.

“Yellowknife intends to capitalize on its position as the Diamond Capital of North America™,” said Yellowknife Mayor Gordon Van Tighem. “The city is prepared to work with our various partners to put this diamond tourism plan into action and to take advantage of the national and international attention being focussed on Canadian diamonds.”

David Grindlay, Executive Director of the Northwest Territories Arctic Tourism, supports partnerships that encourage the development of diamond tourism in the NWT.

“The media focus on the discovery and mining of diamonds in the NWT during the past several years has created a distinct increase in the awareness of the NWT as a producer of diamonds and a further attention to the territory as a tourism destination,” said Grindlay. “We can take advantage of this relationship to generate even greater awareness and draw more tourists.”

The report on the potential of diamond tourism is available on the Internet at [www.gov.nt.ca/RWED](http://www.gov.nt.ca/RWED)

For more information, contact:

Doug Doan  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
RWED  
Tel: (867) 873-7115

Gordon Van Tighem  
Mayor  
City of Yellowknife  
Tel: (867)-920-5693



R(15)071337

## **Minister McLeod Opens Community Hall in Wha Ti**

Yellowknife – The Johnny Nitsiza Cultural Centre was officially opened in Wha Ti on Thursday, July 8, 2004.

The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, was pleased to be able to take part in the opening ceremonies. “The community of Wha Ti is to be commended for working together to make this Cultural Centre a reality. A gathering place is essential for the development of healthy communities and it gives me great pleasure to be a part of this important event.”

Following the destruction of the old community hall in February 2002, construction of the Johnny Nitsiza Cultural Centre began in the spring of 2003 and was completed in May 2004. Minister McLeod noted that, through a negotiated contract with the Lac Le Martre Development Corporation, the construction project provided significant benefits to the local economy.

~~Construction of the Cultural Centre was the result of a collaborative effort between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Community of Wha Ti. Minister McLeod stated, “Although a project of this type cannot be successful without the support of the entire community, I would especially like to congratulate Chief Charlie Jim Nitsiza and his Council, and the Lac Le Martre Development Corporation for their contribution.”~~

Wha Ti will use the Cultural Centre for community meetings, youth activities, traditional drum dances and for other cultural and community events.

For more information please contact:

Jake Heron  
Regional Superintendent, North Slave  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
GNWT  
920-3256

R(15)04080438

## Prime Minister to Visit Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk

YELLOWKNIFE (August 8, 04): Premier Joe Handley will welcome the Prime Minister to the Northwest Territories next week. Paul Martin will visit Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk during a five-day Northern tour also encompassing Nunavut and Yukon.

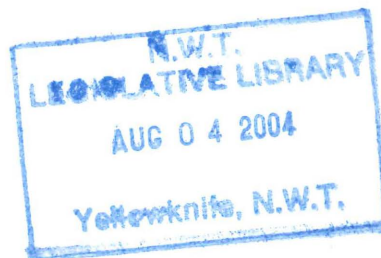
Premier Handley said, "I am delighted Prime Minister Martin has chosen to visit us so early in his mandate. He and I have had an excellent working relationship for many years, Mr. Martin is informed on Northern issues and has always demonstrated a great liking for the North. As well introducing him to many Northern residents, I expect to have the opportunity to discuss our government's priorities such as moving forward on aboriginal claims, resource revenue sharing and the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline."

The Prime Minister will be hosting a community luncheon on August 13 in Inuvik before going on to tour Tuktoyaktuk.

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For more information:

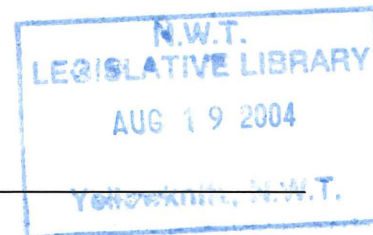
Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
867 669-2304





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News Release



R(15)081840

## **Tentative Agreement Reached on Con And Rycon Trailer Courts Lands**

YELLOWKNIFE (Aug 18, 04)-- A tentative agreement has been reached with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, in conjunction with the City of Yellowknife, on an interim solution to protect the interests of the residents of the Con and Rycon Trailer Courts, Municipal and Community Affairs Minister Michael McLeod, announced today.

The tentative agreement is designed to address concerns the Yellowknives Dene First Nation raised regarding the ongoing land identification process under its Interim Measures Agreement. The tentative agreement includes provisions for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and the City of Yellowknife to agree on the Yellowknives Dene First Nation's selection of Commissioner's Land within the City of Yellowknife by September 2005.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is proposing to enter into thirty-year, fully assignable and transferable leases with the trailer courts residents. The leases will grant tenure and security to the residents over the term of the leases, while respecting the ability of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to select the lands through their ongoing Aboriginal rights negotiation process.

Minister McLeod recognized the contribution of all parties saying, "I would like to acknowledge the participation of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the City of Yellowknife, and the Con/Rycon Trailer Association for their willingness to find a resolution that addresses the interests of all parties in this matter."

Work is underway to finalize the details of the arrangement. This tentative agreement is a significant milestone in resolving the Con and Rycon Trailer Court land issue to the satisfaction of all the parties.

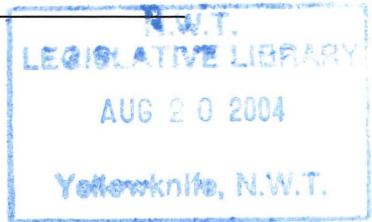
For more information contact:

Brian Austin  
Director of Lands and Infrastructure Administration  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
(867) 873-7569





## News Release



R(15)082041

# GNWT Welcomes Joint Review Panel For Mackenzie Gas Project

**Yellowknife (August 20, 2004):** The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is delighted and encouraged by the appointment of a joint panel to review the Mackenzie Gas Project by the federal government, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board and the Inuvialuit Game Council.

“A unified, harmonized, and independent environmental review of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project can now begin as soon as the producers group file their environmental impact statement which we hope will be very soon,” said RWED Minister Brendan Bell. “This is a major step forward for a project that will bring enormous benefits to the residents of the Northwest Territories.”

On Tuesday, representatives of the federal government, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board and the Inuvialuit Game Council announced the establishment of a seven-member joint panel to review the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project. ~~The three parties also signed an agreement and finalized the Terms of Reference for the review of the proposed project.~~

Minister Bell said that the GNWT will continue to play an active and positive role in the environmental assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project, ensuring that the principle of environmentally and economically sustainable development is upheld.

“The proposed Mackenzie Gas Project is a cornerstone of our government’s plan for the present and future economic development of the Northwest Territories,” Minister Bell said. “We remain committed to its development and to our overriding goal — that the development northern resources must benefit northerners.”

For more information, contact:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
Tel (867) 669-2304

R(15)090744

## Associate Deputy Minister Appointed to Department of the Executive

**YELLOWKNIFE (21 September, 2004)** — Gabriela Sparling has been appointed to the position of Associate Deputy Minister of the Department of Executive, Premier Joe Handley announced today. The appointment took place effective August 12, 2004.

The position of Associate Deputy Minister is new to Department of Executive. It has been established to monitor and direct the Department's work in implementing the *GNWT's Strategic Plan: Self-reliant People, Communities and Northwest Territories – A Shared Responsibility*.

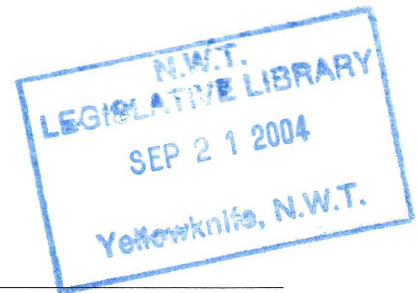
Ms. Sparling will continue to manage territorial, national and international intergovernmental issues, as well as GNWT activities related to the Circle of Northern Leaders. Her appointment will enable the department to manage any structural or administrative changes arising from implementation of the Strategic Plan, improve current operations and build a basis for future operations within a new NWT governance environment.

“Ms. Sparling is a valued member of our senior management team and I welcome her to her new role in the department,” said Premier Handley. “I have every confidence she will be instrumental in assisting us implement the new governance partnerships envisioned in our Strategic Plan.”

Gabriela Sparling, currently Assistant Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Relations and Strategic Planning in the Department of Executive, has been an employee of the Government of the Northwest Territories since 1990. She has served in various capacities, including Community Transfer Coordinator in the early 1990's, GNWT Chief Negotiator at the Gwich'in/Inuvialuit Self-Government table, and Deputy Secretary to Cabinet.

For more information contact:

Robert McLeod  
Secretary to Cabinet  
(867) 873-7100



## Press release

R(15)092446

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

### **Unveiling of the Action Plan for the National Diamond Strategy**

**Québec City/Yellowknife, September 24, 2004** – The action plan for the National Diamond Strategy was unveiled today by Sam Hamad, Québec's Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks, and Brendan Bell, the Northwest Territories' Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, on behalf of all provincial and territorial Mines Ministers.

“For the first time, Canada is implementing a National Diamond Strategy and I'm very proud of that. Canada has many advantages that will allow the diamond industry to grow while contributing to economic and regional development over the coming decade,” stated Mr. Hamad. “We plan to ensure that all necessary tools are in place to maximize the spin-offs of this emerging industry and ensure that it develops under an appropriate regulatory framework,” he continued.

The fifteen recommendations contained in the action plan are framed around three aspects that underlie the development of the diamond markets in Canada: the supply of Canadian-sourced diamonds, the demand for diamonds processed in Canada, and the regulation of the markets. According to the action plan, all three aspects must be taken into account if the diamond industry is to be developed in a sustainable way.

The provincial and territorial Mines Ministers have instructed the Strategy Steering Committee to give priority to the creation of a multi-stakeholder coordinating body in its work over the coming year. This body could then be mandated to develop terms and conditions for implementation of the Strategy, coordinate its implementation and propose further steps. The members of the steering committee will also look at ways to establish a certification process, document tax incentives and create a network of centres of excellence in diamond exploration and extraction.

“We need to coordinate our efforts in ensuring all Canadians benefit from the diamond industry, “ said Mr. Bell. “Sharing our knowledge and expertise will help Canada become a world leader in the international diamond industry.”

The provincial and territorial Mines Ministers have invited key players to take part in the consultation activities that will be organized by the Steering Committee over the next few months.

In July 2003, the provincial and territorial Premiers asked their respective Mining Ministers to draft a plan of action leading to the establishment of a national diamond strategy. Québec and the Northwest Territories agreed to facilitate the preparation of the provincial and territorial Strategy. Québec's Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks and the Northwest Territories' Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development laid the groundwork for this process. At a meeting held on September 30, 2003 in Halifax, the provincial and territorial ministers agreed on the principles, terms of reference and working schedule for the steering committee set up to draft the plan of action that will eventually lead to a national diamond strategy.

At the meeting held on July 20, 2004 in Iqaluit, the Ministers agreed to the action plan submitted by the steering committee. The members of the Council of the Federation, made up of the provincial and territorial Premiers, also received and approved the plan on July 30, 2004.

The action plan of the National Diamond Strategy can be consulted at:

[www.mrnfp.gouv.qc.ca/ministere/politiques/index.jsp](http://www.mrnfp.gouv.qc.ca/ministere/politiques/index.jsp)

[www.gov.nt.ca/RWED/diamond/index.htm](http://www.gov.nt.ca/RWED/diamond/index.htm)

- 30 -

**Sources:**

André Ménard  
Press Officer  
Cabinet of the Minister of Natural  
Resource, Wildlife and Parks  
(418) 643-7295

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
Legislative Assembly  
Northwest Territories  
(867) 669-2304

Government of the Northwest Territories  
Media Advisory

2004

A(15)-04060211 Jun 02 Yellowknife marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy.

(A)06070414 Jun 07 Technical briefing on diamond interim receiver and possible next steps.

A(15)-07130420 Jul 13 Liquor Licensing Board Review.

A(15)210721 Jul 19 Minister Bell attends Mines Ministers meeting in Iqaluit.

Government of the Northwest Territories  
Media Advisory

2004

A(15)-04060211 Jun 02 Yellowknife marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy.

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A(15)-07130420 Jul 13 Liquor Licensing Board Review.

A(15)210721 Jul 19 Minister Bell attends Mines Ministers meeting in Iqaluit.



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## Media Advisory

A(15)-04060211

# Yellowknife Marks the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 2, 2004)** – Media are invited to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day remembrance ceremony on Sunday, June 6th in Yellowknife.

Veterans, Legion members, Canadian Forces members and Cadets, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, youth groups and members of the public, will march from the Legion down Franklin Avenue to the Cenotaph, where a wreath-laying ceremony will be held at 10:45 a.m. Following this ceremony the parade contingent will march to St. Pat's/Weledeh gymnasium to take part in a ceremony of remembrance which begins at 11:00 a.m.

The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy will be officially recognized nationally on Sunday, June 6, with a ceremony of remembrance held at the National War Memorial in Ottawa at 10 a.m. A significant number of Canadians travelling to France will also mark the anniversary overseas by attending the Canadian ceremonies in the Normandy area.

**For further information, please contact:**

**Mr. Lorne Power**  
Manager  
Royal Canadian Legion, Vincent Massey  
Branch # 164  
(867) 873-5566

**Ms. Julia Mott**  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
Office of the Premier  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
(867) 669-2304



**Canada**



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## Media Advisory

(A)06070414

### **Technical Briefing on Diamond Interim Receiver and Possible Next Steps**

YELLOWKNIFE (07 June, 04): A technical briefing regarding the Interim Receiver attending at Sirius Diamonds and Arslanian Cutting Works will be held for the media on Tuesday June 8th, 2004.

The briefing will be held at 0900 at the Laing Building in Yellowknife when Mr. Lew Voytilla, Secretary of the Financial Management Board and Comptroller General and Mr. Terry Pierce, Director, Budgeting and Evaluation, Financial Management Board Secretariat, will describe details related to the appointment and role of the Interim Receiver at the manufacturing companies and explain possible next steps.

Those wishing to participate in the briefing, in person or by telephone, should call Julia Mott at 867 669-2304, to register their attendance.

As this is a background briefing only, no cameras will be allowed.

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For more information:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator - Cabinet Communications  
867 669-2304





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## Media Advisory

A(15)-07130420

### Liquor Licensing Board Review

YELLOWKNIFE (13 July, 04): Mr. Ted Hughes, Q.C., currently undertaking a review into issues related to the operation of the Northwest Territories Liquor Licensing Board, has informed Premier Joe Handley that his report will not be available until the end of July.

Mr. Hughes has informed the Premier he has not had sufficient time to collect and evaluate information supplied to him by interested parties. His report, requested by the Premier for July 15<sup>th</sup>, is expected to be delivered on or about July 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Premier has committed to making the report available to the public in early August.

For more information

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
(867) 669-2304

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## Media Advisory

A(15)210721

# Minister Bell Attends Mines Ministers Meeting in Iqaluit

YELLOWKNIFE (19 July, 04): Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Minister, Brendan Bell, is in Iqaluit this week to attend the annual meeting of mines ministers. The NWT Minister joins his federal, provincial and territorial counterparts to discuss core issues of energy and mining in collaboration with industry representatives. In addition, Minister Bell will lead a session on the Diamond Strategy.

The two-day meeting concludes Tuesday July 20. Minister Bell will return to Yellowknife the following day.

For more information

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
(867) 669-2304

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A(15)270927

## **RFP Issued for Yellowknife Airport Improvements**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 27, 2004):** The Department of Transportation issued a public Request for Proposals today to carry out a portion of a major improvement project at Yellowknife Airport.

The RFP relates to improvements to the existing passenger terminal building, including an extension to the north end of the building. A second RFP will be issued later for other work planned for the south end of the passenger terminal building.

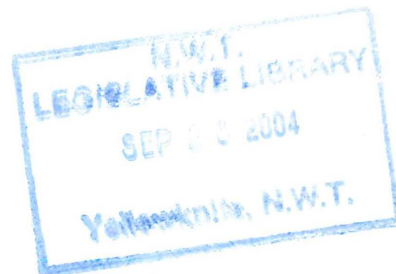
This three-year project will address increased mandatory security requirements and relieve some of the congestion associated with growth in the number of passengers and aircraft movements. Passenger traffic at Yellowknife Airport is increasing by approximately 3.5 per cent per year, higher than the national average in Canada.

The overall project has already begun with improvements to the public parking and site preparation for development of the apron where aircraft park.

Closing date for submitting this proposal is November 9, 2004. Further information on the project will be made available once contracts have been awarded and additional details are known.

For further information, contact:

Bob Kelly  
Manager, Public Affairs and Communications  
Department of Transportation  
Tel: (867) 873-2132



MOI/Devolution Framework Agreement Signed

**R(15)-006** - Thursday, January 23, 2003

Teen Smoking - Major Problem for NWT

**R(15)-005** - Thursday, January 22, 2004

Yellowknife Youth is Prepared for his Financial Future**R(15)-04** - Friday, April 23, 2004Premier Initiates Review**R(15)-03** - Wednesday, April 21, 2004Outstanding NWT Volunteers Honoured**R(15)-025** - Wednesday, April 14, 2004Co-Management Agreement Signed**R(15)-024** - Tuesday, April 06, 2004GNWT and NWT Physicians Reach Agreement**R(15)-023** - Tuesday, April 06, 2004Heritage Centre Project Recognized**R(15)-022** - Tuesday, April 06, 2004Justice Launches New Legislation Web Site**R(15)-021** - Friday, April 02, 2004Aviation Bursaries Available**R(15)-020** - Thursday, April 01, 2004Open House - North Slave Correctional Centre**R(15)-019** - Tuesday, March 30, 2004Minister Presents 2003 Language Leader Awards**R(15)-018** - Monday, March 29, 2004First Nations Policing Agreement Announced**R(15)-017** - Thursday, March 18, 2004NWT Budget Tackles Fiscal Challenges**R(15)-016** - Wednesday, March 17, 2004Inuit-Style Wrestling Manual Unveiled**R(15)-015** - Friday, March 05, 2004Minister of Justice Announces Judicial Appointment**R(15)-014** - Friday, February 27, 2004Report Profiles NWT's Outstanding Volunteers**R(15)-013** - Tuesday, February 24, 2004NWT Roads Busier And Safer**R(15)-012** - Monday, February 24, 2003New Report Profiles Cancer in the NWT**R(15)-011** - Tuesday, February 24, 2004Bob McLeod Appointed Secretary to Cabinet**R(15)-010** - Friday, February 20, 2004MACA Launches ATLAS Web Site**R(15)-009** - Wednesday, February 11, 2004NWT Employers Gain "Invaluable" Tool**R(15)-008** - Monday, February 10, 2003GNWT To Begin Meningitis Vaccination Program**R(15)-007** - Tuesday, January 27, 2004

Response to RCMP Access Program Shows Interest in Policing is High

**R(15)-28** - Wednesday, June 09, 2004

Saying 'Thanks' to NWT Firefighters and Fire Departments

**R(15)-27** - Monday, September 06, 2004

Interim Receiver Appointed to Attend at Diamond Factories

**R(15)-26** - Monday, June 07, 2004

Premier Announces Portfolio Changes

**R(15)-25** - Wednesday, June 02, 2004

Department of Transportation Honours Veterans With Licence Plate Program

**R(15)-24** - Tuesday, June 01, 2004

Northerners Recognized with Ministerial Literacy Award

**R(15)-23** - Monday, May 31, 2004

Bursaries Available for Aboriginal Law Students

**R(15)-22** - Monday, May 31, 2004

Another Step Toward a National Diamond Strategy

**R(15)-21** - Thursday, May 27, 2004

Yellowknife Marks the 60th Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy

**R(15)-20** - Tuesday, May 25, 2004

GNWT Signs De Beers Snap Lake Agreements

**R(15)-19** - Friday, May 21, 2004

Highway improvements in Northwest Territories

**R(15)-16** - Thursday, May 20, 2004

Terms of Reference for Hughes Review Released

**R(15)-15** - Wednesday, May 19, 2004

NWT Receives ASEP Funding from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

**R(15)-13** - Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Joint Study to Assess Climate Change Impacts on Northern Transportation

**R(15)-12** - Wednesday, May 19, 2004

School fire in Inuvik

**R(15)-11** - Monday, May 17, 2004

New Telephone Nursing Service

**R(15)-10** - Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Don Kindt Named Chair of the NWT Liquor Licensing Board

**R(15)-09** - Wednesday, May 05, 2004

Focus on Family – New Funding for Aboriginal Language Nests Announced

**R(15)-08** - Tuesday, May 04, 2004

New campaign to keep NWT kids smoke free

**R(15)-07** - Thursday, May 06, 2004

North Slave Adult Correctional Facility Opens

**R(15)-06** - Monday, May 03, 2004

GNWT Increases Number of RCMP Officers in NWT

**R(15)-05** - Thursday, April 29, 2004

Premier Handley Comments on Throne Speech**R(15)51** - Wednesday, October 06, 2004Touch Rules to Combat Impaired Driving to take Effect December 1, 2004**R(15)50** - Wednesday, October 06, 2004Commissioner for Oaths and Notary Public Program Changes**R(15)49** - Thursday, September 30, 2004Transportation Minister Sees Progress at National Transportation Meetings**R(15)48** - Wednesday, September 29, 2004Three Key Priorities for Ministers of Education**R(15)47** - Tuesday, September 28, 2004Unveiling of the Action Plan for the National Diamond Strategy**R(15)46** - Friday, September 24, 2004Associate Deputy Minister Appointed to Department of the Executive**R(15)44b** - Tuesday, September 07, 2004Dreamcatcher North of 60 Tour Launched in the NWT**R(15)44** - Tuesday, September 07, 2004GNWT Welcomes Joint Review Panel for Mackenzie Gas Project**R(15)41** - Friday, August 20, 2004Tentative Agreement Reached on Con and Rycon Trailer Courts Lands**R(15)40** - Wednesday, August 18, 2004Consultations Begin on the Future of Policing in the NWT**R(15)39** - Wednesday, August 11, 2004Prime Minister to Visit Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk**R(15)38** - Wednesday, August 04, 2004Minister McLeod Opens Community Hall in Wha Ti**R(15)-37** - Wednesday, July 14, 2004Setting the Scene for Diamond Tourism in the NWT**R(15)-36** - Wednesday, July 07, 2004NWT Students Receive \$40,000 in Aviation Bursaries**R(15)-35** - Thursday, July 08, 2004GNWT Pipeline Office to Open in Hay River**R(15)-34** - Friday, June 25, 2004NWT Arts Council Announces Contributions to Artistic Projects 2004-2005**R(15)-33** - Tuesday, June 29, 2004GNWT and Arslanian Cutting Works NWT Ltd. Sign Letter of Intent**R(15)-32** - Wednesday, June 23, 2004Minister Reassures Public There is No Danger from CF-18 Missile**R(15)-31** - Friday, June 18, 2004Premier Requests Response from Federal Leaders on Vision for the North and Resource Revenue S**R(15)-30** - Thursday, June 17, 2004Legislative Assembly passes Tlicho Community Government Act**R(15)-29** - Friday, June 18, 2004

MOI/Devolution Framework Agreement Signed

**R(15)-006** - Thursday, January 23, 2003

Teen Smoking - Major Problem for NWT

**R(15)-005** - Thursday, January 22, 2004

IMA Schedules Signed

**R(15)-004** - Sunday, January 05, 2003



**IMA Schedules Signed****R(15)-004** - Sunday, January 05, 2003[Print](#) [Close](#)

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GNWT, Canada and Northwest Territory Métis Nation Agree

YELLOWKNIFE (January 5) -- The Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN), the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada have signed three schedules to the NWTMN Interim Measures Agreement. Chief Negotiators for the three parties signed the Disposition of Commissioner's Lands, the Forest Management and the Travel and Tourism schedules in early December.

The schedules build on five Schedules now in effect: Land Use Permits, Water Licences, Surface Federal Crown Lands, National Parks and Protected Areas and Territorial Parks. They solidify the government-to-government-to-government relationship that is a cornerstone of the Métis negotiations process.

The NWTMN Interim Measure Agreement and the associated Schedules ensure a formalized consultation process for the NWTMN to review and comment on the applications for the Disposition of Commissioner's Land, Travel and Tourism and Forest Management.

"Having the IMA in place and the Schedules in effect is of crucial significance to the Northwest Territory Métis Nation," says Northwest Territory Métis Nation President Robert Tordiff. "It requires government to consult with the NWTMN regarding any proposed developments while land and resources negotiations proceed - a level of protection that gives us a great deal of comfort that negotiations are proceeding in good faith."

"I am very pleased that we have been able to complete all of the Schedules to the Interim Measures Agreement and look forward to moving ahead with the NWTMN negotiation process," Mr. Handley added.

For more information on this release, contact:

Mark Warren  
Chief Negotiator Aboriginal Affairs  
Tel: (867) 873-7143

George Kurszewski  
Chief Negotiator  
NWTMN Negotiations Secretariat  
Tel: (867) 872-2770

**Teen Smoking - Major Problem for NWT  
R(15)-005** - Thursday, January 22, 2004[Print](#) [Close](#)

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New strategy to be aimed at reaching children before they start smoking

YELLOWKNIFE (January 22) – A Government of the Northwest Territories survey shows that over one-quarter (26%) of youth in the Northwest Territories smoke - well above the national rate of 19%.

The 2002 NWT School Tobacco Survey polled students between the ages of 10 and 17. It showed 17% of children (ages 10 to 14) were smokers, while 42% of teens (ages 15 to 17) were smokers.

"This information is alarming," says Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger, "particularly in our smaller communities, where the numbers are even worse."

Two out of every five youth in the NWT's smaller communities are current smokers.

The survey confirms that more girls smoke than boys, and that more Aboriginal youth smoke than non-Aboriginal youth. There was no significant decrease in smoking youth rates from the previous survey in 1999.

The average age that children begin to smoke is 12 or 13. Once they start, they become addicted and find it very hard to quit.

"To develop a smoke-free generation, we need to reach children before they become addicted to cigarettes," the Minister notes.

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A strategy is being developed to specifically target children aged 8 to 14 - the age when they are most likely to decide to take up smoking or remain a non-smoker. The aim of the strategy is to keep youth smoke-free during their critical early years and allow them to move through their teens and into adulthood as non-smokers.

"It's time to show kids that it's OK to be a non-smoker," Mr. Miltenberger says.

The 2002 NWT School Tobacco Survey is available on the Department of Health and Social Services website ([www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca) - see Reports under the Publications section).

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple  
Media Relations  
Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 873-7066

**MOI/Devolution Framework Agreement Signed  
R(15)-006 - Thursday, January 23, 2003**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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Northwest Territories' governments ready to move forward.

YELLOWKNIFE (January 23) - Leaders of the Aboriginal Summit and the Government of the Northwest Territories have signed a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) on financing Aboriginal governments and capacity building and the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Framework Agreement.

The two documents were signed last night at a meeting in Yellowknife. Premier Joe Handley says the Government of the Northwest Territories is pleased to take these steps with Aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories.

Devolution is the process of transferring powers from the federal government to the Northwest Territories. The Devolution Framework Agreement sets out the process for reaching a final Devolution Agreement and includes topics for negotiations and target dates.

"It was critical that northern governments sign this agreement," Premier Handley said. "It indicates clearly to the new federal government that we are committed to moving forward with negotiations to move control over lands and resources from Ottawa to the Northwest Territories and to ensure NWT residents receive a share of revenues from the development of our resources."

The Memorandum of Intent reconfirms the commitment of the GNWT and Aboriginal governments, reached at previous Intergovernmental Forum meetings, to establish a formal process to deal with the critical issues of financing Aboriginal governments and capacity building.

President of the Northwest Territory Metis Nation Robert Tordiff, speaking for the Aboriginal Summit, says the MOI on financing Aboriginal governments and capacity building is an important step in re-establishing the self-sufficiency of the NWT's communities.

"Together with the framework agreement on Devolution and previous initiatives on economic development, we are now moving forward on each of the four priorities identified by the Intergovernmental Forum," he said.

At the inaugural meeting of the NWT Intergovernmental Forum (IGF) in May 2000, Aboriginal, territorial, and federal government leaders agreed that transferring the control of public lands and resources would promote the self-sufficiency and prosperity of the Northwest Territories.

Formal Devolution negotiations began in September 2002. The Parties aim to reach an Agreement in Principle (AIP) this year. Completion of an AIP will indicate general agreement of all Parties on substantive matters for a Final Devolution Agreement and will contain target dates for completion of the transfer.

The Government of the Northwest Territories and the Aboriginal Summit will transmit both agreements to the Hon. Andy Mitchell, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, for his consideration.

For more information, contact:

The Aboriginal Summit

Tel: (867) 669-7945

Bob McLeod  
Deputy Minister,  
Aboriginal Affairs  
Tel : (867) 973-7143

**GNWT To Begin Meningitis Vaccination Program**  
**R(15)-007 - Tuesday, January 27, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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Higher-risk teen population will be vaccinated first.

YELLOWKNIFE (January 27) – The Government of the Northwest Territories is conducting an NWT-wide vaccination program for all school-aged children against a bacterium that can cause meningitis.

Type C Meningococcal bacteria have infected two children in the NWT since December 2003. The same strain of bacteria also produced meningitis outbreaks in Alberta in 2002.

"This is a bacteria that, in rare instances, can result in serious illness and sometimes death," Chief Medical Health Officer, Dr. Andre Corriveau says. "It is prudent that we introduce this vaccination program at this time so that we can prevent another case."

The NWT was planning to introduce a program within the next two years but the start date has been moved up in light of these recent cases.

"This vaccine stops the spread of the bacteria and gives long-term protection," Mr. Corriveau notes. "Similar vaccination programs are in place in other jurisdictions in Canada, like Alberta and Quebec."

The vaccination campaign will be introduced in a staged approach over the next few months, beginning with the higher-risk teen population. Meningococcal bacteria spread through saliva. Infection can occur through sharing of drinks, cigarettes, food and kissing. For this reason, teenagers (aged 14-19) are at higher risk for the bacteria and will be immunized first, followed by all other school-aged children.

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Following this initial vaccination campaign, all young children will be offered the vaccine through an ongoing immunization program. This preventative vaccination program does not include adults as they are not a higher risk group.

Less than one per cent of people who carry this bacterium get sick. However, should the bacterium get into the blood system of a susceptible person, the infection will progress very rapidly, in a matter of 24-48 hours.

Information about the meningococcal vaccine and the NWT's vaccination campaign is available on the Department of H&SS website [www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca)

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple  
Media Relations  
Department of Health and Social Services  
Tel:(867) 873-7066

**NWT Employers Gain "Invaluable" Tool  
R(15)-008** - Monday, February 10, 2003[Print](#) [Close](#)

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**Agreement will Provide Assessment of International Credentials**

YELLOWKNIFE (February 10) -- An agreement between Education, Culture and Employment and the Government of Alberta will allow Northwest Territories' employers to access Alberta's International Qualification Assessment Service (IQAS) to verify out-of-country credentials for individuals applying for workers in the NWT.

IQAS verifies out-of-country credentials on behalf of employers, professional licensing bodies, and post-secondary institutions across Canada and enables individual applicants to get recognition for education they have received outside of Canada. IQAS assessment certificates show how educational credentials from other countries generally compare to standards in Canada.

In today's increasingly complex work environment, Minister of Education Culture and Employment, Charles Dent says the importance of accurately evaluating international credentials is increasing.

"Having the expertise of IQAS to assist NWT employers in establishing qualifications for applicants schooled outside of Canada is invaluable," he said.

Alberta's International Qualification Assessment Service began offering assessment services to the Northwest Territories in October, 2003. A similar agreement is already in place with Saskatchewan.

"Alberta's International Qualification Assessment Service has long been a valuable resource for newcomers to our province," said Alberta's Minister of Learning, Dr. Lyle Oberg. "We're very pleased to share it with other provinces and territories. We all benefit when we're able to increase the number of skilled new Canadians that are here and ready to join the workforce."

**Additional Background:**

Alberta's International Qualification Assessment Service (IQAS) helps individuals get recognition for education they received outside of Canada. IQAS assessment certificates show how educational credentials from other countries generally compare to standards in Canada. Professional licensing bodies, educational institutions and employers also use IQAS. Clients are charged a fee for their assessments.

IQAS assesses credentials using methodology recognized by the assessment community and national and international educational associations. The criteria used include status of the issuing institution, the level of education, the duration of study the general content of study and the function of the program. IQAS consultants research educational systems from other countries and attend international workshops and conferences to maintain the most accurate and up-to-date information. Assessments are advisory in nature.

**The Evaluation Process**

IQAS completes the following steps when evaluating each credential.

1. Authenticity Review - All documents are reviewed for consistency and evidence of tampering or alteration.

2. Translation Review - IQAS conducts educational assessments using original language documents and their English translations. All translations are spot checked for accuracy.

3. Recognition Status of Institutions - IQAS conducts assessments of education obtained at an accredited or recognized institution in the home country. IQAS does not evaluate education obtained through unaccredited or unrecognized educational institutions.

4. Description of Educational Program - IQAS describes the educational program on the level of education, the length of study, the general content of study and the function of the program. Although IQAS reviews the general content of a program, IQAS does not review the specific content covered in each course.

5. General Statement of Comparability - IQAS issues a statement of comparison that indicates how a program of study from another country generally compares to a program of study in Canada. This means that the credential is considered similar, but not identical to, a credential in Canada.

#### Accessing International Qualification Service in the Northwest Territories

Residents of the Northwest Territories can use a new toll-free phone line to access the International Qualifications Assessment Services. The number is 1-866-692-7057.

For more information:

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

Josepha Vanderstoop  
Learning Communications  
Tel: (780) 427-0965

**MACA Launches ATLAS Web Site**  
**R(15)-009** - Wednesday, February 11, 2004

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Interim Site to provide graphic/written information on lands

YELLOWKNIFE (February 11) - Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) Henry Zoe has announced the launch of a digital mapping/GIS web site known as ATLAS Interim.

ATLAS (Administration of the Territorial Land Acts System) is a land information system that uses Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. It was developed through consultation with Northwest Territories communities, community governments, Aboriginal governments, and other stakeholders and provides accurate graphic and written information on each parcel of land within a community's boundaries.

"ATLAS will provide critical lands information in land claims negotiations and will assist community governments as they take on responsibility for land administration," Mr. Zoe says. "NWT communities will see improved access to land information, more accurate and timely information for improved decision making, and the elimination of barriers to both land administration and GIS."

Until the full system is put in place in about 2006, MACA will provide an interim system so that users can access digital mapping/GIS in the short term and that would provide land information for the communities where the land verification process has been completed.

To date, these communities are: Fort Providence, Fort Resolution, Holman, Paulatuk, Rae Lakes (Gameti), Sachs Harbour, Tukoyaktuk, Wekweti, Wha Ti, and Wrigley.

The web site is also available for public use at: <http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/inits/ATLAS-GIS.htm>.

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For more information on ATLAS, please contact:

Bradley York  
Land Management Information Systems  
Land and Infrastructure Administration Division  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 873-7586

Brad Heath  
Communications and Policy Advisor  
Corporate Affairs  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 920-3092



**New Telephone Nursing Service  
R(15)-10 - Tuesday, May 18, 2004**[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (May 18, 2004) – Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger, today launched a new service that will provide health and family support advice to NWT residents.

Tele-Care NWT is a telephone nursing service that is available to NWT residents 24 hours a day. It is free to use and will complement the services that are already provided through the existing health and social services system.

"The new service will help people to take care of themselves, and to know when they need help from a professional," said Minister Miltenberger. "Tele-Care NWT is easy to use and all conversations are confidential."

Tele-Care NWT's nurses can quickly triage patients with symptoms and can then refer them to professionals within the community or advise them how to treat their symptoms at home. The nurses can also provide general health advice about a wide variety of topics.

Tele-Care NWT is not an emergency line like 911. People who have emergencies should go to the local health centre or emergency room right away.

The nurses speak both English and French, and interpretation is available in over 100 languages from around the world, including most NWT aboriginal languages.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple  
Media Relations  
Department of Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 873-7066

**School fire in Inuvik**  
**R(15)-11** - Monday, May 17, 2004

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Early this morning, a fire broke out at the Samuel Hearne Secondary School. Ministers Dent and Roland were notified immediately.

Regulatory authorities are working together to inspect and assess the damage and interim plans are being developed to ensure students continue to receive instruction. The RCMP, the fire department and Public Works and Services are investigating the cause of the fire and the extent of the damage. The school is closed until further notice.

"While in Inuvik on the weekend, I visited the school and was pleased to hear that, through the concentrated efforts of government and education authority staff, it was going to re-open today. We are now dealing with an unexpected and unfortunate situation and are working to re-establish normal operations as soon as possible." Said Minister Roland.

For further information:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
867 669-2304

**Joint Study to Assess Climate Change Impacts on Northern Transportation****R(15)-12** - Wednesday, May 19, 2004[Print](#) [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE May 19, 2004) — Warmer temperatures are creating both challenges and new opportunities for transportation systems in Canada. The Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories today announced their financial support of a joint study on the effects of climate change on transportation in the Northwest Territories. Other areas across northern Canada will also benefit from the results.

The project, which began in early 2004 and will continue until March 2006, is the result of a partnership among Natural Resources Canada, the Northwest Territories Department of Transportation, Transport Canada and Environment Canada. The Department of Transportation will manage the project.

"The project will answer important questions about whether the current transportation system is capable of withstanding projected climate changes in the North," said the Honourable R. John Efford, Minister of Natural Resources Canada. "This assessment is an important step in ensuring a safe and reliable transportation system in the future."

Researchers will assess the susceptibility of the existing road and runway infrastructure to potential climate changes in the Northwest Territories, and will develop strategies to reduce the impacts. A best practices model will also be developed to ensure other northern communities will benefit from the results.

It is well understood that northern Canada is particularly sensitive to future changes in climate. This is especially true of its transportation system. For example, winter roads, constructed by clearing a route across frozen ground, lakes or rivers, are essential in many areas for transporting supplies and other resources to communities year-round. Milder winters could reduce their durability and reliability, with significant economic and social implications for many northern communities.

"The benefits of this research will be far-reaching for the Northwest Territories as well as for the rest of Canada," said Michael McLeod, Minister of Transportation for the Northwest Territories. "By being proactive, we will be able to identify what can be done to prepare for and adapt to climate changes — thereby reducing the vulnerability of transportation systems."

The Government of Canada's Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program is contributing \$150,000 to this \$424,000 project with matching support from the Northwest Territories Department of Transportation, and in-kind contributions by Transport Canada, Environment Canada and Natural Resources Canada. Government of Canada funding for this project is built into the existing fiscal framework.

The Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories are committed to better understanding the impacts of climate change and developing ways to adapt to these changes. This program supports the Government of Canada's agenda of strong social foundations, a strong economy for the 21st century and ensuring Canada's role in the world.

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**FOR BROADCAST USE:**

For more information, media may contact:

Alexandra Muir Ghyslain Charron  
Director of Communications Media Relations  
Office of the Minister Natural Resources Canada  
Natural Resources Canada Ottawa  
Ottawa (613) 992-4447  
(613) 947-8246

Bob Kelly

Manager, Public Affairs and Communications  
Department of Transportation  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
(867) 873-7712

NRCan's news releases and backgrounders are available at [nrcan.gc.ca/media](http://nrcan.gc.ca/media).

**NWT Receives ASEP Funding from Human Resources and Skills  
Development Canada  
R(15)-13 - Wednesday, May 19, 2004**

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YELLOWKNIFE (19 May, 04): The announcement of \$14.8 million in federal funding for Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership is good news for the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT).

"We welcome our federal partners on board with this significant funding contribution," said Charles Dent, "This is a result of a tremendous amount of commitment and dedication by a number of partners working together to ensure Northerners, especially Aboriginal Northerners, will get the skills training necessary to obtain long-term employment in the mining sector."

This new partnership evolved from work initiated in 1996 when the Mine Training Committee was first formed by Minister Dent. The work of the Committee has lead to this multi-year training strategy which brings together funding from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, aboriginal governments, industry partners and the GNWT.

"I would like to thank all the partners who have worked so hard to make this happen. Particularly, I would like to mention the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew and thank her for her support. Without the continued commitment of all partners this funding would not have been secured," said Minister Dent.

Funds will be used to train adult learners and provide them with skills directly related to, and required by, the mining industry. As well, grassroots programs for school-aged students and basic skills programs will continue to be available. It is estimated as many as 550 will receive employment in mining or mining-related industries as a result of this funding, of which an estimated 350 will be Aboriginal.

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For more information:

Mark Cleveland

Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

Government of Northwest Territories

(867) 920-6240

**Highway improvements in Northwest Territories**  
**R(15)-16** - Thursday, May 20, 2004[Print](#) [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE – May 20, 2004 – The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Minister of State (Children and Youth), and Michael McLeod, Minister of Transportation for the Northwest Territories, today confirmed the signing of a \$40-million joint funding agreement to improve three transportation corridors in the Northwest Territories, allowing the long-awaited completion of Highway 3 to begin.

The funding will assist with the construction of 10 Mackenzie Valley winter road bridges between Wrigley and Norman Wells, upgrading of the Dempster Highway (Highway 8) and upgrading of the Slave Province Transportation Corridor (Highway 3 and Highway 4).

"These projects are high priorities for the territory which is dependent on the global trade of its non-renewable resources of diamonds, natural gas and oil," stated Minister Blondin-Andrew. "This agreement is the first example of the 'new deal' for communities at work in the Northwest Territories. We're pleased to be part of this project that will not only improve the transportation infrastructure but facilitate economic growth and improve the quality of life for all residents of the Northwest Territories."

"People living, working and visiting in the Northwest Territories will benefit from highway and winter road improvements made possible through this joint funding agreement between the governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories," Mr. McLeod said. "Access to remote communities, road safety and winter roads will be improved when these projects throughout the territory are completed."

Imminent growth in oil and gas exploration and development, a Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline, expansion of the diamond mining sector, hydro development and opportunities for the tourism sector will produce numerous jobs, training and business opportunities for Northerners. The improvements to the transportation system throughout the territory will provide the framework needed to support and foster this growth.

Improvements to the Mackenzie Valley winter road bridges will facilitate community access and re-supply, encourage tourism and support exploration activities by resource development companies by extending and stabilizing the operating window for the winter road. On the Wrigley-Norman Wells section of the road, the operating season will be extended from eight to 12 weeks upon completion of the bridges.

The Dempster Highway, the only surface access to Inuvik and the Beaufort Delta from the rest of Canada, is heavily used for tourism and the oil and gas industries. This important link will see significant improvements in safety and access that will lead to increased opportunities for local employment and oil and gas exploration.

The highway projects in the Slave Province Transportation Corridor will increase safety, improve access for the mining industry and enhance tourism opportunities. On Highway 3, the remaining 7.3 kilometres of gravel highway between Yellowknife and Rae will be reconstructed and paved. Improving the road surface and geometrics on 43.6 km of Highway 4, the Ingraham Trail, will make that road safer for the increasing volume of traffic that travels it.

The Government of Canada's contribution of \$20 million, which was originally announced in October 2003, will be made through the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund (CSIF), that amount is matched by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Transport Canada will work with the Government of the Northwest Territories to implement projects under this agreement.

Through the CSIF, the Government of Canada works with provincial, territorial and municipal governments, as well as with the private sector, to meet strategic infrastructure needs throughout the country. The CSIF supports large-scale strategic infrastructure projects that improve quality of life and further sustainable growth. The fund also supports the Government of Canada's 'new deal' for communities that will help make Canada a world leader in developing vibrant, creative and prosperous cities and communities. Since 1994, the Government of Canada has contributed \$12 billion to over 20,000 infrastructure projects in Canada's communities. This has helped leverage over \$30 billion from all partners.

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For more information on Infrastructure Canada and its programs, please visit:  
[www.infrastructure.gc.ca](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca)

For further information contact:

Bob Kelly  
Manager, Public Affairs and Communications  
Department of Transportation  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
(867) 873-7712

Infrastructure Canada  
Communications and Promotion  
(613) 948-1148

**GNWT Signs De Beers Snap Lake Agreements  
R(15)-19 - Friday, May 21, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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Yellowknife (May 21, 2004) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has signed three agreements with De Beers Canada Mining Incorporated (DBCMI).

Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Minister Brendan Bell announced today that the GNWT has signed off on the Environmental Agreement (EA), Socio-Economic Agreement (SEA) and an Agreement to Support the Secondary Diamond Industry in the Northwest Territories (NWT) relating to the Snap Lake Project.

"The successful conclusion of these negotiations reaffirms the GNWT position that sustainable development of our natural resources is essential to the long term economic, cultural and social well being of all NWT residents," said the Minister. "I commend De Beers Canada for making a significant and meaningful contribution to the NWT through training and development, business opportunities and on-going social investment."

"These agreements demonstrate that De Beers Canada and the GNWT are aligned in their commitment to sustainable development. Through the negotiations we have developed good working relationships with the GNWT and the Aboriginal groups involved and we will ensure that these relationships continue to grow to the benefit of all NWT residents," said Richard Molyneux, President and CEO of De Beers Canada.

The De Beers Snap Lake EA was developed with the participation of the Yellowknives Dene Band, Lutsel K'e Dene Band, North Slave Metis Alliance, and Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and the Government of Canada. The agreement calls for the establishment of a monitoring agency, composed of the four affected Aboriginal organizations, to oversee the environmental management of the project. The agency will receive support from a Science and Technical Panel, two Traditional Knowledge working groups, one for water and fisheries issues and one for wildlife and habitat issues, and a secretariat. DBCMI will fund the agency and during the first two years this will be supplemented with financial contributions from the Governments of Canada and NWT. DBCMI will also prepare environmental management plans and monitoring programs to ensure concerns are addressed.

The Socio-economic agreement includes commitments regarding training, particularly in the areas of literacy, apprenticeships, and encouraging women's interest in non-traditional jobs and the establishment of the De Beers Socio-economic Monitoring Agency. Targets for NWT employment and business opportunities, which include a commitment to prioritize aboriginal hiring are identified. In a sub agreement, De Beers Canada has agreed to support the NWT secondary diamond industry in a number of areas, which fully honour the commitments previously made by the company. One of these commitments is to confidentiality of the commercial terms involved.

"I commend all parties involved in the negotiations of these three important agreements," said Minister Bell. "Their dedication and hard work will assist in meeting our vision of independent, prosperous and vibrant Northwest Territories."

Snap Lake is scheduled to reach full production in 2008. The next step is for the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to sign the Environmental Agreement and issue a water licence.

For more information, contact:

Brendan Bell, Minister



Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development  
Tel: (867) 669-2388

Linda Dorrington  
Manager – Public and Corporate Affairs  
De Beers Canada  
Tel: 416-645-1710

**Another Step Toward a National Diamond Strategy**  
**R(15)-21 - Thursday, May 27, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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Yellowknife, May 27, 2004 – Canada took another step in the process of developing a National Diamond Strategy following the National Round Table held in Yellowknife, on May 26 and 27, 2004. More than one hundred representatives from every sector of the diamond industry and from government took part in the meeting, co-chaired by Québec and the Northwest Territories.

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for the provinces and territories to consult representatives of the industry, the federal government, and parties interested in issues of mutual concern. Stakeholders were therefore able to convey their vision concerning regulation, security, taxation and financing, human resources development and training, technology, domestic marketing, and development of diamond export markets.

“By considering these issues globally, we will be in a position to find efficient and effective solutions for all sectors of the diamond industry and, in the long run, for all Canadians,” said the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Brendan Bell, as he welcomed the delegates.

Québec's Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks, Mr. Pierre Corbeil, stated that he was confident that the Strategy's Steering Committee would develop a coherent set of recommendations. “I am convinced that the recommendations will make it possible to boost the supply of diamonds and will help to increase demand, in the context of a growth market with a tailored regulatory framework. That is the way for governments to encourage the development of prosperous businesses that contribute to creating wealth for all Canadians,” he continued.

The Round Table is an important step in the process. Recommendations issuing from the consultations will be integrated into the action plan for the National Diamond Strategy, which will be submitted at the Mine Ministers' Conference, to be held from July 18 to 20, 2004, in Iqaluit.

In July 2003, the premiers of the provinces and territories asked their mine ministers to develop an action plan for a national diamond strategy, to ensure that Canada would be a world leader in the diamond industry and to maximize the benefits for Canadians from all stages of the emerging diamond industry.

Québec's Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks and the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development of the Northwest Territories then laid the groundwork for the process, in September 2003. In fact, they agreed on principles, a draft mandate, and a timetable for the Steering Committee mandated to work on developing the action plan leading to a National Diamond Strategy. The provincial and territorial ministers gave their approval, on September 30, to continued work on the strategy based on that proposal.

Sources: André Ménard Press Attaché Office of the Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks (418) 643-7295 Judy McLinton Communications Planning Specialist Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Northwest Territories (867) 873-7379

**Bursaries Available for Aboriginal Law Students**  
**R(15)-22 - Monday, May 31, 2004**[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (31 May 2004) – The Department of Justice is accepting applications for its law School Career Development Program, Minister of Justice Charles Dent announced today. The program provides financial, mentoring and employment support to indigenous aboriginal students pursuing a career in law.

Depending on the number and financial circumstances of applicants, the Department of Justice awards bursaries of up to \$10,000 to Aboriginal students, indigenous to the Northwest Territories, who have been accepted into the first or subsequent years of a Bachelor of Law program at a recognized Canadian university.

“This program is an important way of supporting the development of a culturally representative legal community in the Northwest Territories,” said Minister Dent.

In addition to the bursary, lawyers from the Department of Justice will mentor students accepted into the program. The Department will also provide summer employment allowing students to gain legal experience in the Northwest Territories as part of their education.

“The Department believes by providing support and employment to indigenous aboriginal students studying law, these students will make a long-term contribution to the North practicing law in either the private or public sector,” added Minister Dent. “In fact, one of the early participants in the program is now Legal Counsel with the Department of Justice, and another participant will be articling at Legal Aid.”

The deadline for applications is Friday, July 16, 2004. For more information on the program or to get an application, contact the Department of Justice Legal Division at (867) 920-8074 or visit the Department’s web site at [www.justice.gov.nt.ca](http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca).

For more information:  
Glen Rutland  
Policy Advisor, Communications  
Justice  
(867) 920-3130

**Northerners Recognized with Ministerial Literacy Award  
R(15)-23 - Monday, May 31, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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Yellowknife (31 May 2004) – The winners of the 2003-2004 Ministerial Literacy Awards were announced today by the Honourable Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. The annual Ministerial Literacy Awards honour individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving their personal level of literacy or an organization that has worked to promote and foster literacy within their community.

This year's recipients are Effie Tessema of Yellowknife, (Learner Award) Minnie Whimp of Fort Resolution (Tutor Award) and the Lutsel K'e Dene School Literacy Committee from Lutsel K'e (Organization Award).

"I am pleased to recognize the commitment and dedication of these individuals and organizations to literacy. Ensuring a literate population is a responsibility shared by all Northerners," said Minister Dent. "The efforts of those honoured today encourage others to work toward building a more literate society in the Northwest Territories."

Effie Tessema has been an outstanding student at the Literacy Outreach Centre who has made great strides in improving her literacy levels through her dedication and passion for learning.

Minnie Whimp has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to literacy. As an Adult Literacy and Basic Education student and Family Literacy Coordinator, Minnie contributed greatly to improving her personal level of literacy and the literacy skills of others in her community. In addition to being a full-time student and volunteering to coordinate family literacy activities, Minnie won the Fort Resolution Adult Writing Contest and contributed to the elder literacy program by gathering elders' stories.

The Lutsel K'e Dene School Literacy Committee is made up of volunteer teachers and support staff who meet at least once a month, to improve literacy in the community. The members are Dawn Thompson, Jenny English, Doris Bruno, Eleanor Young and Geoff Bunckle. The committee is dedicated to encouraging families to become involved in literacy activities in order to improve the literacy levels of all students in Lutsel K'e.

Shirley Barney, Bernice Bonnetrouge, Mary Louise Grossetete, Wanda Grossetete, Bernice Isaiah, Agnes McPherson, Ann Margaret Sanguetz, Josephine Tonka, Sarah Tsetso, office administration students from Fort Simpson, Julian Tomlinson from Inuvik, Mary Ann Vital from Deline, and the Fort Resolution Community Literacy Committee have all received honourable mentions.

Winners will be recognized during a short ceremony at the Legislative Assembly at 3:30 pm on June 1, 2004.

For more information:

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

**Department of Transportation Honours Veterans With Licence Plate Program**  
**R(15)-24 - Tuesday, June 01, 2004**

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YELLOWKNIFE (June 1, 2004) The Department of Transportation announced today it will honour veterans in the Northwest Territories by introducing a Veteran Licence Plate Program.

The program, to be administered through Royal Canadian Legion branches across the territory, will make special vehicle licence plates available to veterans. The NWT Veteran Plate will be the regular NWT plate with the letters "VET", followed by three numbers. The plate's border and lettering will be poppy red.

"The Veteran Licence Plate Program is a small, but sincere tribute to the men and women who have served their country in so many ways, in so many parts of the world," said Transportation Minister Michael McLeod. "It is one way that we can recognize their contributions in a visible and public manner."

The Veteran Licence Plate will be registered to a veteran's vehicle and displayed in place of a regular NWT licence plate. NWT veterans can apply for a plate through a Legion branch. Once approved, a Veteran Licence Plate will be issued in the name of the veteran at one of the Department of Transportation's Driver and Licensing offices.

Under the program, a veteran is defined as any person who has honourably:

- Served in the Armed Forces of Canada, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies, for a minimum of three years (may still be serving); or
- Served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime; or
- Served in a theatre of war with the Armed Forces of Canada, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies; or
- Performed NATO service or peacekeeping missions with the Armed Forces of Canada.

For further information, contact:

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

**Premier Announces Portfolio Changes**  
**R(15)-25 - Wednesday, June 02, 2004**[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (2 June, 04): Ministerial portfolios were shuffled today as Premier Joe Handley welcomed David Krutko as the newest member of the Executive Council.

The Honourable David Krutko becomes Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and Minister Responsible for the Worker's Compensation Board.

The Honourable Michael McLeod assumes responsibility for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

The Honourable Floyd Roland has been appointed as Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board.

All other portfolios assignments remain the same. Ministers assume their new responsibilities effective 5.00 pm today.

For more information:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
867 669-2304

**Interim Receiver Appointed to Attend at Diamond Factories  
R(15)-26 - Monday, June 07, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (07 June, 04): At the request of the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Court has appointed an Interim Receiver to attend at the Arslanian Cutting Works (NWT) Ltd., Sirius Diamonds Ltd. and Sirius Diamonds (NWT) Ltd. factories and operations to preserve and protect security for loan guarantees the Government has provided the Royal Bank in favour of the Arslanian Cutting Works and Sirius Diamonds manufacturing operations.

This action was deemed necessary by the Government due to defaults by Arslanian Cutting Works and Sirius Diamonds of the Guarantee and Indemnity Agreements between the Government and the manufacturing companies. The companies have been served with the default notices and the Government's intention to enforce security. The nature of the defaults cannot be publicly disclosed due to confidentiality covenants and privacy legislation.

The Government has received demands from the Royal Bank to make immediate payment of the guaranteed amounts to the bank. The guaranteed amounts are \$9.2 million for Arslanian Cutting Works and \$8.0 million for Sirius Diamonds. The diamond manufacturing companies have a prescribed period of time in which to reimburse the Government for these amounts.

Appointment of an Interim Receiver is a normal business precaution in these types of circumstances. The Interim Receiver will not interfere with the normal operations of the companies who are free to continue business operations.

For more information:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
867 669-2304

**Saying 'Thanks' to NWT Firefighters and Fire Departments  
R(15)-27 - Monday, September 06, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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Yellowknife (June 09, 2004) - The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, is urging all Northwest Territories (NWT) residents to take an active role in thanking the brave firefighters and fire departments that safeguard northern communities.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) is currently accepting nominations for the 2004 NWT Fire Service Merit Awards. Minister McLeod encourages anyone who knows of a fire department or a firefighter deserving special recognition to submit a nomination to MACA by June 30, 2004.

"Our community firefighters and fire departments play an essential role in protecting the safety of NWT residents and communities – even during the bitter cold of our northern winters," Minister McLeod said. "Firefighters are called upon to respond to extremely hazardous situations and face the possibility of serious personal injury – or death. So, we believe it is important to show these brave men and women that we appreciate their efforts and sacrifices."

Individual awards are presented to regional winners for outstanding achievements. A territorial winner is subsequently selected from the regional winners. The community award is presented in recognition of improvement in community-based fire protection systems.

Nomination forms are available from any MACA office, by calling (867) 873-7944 and on the MACA web site at <http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/safety/meritawards.html>.

For more information, contact:

---

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Government of the Northwest Territories  
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**Response to RCMP Access Program Shows Interest in Policing is High  
R(15)-28 - Wednesday, June 09, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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(Yellowknife) - Applications for the RCMP Access Program (RAP) have closed and the response from candidates across the Northwest Territories has been incredibly positive.

"We've had forty-six applications for the six positions in the program," said Darcy Fleury, RAP Co-ordinator with the Department of Justice. "It appears that there are many Aboriginal people out there with an interest in policing. Our goal now is to select those candidates who will make great police officers and through this program help them successfully apply to the RCMP."

The one-year program is designed to give participants exposure to the world of policing and the chance to upgrade their education and skills in preparation for the entrance exams to the RCMP Training Academy in Regina.

The next step of the program is a selection process to go from 46 applicants to the six candidates who will enter the program. The selection process will be rigorous, but fair. It includes academic, medical, security and physical assessments.

A panel of representatives from the RCMP and Aurora College will make the final selection decisions based on the applicant's academic needs and suitability for policing work. The successful candidates are expected to begin the program in August 2004.

"Due to the number of applications from people wanting to join the RCMP Access Program, an eligibility list will be created from those candidates not chosen for the six positions," added Mr. Fleury. "If someone excels in the program and completes the RCMP entry exams earlier than in the one-year planned, another candidate will fill their space for the remainder of the program."

The RCMP Access Program is a joint initiative of the Department of Justice and the RCMP funded by the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada.

For more information:  
Glen Rutland  
Communications and Policy Advisor  
Justice  
(867) 920-3130

**Legislative Assembly passes Tlicho Community Government Act  
R(15)-29 - Friday, June 18, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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Yellowknife (June 18, 2004) – The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), congratulates the Tlicho people on the passage of the Tlicho Community Government Act recently during the 3rd Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories (NWT).

This groundbreaking legislation is one of the mechanisms through which the Tlicho people are implementing their inherent right of self-government, said Minister McLeod. A new form of government is being created in the four Tlicho Communities – one which brings together Aboriginal and public governments.

“We are taking elements of the Agreement negotiated by the Tlicho to protect their rights and culture, and melding it with the rights all citizens enjoy in our communities,” said Minister McLeod.

“This is an historic step for the Tlicho people who are to be commended for their dedicated work towards finalizing their self-government agreement,” said Minister McLeod. The Minister also acknowledges the role of MACA and the Department of Justice in coordinating the development of the Tlicho Community Government Act.

The Tlicho Community Government Act is the second of three laws required by the Tlicho Final Agreement, which was signed on August 25, 2003 between Canada, the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

The Government of Canada must also approve the Tlicho Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement and pass enabling legislation before the Tlicho can establish Tlicho Community Governments and hold elections.

For more information contact:

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Department of Municipal and Community Affairs  
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Brad Heath  
Communications and Policy Advisor  
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**Premier Requests Response from Federal Leaders on Vision for the North and Resource Revenue Sharing**  
**R(15)-30** - Thursday, June 17, 2004

[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (17 June, 2004): Premier Joe Handley has written to leaders of the federal political parties asking for clarification on their position on devolution and resource revenue sharing.

Mr Handley indicated how leaders respond provides northern voters with critical information when choosing a candidate. He reminded federal party leaders of the NWT's importance to Canada from a geographic and resource development perspective.

Premier Handley stated in his letter, "It is our view that it is incumbent on all parties and leaders to address the priority of northern development as I have outlined. I am asking that you provide the position of your party on the negotiation of an agreement to transfer responsibility for lands and resources to the Northwest Territories and a resource revenue sharing deal that allows for northern governments to be the primary beneficiary of the revenues from northern resource development." The Premier went on to say, "In order for the electorate to make an informed decision on June 28th, they need to know where you stand."

Premier Handley has asked for a response from party leaders by June 23rd. He has committed to making all responses available to the public prior to the election.

For more information:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
(867) 669-2304

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For more information:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
(867) 669-2304

**Minister Reassures Public There is No Danger from CF-18 Missile  
R(15)-31 - Friday, June 18, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (18 June, 04): Following a missile being dislodged from a Canadian Armed Forces CF-18 near the Yellowknife airport this morning, Municipal and Community Affairs Minister Michael McLeod says there is no threat to the public.

The missile was unarmed when it dislodged, no-one was injured and no damage to buildings was incurred.

Minister McLeod is in contact with the Department of National Defence as the situation unfolds. "The DND have control of the incident," said Minister McLeod, "They will be removing the missile in the next 24-hours. Meanwhile an armed guard is posted to ensure public safety. There is no danger to the public."

Military personnel from Cold Lake, Alberta will be arriving on the scene to transport the missile back to Alberta by Hercules aircraft.

For more information

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
(867) 669-2304

**GNWT and Arslanian Cutting Works NWT Ltd. Sign Letter of Intent  
R(15)-32 - Wednesday, June 23, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (23 June, 04): A Letter of Intent was signed by Finance Minister Floyd Roland and Arslanian Cutting Works NWT Ltd. (ACWNWT) today setting out the basic elements of a new deal between ACWNWT and the Government of the Northwest Territories. The main element of the deal sees ACWNWT's current \$9.1 million debt repaid to the bank in full. The GNWT continues to work with ACWNWT to finalize a new financing arrangement strengthening the company and allowing it to continue operations and expand.

This new agreement is a result of investment by new shareholders in the company primarily Arslanian Cutting Works bvba, Basal Diamonds and Olympic Diamond Corporation. Polar Ice Diamonds, a related company, will undertake extensive marketing of ACWNWT product in both Canada and the United States.

"I am very pleased we have been able to agree to the basic terms so the current issues could be resolved, including the repayment of the existing loan. Although there are still details to be worked out, we are confident all parties are committed to making this work", stated Minister Roland.

Ron Basal, spokesperson for the proposed owners, said, " We are extremely enthusiastic and optimistic about the potential of the diamond manufacturing industry in the NWT. We believe in the product, the NWT certificate program and our ability to make this a huge success. We will make the NWT name the standard for quality Canadian diamonds throughout the world."

It is anticipated the existing \$9.1 million bank loan will be repaid by June 25, allowing the interim receiver to be removed and the company to continue operations under the new ownership structure.

For more information:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
867 669-2304

**NWT Arts Council Announces Contributions to Artistic Projects 2004-2005****R(15)-33** - Tuesday, June 29, 2004[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (29 June, 04): The NWT Arts Council has announced their selections for financial contributions to artistic projects for the 2004-2005 funding season.

Each year, the Government of Northwest Territories, Education, Culture and Employment provides \$280,000 through the NWT Arts Council for Northern artists and festivals as they pursue projects designed to support personal and artistic growth.

"Visual arts, the written word, music, film and the new media provide a vital link to our culture and history," said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Charles Dent, "The arts provide us with an expression of social commentary, a source of entertainment and for many, a way of life. We are pleased to be able to provide financial support to artists as they follow their passion."

During a recent session, the Council considered 93 applications for financial assistance including performing arts, film, writing, musical arts, visual arts, workshops for various art forms and special artistic projects.

Funds in the amount of \$280,000 were distributed between the 52 selected projects. This year's Arts Council funding recipients come from across the Territories from Holman to Fort Resolution and represent diverse projects from drumming workshops on the land to exploring pigmentation in plastic resins through sculpture.

The 2004-2005 contributions are distributed as per the attached listing.

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**NWT Arts Council Contributions 2004-2005****PERFORMING**

1. Yellowknife Scottish Country Dance Club Yellowknife  
Host a weekend workshop in Scottish Country Dancing.
2. Deh Cho Drummers Fort Simpson  
Conduct a drumming workshop on the land.
3. NWT Highland Dance Association / Lorna Skinner Yellowknife  
Conduct a medal-testing workshop for Highland Dancers.
4. Crazy Legs Contemporary Dance Company Yellowknife  
Develop, create and produce four original pieces of choreography for public presentation.
5. Sylvie Boisclair Yellowknife  
Create radio program series entitled "Sékou et Sylvie autour du monde" that allows listeners to travel across 52 countries.

6. Inuinaqtun Theatre Group Holman  
Develop and present weekly mini skits, which enhance and promote use of the Inuinaqtun language.

7. Lewis Beck Wrigley  
Delivery of the 3rd Annual Kole Crook Fiddle Camp in the Sahtu and Deh Cho Regions.

8. Fort Resolution Metis Council Fort Resolution  
Provide fiddle and guitar instruction for local youth.

9. Stuck in a Snowbank Theatre Company Yellowknife  
Native Theatre School North 2004: youth theatre training program.

#### FILM

10. Sam Gamble / Chris Gamble Yellowknife  
Production of a feature-length movie "Versus Ivan", written and based in Yellowknife.

11. Western Arctic Moving Pictures Co-op (WAMP) Yellowknife  
Conduct two local workshops on the Art of Editing.

12. Paul Gordon Yellowknife  
Complete a feature-length screenplay, entitled "Windchill".

13. Association Franco-Culturelle de YK (AFCY) Yellowknife  
Perdre Le Nord: complete a documentary /fantasy film about a man lost in the north.

#### SPECIAL

14. Territorial Writers Association Yellowknife  
Writers Conference 2004: "Wired Writing" masterclass workshop.

15. Kirsten Carthew Yellowknife  
To attend writers' residency in film at the Canadian Film Centre.

16. Videolinks Club (St. Patrick High School) Yellowknife  
Conduct the 5th annual St. Patrick High School Film Festival.

17. Laura F.C. Aubrey / Kevin R. Smith Fort Smith  
Creation of "A Northern Child", a multi-media exhibit documenting/cataloging the personal journeys of Northerners becoming parents and raising a child in the Northwest Territories.

#### WRITING



18. Sherry Landry-Braun Yellowknife

Writing a manuscript about growing up in a small community and adjusting to city life.

19. Sandra Dolan /Lia Ruttan Fort Smith

Co-write a children's book in English and Chipewyan with watercolour illustrations.

20. Jason Watt /Michael Mulherin Tuktoyaktuk /Inuvik

Editing a compilation of local authors' fiction, non-fiction, and poetry works celebrating the anniversary of the Dempster Highway.

21. Dave Johnny Fort Smith

Complete a manuscript about everyday life adventures into a novel for publication.

22. Jenn Sharman Yellowknife

Write a manuscript which analyses the state of the world and discusses the efforts of the current generation to create a better world.

#### MUSIC

23. Macolm Camsell Hay River

Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of original songs.

24. Greg O'Neill Yellowknife

Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of original songs.

25. Last Night's Hero Yellowknife

Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of original songs.

26. G! Force Yellowknife

Produce a demo recording of original songs for radio airplay or at performance venues.

27. Jay Gilday Yellowknife

Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of original songs.

28. Jaysen Knight Yellowknife

Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of original songs.

29. Kiera Kolson Yellowknife

Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of original songs.

30. Razzamajazz! Inuvik

Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of original songs.

31. Ceilidh Friends Yellowknife

Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of original songs.

32. Mackenzie Pope Hay River

Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of original songs.

33. Chic Callas Yellowknife

Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of original fiddle tunes.

VISUAL

34. Diane Lynn Mercredi Yellowknife

Create art pieces in mixed media which represent high energy or sacred sites in the Yellowknife area.

35. Jordan Martin Yellowknife

Explore the technique of embedded pigment in plastic resins by completing a series of sculptures.

36. Don MacQuarrie Yellowknife

Explore the technique of bronze casting original sculptures.

37. Floyd Grossetete Fort Simpson

Create stone carvings for exhibition at art festivals.

38. Johnny Farcy Fort Providence

Create oil paintings which represent past and present activities in the Deh Cho region.

39. Ronald McKay Fort Resolution

Create a series of original abstract paintings.

40. Rosalee Prentice Hay River

Create large scale oil paintings depicting faces of female elders in the South Slave region.

41. YK Guild of Arts and Crafts Yellowknife

To host internationally renowned British basketmaker Adrian Charlton as instructor at several workshops in Yellowknife.

42. Eli Nasogaluak Yellowknife

Explore the technique of Bronze casting original works which depict northern animals and Inuit people.

43. Alexander Beaudin Yellowknife

Create photographic compositions of houseboat reflections and present as a slide and print exhibition.

44. Tessa McIntosh Yellowknife

Explore digital technology to create photographs of individuals in personalized northern landscapes.

45. Bob Kussy /Goota Ashoona Yellowknife

Study glass art techniques with an accredited instructor and create northern images in glass.

#### WORKSHOPS

46. Open Sky Festival Fort Simpson

Workshop series including traditional drumming, regional visual arts and fine crafts, theatre and video.

47. Paulatuk Moonlight Drummers & Dancers Paulatuk

Sewing workshop with elders teaching youth how to make traditional drum dance parkas.

48. Folk on the Rocks Yellowknife

Workshop series to provide professional development opportunities for northern performing artists.

49. The Artists of the South Slave Society Fort Smith

Conduct a workshop series focused on traditional and contemporary arts and crafts.

50. Aurora Arts Society Yellowknife

Conduct workshops on "doing art as a spiritual practice" including drawing and watercolour techniques.

51. Lauraine Armstrong Fort Smith

Host a weekend workshop to teach new quilting techniques to interested members of the community.

52. Lucy Simon Jean Marie River

Workshops for community youth on traditional craft techniques including moosehair tufting and porcupine quilting.

**GNWT Pipeline Office to Open in Hay River**  
**R(15)-34 - Friday, June 25, 2004**[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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Yellowknife (June 25, 2004) - The Government of the Northwest Territories will open a Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Office in Hay River.

The decision, based on a recommendation by the Joint Cabinet/Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Pipeline Planning Committee, was made by Brendan Bell, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

"The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline office will provide a comprehensive, coordinated GNWT planning approach to the pipeline project. It ensures all NWT residents benefit from the sustainable development of our natural resources," said the Minister. "As a transportation hub, Hay River will play an important role in the supply route for the construction of the pipeline and associated developments."

The eight-person office will include a director, agreements and pipeline specialists, coordinators for interdepartmental planning and information and communications along with support and clerical staff.

The pipeline office will operate temporarily in Yellowknife until new staff is hired and office space is established in Hay River. It is expected to be fully operational in Hay River by April 1, 2005.

The Legislative Assembly approved funding for the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline office on June 2, 2004.

For more information, contact:

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Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
(867) 669-2304

**NWT Students Receive \$40,000 in Aviation Bursaries  
R(15)-35 - Thursday, July 08, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (July 8, 2004) – Bursaries worth a total of \$40,000 were presented today to eight NWT students who plan a career in the aviation industry.

The students chosen to receive the Aviation Career Development Program bursaries, each \$5,000 in value, were recognized during ceremonies today.

The annual bursary program, established in 2001, is co-sponsored by the Department of Transportation and Canadian North and supported by the Northern Air Transport Association, umbrella organization for northern air carriers. It assists northern students pursuing careers in the aviation industry.

Recipients were chosen from a field of candidates 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, bursaries were awarded to: Jeremy Studney, Mark Simmons, Chad Blewett, Samantha Merritt, Darrow Andrews and Stacy Reid, all of Yellowknife, Jason Cutten of Inuvik and Emsley Nasogaluak of Tuktoyaktuk..

"This bursary program has been an outstanding success and a good example of government working together with the private sector to achieve a common goal," said Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod, who took part in the ceremonies. "There are endless career opportunities for Northerners in the aviation field, so we must help our students get the training they need."

"Canadian North is delighted that we can continue to jointly fund the Aviation Career Development Program with the Government of the Northwest Territories," said Tom Ruth, President of Canadian North. "This innovative program definitely helps young northerners launch their careers in an industry that is so important to the North."

"The Northern Air Transport Association proudly supports the efforts of the Aviation Career Development Program and the opportunities it offers our youth to embark on a promising and rewarding career," said Hugh Kitchen, NATA president. "The aviation industry is instrumental in our economic growth, sustainability and social well-being, with many career options to play a vital role in our preferred futures."

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) or:

Operations and Training Officer, Airports Division  
Department of Transportation, Government of the Northwest Territories  
Box 1320  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9  
Telephone (867) 873-7725

For more information, contact:

Bob Kelly  
Manager, Public Affairs and Communications

Transportation  
Tel: (867) 873-7712

**Setting the Scene for Diamond Tourism in the NWT**  
**R(15)-36 - Wednesday, July 07, 2004**[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (July 7, 2004) – A new report supporting the development of diamond tourism in the Northwest Territories was released today.

“The Perfect Setting – Diamond Tourism in the Northwest Territories” report was prepared for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) and the City of Yellowknife.

“The combination of the Northwest Territories unique travel experiences, and the purity and beauty of Canadian diamonds are a perfect fit,” said RWED Minister Brendan Bell. “Diamonds could give us the extra edge in effectively differentiating our tourism offering on the international stage.”

While the report indicates that the majority of visitors will likely continue to be motivated to travel to the NWT for outdoor adventure and to watch the aurora borealis light up the northern skies, diamonds could sway an undecided visitor to choose the NWT over a destination offering similar experiences.

“Yellowknife intends to capitalize on its position as the Diamond Capital of North America™,” said Yellowknife Mayor Gordon Van Tighem. “The city is prepared to work with our various partners to put this diamond tourism plan into action and to take advantage of the national and international attention being focussed on Canadian diamonds.”

David Grindlay, Executive Director of the Northwest Territories Arctic Tourism, supports partnerships that encourage the development of diamond tourism in the NWT.

“The media focus on the discovery and mining of diamonds in the NWT during the past several years has created a distinct increase in the awareness of the NWT as a producer of diamonds and a further attention to the territory as a tourism destination,” said Grindlay. “We can take advantage of this relationship to generate even greater awareness and draw more tourists.”

The report on the potential of diamond tourism is available on the Internet at [www.gov.nt.ca/RWED](http://www.gov.nt.ca/RWED)

For more information, contact:

Doug Doan  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
RWED  
Tel: 867-873-7115

Gordon Van Tighem  
Mayor  
City of Yellowknife  
Tel: 867-920-5693

**Minister McLeod Opens Community Hall in Wha Ti**  
**R(15)-37** - Wednesday, July 14, 2004[Print](#) [Close](#)

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Yellowknife – The Johnny Nitsiza Cultural Centre was officially opened in Wha Ti on Thursday, July 8, 2004.

The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, was pleased to be able to take part in the opening ceremonies. "The community of Wha Ti is to be commended for working together to make this Cultural Centre a reality. A gathering place is essential for the development of healthy communities and it gives me great pleasure to be a part of this important event."

Following the destruction of the old community hall in February 2002, construction of the Johnny Nitsiza Cultural Centre began in the spring of 2003 and was completed in May 2004. Minister McLeod noted that, through a negotiated contract with the Lac Le Martre Development Corporation, the construction project provided significant benefits to the local economy.

Construction of the Cultural Centre was the result of a collaborative effort between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Community of Wha Ti. Minister McLeod stated, "Although a project of this type cannot be successful without the support of the entire community, I would especially like to congratulate Chief Charlie Jim Nitsiza and his Council, and the Lac Le Martre Development Corporation for their contribution."

Wha Ti will use the Cultural Centre for community meetings, youth activities, traditional drum dances and for other cultural and community events.

For more information please contact:

Jake Heron  
Regional Superintendent, North Slave  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
GNWT  
920-3256



**Prime Minister to Visit Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk**  
**R(15)38** - Wednesday, August 04, 2004[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (August 8, 04): Premier Joe Handley will welcome the Prime Minister to the Northwest Territories next week. Paul Martin will visit Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk during a five-day Northern tour also encompassing Nunavut and Yukon.

Premier Handley said, "I am delighted Prime Minister Martin has chosen to visit us so early in his mandate. He and I have had an excellent working relationship for many years, Mr. Martin is informed on Northern issues and has always demonstrated a great liking for the North. As well introducing him to many Northern residents, I expect to have the opportunity to discuss our government's priorities such as moving forward on aboriginal claims, resource revenue sharing and the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline."

The Prime Minister will be hosting a community luncheon on August 13 in Inuvik before going on to tour Tuktoyaktuk.

For more information:  
Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
867 669-2304

**Consultations Begin on the Future of Policing in the NWT**  
**R(15)39** - Wednesday, August 11, 2004[Print](#) [Close](#)

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Yellowknife (August 11, 04) – The start of policing consultations, to be held by the Department of Justice and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), was announced today by the Minister of Justice, Hon. Charles Dent. The consultations will seek input from residents on the future of policing in the Northwest Territories.

"The consultations are an opportunity for communities and residents to provide direct input into the services they receive," said Mr. Dent. "The end result will be policing services that meet the needs of our communities."

The first consultation meeting, in the North Slave Region, will take place on Tuesday, August 17, 2004 in Yellowknife. During the day, invited community representatives and justice stakeholders will participate in a discussion session.

Some of the questions to be considered during consultations are:

- What are the police and community's roles in community justice?
- What are the police and community's roles in crime prevention?
- What can be done to improve communications between police and communities, families and individuals?
- How do we make communities safer?
- What should police be doing in communities, what are the policing priorities?

Following formal consultations, a Public Safety Open House and free BBQ will give the public an opportunity to share their thoughts on the future of policing in the NWT. Members of the public can also speak directly with the community organizations and government agencies working to make our communities safer. The Open House will take place, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Centre Square Mall and parking lot at Franklin Ave. and 50th Street.

"I encourage residents to come out and visit the open house," added Mr. Dent. "This is an opportunity to find out how groups are working in partnership with the RCMP and the government to make our communities safer."

Similar consultations will take place in other regions across the NWT over the next year.

The community consultations are one of three projects launched in partnership with the RCMP and the First Nations Policing Program of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada to increase the role and voice of aboriginal people in policing. The other projects are the RCMP Access Program and a new recruitment strategy.

-30-

For more information:  
Glen Rutland  
Policy Advisor, Communications  
Department of Justice  
(867) 920-3130

**Tentative Agreement Reached on Con and Rycon Trailer Courts Lands  
R(15)40 - Wednesday, August 18, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (Aug 18, 04)-- A tentative agreement has been reached with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, in conjunction with the City of Yellowknife, on an interim solution to protect the interests of the residents of the Con and Rycon Trailer Courts, Municipal and Community Affairs Minister Michael McLeod, announced today.

The tentative agreement is designed to address concerns the Yellowknives Dene First Nation raised regarding the ongoing land identification process under its Interim Measures Agreement. The tentative agreement includes provisions for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and the City of Yellowknife to agree on the Yellowknives Dene First Nation's selection of Commissioner's Land within the City of Yellowknife by September 2005.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is proposing to enter into thirty-year, fully assignable and transferable leases with the trailer courts residents. The leases will grant tenure and security to the residents over the term of the leases, while respecting the ability of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to select the lands through their ongoing Aboriginal rights negotiation process.

Minister McLeod recognized the contribution of all parties saying, "I would like to acknowledge the participation of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the City of Yellowknife, and the Con/Rycon Trailer Association for their willingness to find a resolution that addresses the interests of all parties in this matter."

Work is underway to finalize the details of the arrangement. This tentative agreement is a significant milestone in resolving the Con and Rycon Trailer Court land issue to the satisfaction of all the parties.

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For more information contact:

Brian Austin  
Director of Lands and Infrastructure Administration  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
(867) 873-7569

**GNWT Welcomes Joint Review Panel for Mackenzie Gas Project  
R(15)41 - Friday, August 20, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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Yellowknife (August 20, 2004): The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is delighted and encouraged by the appointment of a joint panel to review the Mackenzie Gas Project by the federal government, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board and the Inuvialuit Game Council.

"A unified, harmonized, and independent environmental review of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project can now begin as soon as the producers group file their environmental impact statement which we hope will be very soon," said RWED Minister Brendan Bell. "This is a major step forward for a project that will bring enormous benefits to the residents of the Northwest Territories."

On Tuesday, representatives of the federal government, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board and the Inuvialuit Game Council announced the establishment of a seven-member joint panel to review the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project. The three parties also signed an agreement and finalized the Terms of Reference for the review of the proposed project.

Minister Bell said that the GNWT will continue to play an active and positive role in the environmental assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project, ensuring that the principle of environmentally and economically sustainable development is upheld.

"The proposed Mackenzie Gas Project is a cornerstone of our government's plan for the present and future economic development of the Northwest Territories," Minister Bell said. "We remain committed to its development and to our overriding goal — that the development northern resources must benefit northerners."

For more information, contact:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
Tel (867) 669-2304

**Dreamcatcher North of 60 Tour Launched in the NWT  
R(15)44 - Tuesday, September 07, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (7 September, 04) - This weekend the Government of the Northwest will partner with a well-known Canadian singer and actor to bring Northwest Territories caregivers together to discuss suicide in the North.

Tom Jackson, a well-known performer and actor from the CBC series North of 60, will be attending and working along with 75 caregivers from across the Territories at a conference to share information and knowledge and collectively work towards reducing the problem of suicide.

Two GNWT departments, Health and Social Services and Education, Culture and Employment have partnered with a host of other sponsors including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in order to make the series of community visits that comprises the entire Dreamcatcher's Tour a reality.

"We know that suicide, and especially suicide by our youth, is a serious problem here in the North", said Minister of Health, J. Michael Miltenberger. "By bringing together expert community caregivers with a dynamic role model like Tom Jackson we have the ability to work towards reducing the problem of suicide and the added bonus of welcoming a respected and renowned Canadian in our communities."

The start of the tour will happen in Yellowknife on September 10-12 and will involve a conference of Northern caregivers to be opened on Friday, September 10th by the Honourable Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. There will be a public concert featuring Mr. Jackson on Saturday night at St. Patrick's High School. All the proceeds from the concert will remain with wellness programs in St. Patrick's and Sir John Franklin schools.

A commitment has been made by sponsors to ensure that every community that sends a minimum of two caregivers to the conference will receive a personal community visit and concert by Mr. Jackson and the Dreamcatcher's Tour. During the visits, Mr. Jackson will address youth and concerned community members about the important issues related to suicide prevention.

Dreamcatcher's is now on its seventh year. Tom Jackson developed the Dreamcatcher's Tour in response to the 1996 suicide of Mervin Good Eagle, a 19-year-old actor from "North of 60". Each year approximately 4,000 Canadians die by suicide and the most recent statistics available report that suicide is the second leading cause of death in youth ages 15 to 24 years of age. Dreamcatcher's North of 60 is designed to raise awareness of suicide and emphasize that individuals and communities can respond to this serious public health issue. You can visit his website at [www.tomali.com](http://www.tomali.com) for more information on the Dreamcatcher's tours

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For more information:

Health and Social Services  
Media Relations  
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Education, Culture and Employment  
Manager Public Affairs  
Sue Glowach  
920-6222

Tom Jackson, Tomali Productions  
Shelly Wilde  
(403)261-7135

**Associate Deputy Minister Appointed to Department of the Executive  
R(15)44b** - Tuesday, September 07, 2004[Print](#) [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (21 September, 2004) — Gabriela Sparling has been appointed to the position of Associate Deputy Minister of the Department of Executive, Premier Joe Handley announced today. The appointment took place effective August 12, 2004.

The position of Associate Deputy Minister is new to Department of Executive. It has been established to monitor and direct the Department's work in implementing the GNWT's Strategic Plan: Self-reliant People, Communities and Northwest Territories – A Shared Responsibility.

Ms. Sparling will continue to manage territorial, national and international intergovernmental issues, as well as GNWT activities related to the Circle of Northern Leaders. Her appointment will enable the department to manage any structural or administrative changes arising from implementation of the Strategic Plan, improve current operations and build a basis for future operations within a new NWT governance environment.

"Ms. Sparling is a valued member of our senior management team and I welcome her to her new role in the department," said Premier Handley. "I have every confidence she will be instrumental in assisting us implement the new governance partnerships envisioned in our Strategic Plan."

Gabriela Sparling, currently Assistant Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Relations and Strategic Planning in the Department of Executive, has been an employee of the Government of the Northwest Territories since 1990. She has served in various capacities, including Community Transfer Coordinator in the early 1990's, GNWT Chief Negotiator at the Gwich'in/Inuvialuit Self-Government table, and Deputy Secretary to Cabinet.

For more information contact:

Robert McLeod  
Secretary to Cabinet  
(867) 873-7100

**Unveiling of the Action Plan for the National Diamond Strategy**  
**R(15)46** - Friday, September 24, 2004[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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Québec City/Yellowknife, September 24, 2004 – The action plan for the National Diamond Strategy was unveiled today by Sam Hamad, Québec's Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks, and Brendan Bell, the Northwest Territories' Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, on behalf of all provincial and territorial Mines Ministers.

"For the first time, Canada is implementing a National Diamond Strategy and I'm very proud of that. Canada has many advantages that will allow the diamond industry to grow while contributing to economic and regional development over the coming decade," stated Mr. Hamad. "We plan to ensure that all necessary tools are in place to maximize the spin-offs of this emerging industry and ensure that it develops under an appropriate regulatory framework," he continued.

The fifteen recommendations contained in the action plan are framed around three aspects that underlie the development of the diamond markets in Canada: the supply of Canadian-sourced diamonds, the demand for diamonds processed in Canada, and the regulation of the markets. According to the action plan, all three aspects must be taken into account if the diamond industry is to be developed in a sustainable way.

The provincial and territorial Mines Ministers have instructed the Strategy Steering Committee to give priority to the creation of a multi-stakeholder coordinating body in its work over the coming year. This body could then be mandated to develop terms and conditions for implementation of the Strategy, coordinate its implementation and propose further steps. The members of the steering committee will also look at ways to establish a certification process, document tax incentives and create a network of centres of excellence in diamond exploration and extraction.

"We need to coordinate our efforts in ensuring all Canadians benefit from the diamond industry," said Mr. Bell. "Sharing our knowledge and expertise will help Canada become a world leader in the international diamond industry."

The provincial and territorial Mines Ministers have invited key players to take part in the consultation activities that will be organized by the Steering Committee over the next few months.

In July 2003, the provincial and territorial Premiers asked their respective Mining Ministers to draft a plan of action leading to the establishment of a national diamond strategy. Québec and the Northwest Territories agreed to facilitate the preparation of the provincial and territorial Strategy. Québec's Minister of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Parks and the Northwest Territories' Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development laid the groundwork for this process. At a meeting held on September 30, 2003 in Halifax, the provincial and territorial ministers agreed on the principles, terms of reference and working schedule for the steering committee set up to draft the plan of action that will eventually lead to a national diamond strategy.

At the meeting held on July 20, 2004 in Iqaluit, the Ministers agreed to the action plan submitted by the steering committee. The members of the Council of the Federation, made up of the provincial and territorial Premiers, also received and approved the plan on July 30, 2004.

The action plan of the National Diamond Strategy can be consulted at:



[www.mrnfp.gouv.qc.ca/ministere/politiques/index.jsp](http://www.mrnfp.gouv.qc.ca/ministere/politiques/index.jsp)  
[www.gov.nt.ca/RWED/diamond/index.htm](http://www.gov.nt.ca/RWED/diamond/index.htm)

Sources: André Ménard Press Officer Cabinet of the Minister of Natural Resource, Wildlife and Parks  
(418) 643-7295

Julia Mott Coordinator, Cabinet Communications Legislative Assembly Northwest Territories (867)  
669-2304

**Three Key Priorities for Ministers of Education**  
**R(15)47** - Tuesday, September 28, 2004[Print](#) [Close](#)

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Provincial and territorial ministers of education met today to define their national leadership role in education. The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) approved a new mandate: to work collaboratively to build the best education systems in the world where every learner succeeds.

The ministers agreed on three key priorities on which they will do joint work in the coming years: literacy, Aboriginal education, and postsecondary capacity. All three of these priorities are areas in which the ministers will engage the federal government.

In the area of literacy ministers agreed to work together on increasing the literacy levels of all students. Their actions will include a national forum on literacy in the near future.

Ministers also agreed to cooperate on developing a shared approach, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, to engaging the federal government in developing strategies to improve educational success for aboriginal students.

The third priority is increasing postsecondary capacity. Ministers will decide on key issues affecting the postsecondary sector, some of which they will discuss with the federal government, including funding for infrastructure costs, the indirect costs of research, and increased access.

Ministers agreed that they would report back to Canadians yearly on their success in these endeavours through CMEC.

"We believe that all our actions have to be aimed at success for all learners. This goal must guide our policies at all levels of learning," said the Honourable Pierre Reid, Quebec's Education Minister, who chairs CMEC. "My colleagues and I feel that these priorities respond to Canadians' expectations for leadership in education and we will continue to work with all our partners as we have done in the past in addressing these priorities. Learners are the big winners when we work together."

Other initiatives on which provinces and territories will continue to collaborate include special needs, online learning and connectivity, student financial assistance reform, copyright, and promoting healthy schools.

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**Transportation Minister Sees Progress at National Transportation Meetings**  
**R(15)48** - Wednesday, September 29, 2004

[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (September 29, 2004) – Transportation Minister Michael McLeod says national transportation meetings he attended last week produced progress on a number of issues important to the NWT.

Mr. McLeod said today he's pleased with the outcome of meetings in Quebec City with his colleagues from federal, provincial and territorial governments. He said the Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety agreed to address a number of issues that directly affect the NWT.

Among the issues raised was the need for more federal funding to carry out capital improvements at airports. Mr. McLeod said he and his provincial and territorial colleagues passed a resolution that calls on the federal government to increase the amount of money it provides for that purpose through the Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP).

"The ACAP program has been a great help to upgrade facilities at a number of airports in the NWT," the minister said. "The Department of Transportation requires ACAP funding to support its capital program for airports across the NWT."

The ministers also agreed to work together to establish criteria by which the federal government would fund major highway rehabilitation projects.

Mr. McLeod spoke to a number of issues that dealt with northern safety and security. He said growth in the number of polar and high latitude over flights points to the need to ensure there is an appropriate level of infrastructure in place at airports such as Yellowknife, which is designated an alternative airport for any flights that need to make an unscheduled landing there.

The minister welcomed a decision by the council to endorse a national driver's licence security framework that sets out uniform procedures for issuing driver's licences and what the documents themselves should look like across the country."

"This will dramatically change the way driver's licences are issued across the country," Mr. McLeod said. "My department has this matter under review now."

The meetings were the first opportunity for Mr. McLeod to meet his federal counterpart, Transport Minister Jean Lapierre, who was named to the Transport portfolio in July. He said he was impressed and encouraged by Mr. Lapierre's openness and his willingness to listen to concerns about issues that are important to the NWT and to other jurisdictions.

He said he was also pleased to hear the federal minister say he wants to visit the Northwest Territories in the near future to learn firsthand about transportation issues affecting the territory.

"I look forward to hosting Minister Lapierre when he comes to the NWT," Mr. McLeod said.

He said he views the upcoming visit, which has not been scheduled yet, as an opportunity to raise Mr. Lapierre's awareness of the close links between transportation and economic development in the territory. He said he would emphasize to his federal colleague that the NWT needs more financial assistance from the federal government to improve the territory's transportation infrastructure.

"We need a strong, sustainable transportation system in the Northwest Territories in order to continue expansion of the economy in the NWT for the benefit of our residents and for all Canadians," he said. "The current system is straining under the growing weight of resource development."

For more information, contact:

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Department of Transportation  
Tel: (867) 873-7712

**Commissioner for Oaths and Notary Public Program Changes**  
**R(15)49 - Thursday, September 30, 2004**[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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YELLOWKNIFE (Sept 30, 2004): Changes to the administration of the Commissioner for Oaths and Notary Public system was announced today by Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Charles Dent.

"Effective October 1, 2004, people applying as a Commissioner for Oaths or Notary Public will apply through the program administrator at Legal Registries, rather than through the Court Services office, as the Corporate Registries section of Legal Registries is assuming responsibility for the program," explained Minister Dent.

A Commissioner for Oaths can take and receive oaths, affidavits, and affirmations for use in the Northwest Territories while a Notary Public has the power to administer oaths, notarize documents, and certify copies for use outside the NWT as well.

The services of a Commissioner for Oaths or Notary Public are needed in many situations. For example, a document used for court cases and other legal proceedings must be sworn or affirmed in front of a Commissioner for Oaths or a Notary Public to be admitted as evidence.

The Commissioner of the Northwest Territories appoints Commissioners for Oaths and Notaries Public. Those people wishing to become a Commissioner for Oaths or Notary Public must apply to the Government of the Northwest Territories and complete a written examination.

A new section has been created on the Department of Justice website for the Commissioner for Oaths and Notary Public program. The website, located at [www.justice.gov.nt.ca](http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca) includes legislation, a fee schedule, application forms and instructions on how to apply. For more information visit the website or contact Legal Registries at (867) 873-7493.

For more information, contact: Glen Rutland  
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Department of Justice  
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**Touch Rules to Combat Impaired Driving to take Effect December 1, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)**R(15)50** - Wednesday, October 06, 2004

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Tough new measures to combat impaired driving in the Northwest Territories will come into force on December 1, 2004, Transportation Minister Michael McLeod said today.

The Minister made the announcement as he launched a Department of Transportation campaign to make the public aware the rules and consequences for drinking and driving will change dramatically when approved amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act take effect.

"Progress has been made against impaired driving, but we still have a serious issue in this territory that calls for decisive, effective measures," Mr. McLeod said. "Government has an obligation and a commitment to act in order to protect everyone who uses our highways and streets.

He said impaired driving is a crime that refuses to go away despite changes to the Criminal Code, more police checks, heavier penalties and extensive educational programs. In fact, police charge more people for impaired driving than any other crime in Canada, accounting for 12 per cent of all criminal offences, the minister said.

"Impaired driving has killed and injured too many Northerners and caused unnecessary grief and suffering for many others," said Mr. McLeod.

Changes to the law include new administrative authority for the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to impose administrative suspensions requiring drivers to meet certain conditions before they can get their licence back. Another significant change coming into effect is a provision to lower the acceptable limit for blood-alcohol content from .08% to .05%, giving police the authority to impose an automatic 24-hour suspension of driving privileges when a driver's blood alcohol content is measured between .05% and .079%. A 30-day license suspension will be imposed when there's a second offence within two years of the first. New drivers with any alcohol in their blood will automatically have their driver's licence suspended for 30 days.

Police will also be able to seize and impound vehicles involved in impaired driving offences. In addition, anyone convicted of a drinking-and-driving offence after December 1, 2004 will face the prospect of a longer suspension, up to a lifetime driving ban for the worst offenders.

Minister McLeod said getting offenders to address some of the underlying issues that may have contributed to their offence is an important part of the government's holistic approach to the problem.

"One of the unique aspects of our legislation is that before licence reinstatement takes place the Registrar will require a suspended driver to undergo a medical assessment to find out if substance abuse may have led the offender into trouble in the first place," he said. "We recognize impaired driving is an issue affecting the health and wellness of our citizens, not just their safety."

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**Premier Handley Comments on Throne Speech**  
**R(15)51 - Wednesday, October 06, 2004**[Print](#) [Close](#)

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The Throne Speech, delivered this afternoon by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, was more focused than in the past, says Premier Joe Handley. Premier Handley went on to say he was encouraged by the initiative to develop a strategy for the North.

This initiative recognizes the importance of Canada's Northern regions to the federation. The commitment in the Throne Speech to develop this strategy in consultation with Northern stakeholders including governments, aboriginal people and other residents is particularly important.

Premier Handley said, "I first raised this issue with the Prime Minister in January and again at the First Ministers Meeting in September. With the announcement to create a strategy for the North we have the opportunity to lay out our vision of how the Northwest Territories fits into the fabric of Canada. This is a historic nation-building opportunity."

"I am also pleased the federal government has recognized the "challenges and opportunities" of the North because this is exactly what we are experiencing," said Premier Handley. "It provides an important opportunity for northern governments to reinforce the issue of resource revenue sharing and devolution and to look at ways we can work with the federal government to mitigate the impact of development on the social well-being of our people and communities."

The Premier identified other notable issues of interest to the Northwest Territories. These include a confirmation of the recognition at the recent First Ministers' Meeting for additional funding to deal with the unique challenges facing the delivery of healthcare in the North – including the cost of medical transportation; A renewed commitment to an agenda for Aboriginal Canadians, a matter of particular importance in the North. The speech builds on the agreement on Aboriginal health reached last month to look at critical areas such as learning and economic opportunity. The GNWT will continue to work with the Assembly of First Nations and the other national Aboriginal organizations on these issues; a New Deal for Cities and Communities. The GNWT is committed to working with municipal governments to take advantage of available money.

Premier Handley was also pleased to see reference to cleaner, more economical energy. He said, "It's a good sign for the development of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline and our hydro potential.

Premier Handley said he looks forward to seeing how these announcements unfold.

For more information, contact:

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Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
(867) 669-2304

**NWT Fire Service Merit Award Recipients Announced****R(15)52** - Friday, October 08, 2004[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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The recipients of the NWT Fire Service Merit Awards for 2004 were announced today by the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

"As we all know, fighting fires is an extremely dangerous but essential service for the protection of our communities," Minister McLeod said. "That's why every year the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs honours the vital contribution made by our firefighters, fire departments and their communities."

"These awards are made more special by the fact that the nominations come from the community at large and from the firefighters' colleagues," Minister McLeod added.

Duane Debastien of Inuvik and Dustin Smith of Fort Smith are being awarded Regional Fire Service Merit Awards, while Mr. Smith also receives the Territorial Fire Service Merit Award. The Community Fire Service Merit Award for 2004 is being awarded to the Fort Smith Fire Division and the Town of Fort Smith. The department, community and fire service officials are involved in the annual selection process.

For more information about the NWT Fire Service Merit Awards Program and a nomination form for the 2005 awards, please visit the MACA web site at [www.maca.gov.nt.ca](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca). The deadline for 2005 nominations is June 30, 2005.

For more information, contact:

Office of the Fire Marshal  
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 873-7469  
Fax: (867) 873-0260



**GNWT Encouraged by Mackenzie Delta Producers' Filing for Mackenzie Gas Project****R(15)53** - Thursday, October 07, 2004[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is encouraged by the announcement today that the Mackenzie Delta Producers' Group and the Aboriginal Pipeline Group have filed the environmental impact statement and detailed federal applications for the Mackenzie Gas Project. This filing represents major progress toward the construction of the Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline and associated gas field facilities in the Mackenzie Delta of the Northwest Territories.

The Honourable Brendan Bell, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development said today, "The GNWT supports the development of the Mackenzie Gas Project. The challenges and opportunities presented by the Mackenzie Gas Project are unprecedented and we have complete confidence that the regulatory process provides the assurance required to uphold Northwest Territories' interests."

Premier Handley added, "We congratulate the Mackenzie Delta Producers Group and the Aboriginal Pipeline Group for taking the next step in moving this project forward. The GNWT remains committed to the fundamental principles that resource development projects in the NWT must be environmentally and economically sustainable and that the benefits of northern development must accrue to northern residents".

Minister Bell also reaffirmed the government's support for a continental approach to North American energy issues. "The Northwest Territories is ready to be part of the continental energy solution," Minister Bell said. "Managing energy for a brighter future will require a united and co-operative effort."

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**Two Ways to Keep Kids Smoke Free**  
**R(15)54** - Tuesday, October 12, 2004[Print](#) [Close](#)

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In a joint effort aimed at reducing the number of youth who take up smoking in the NWT, two complementary initiatives were launched today at the Kaw Tay Whee School. The departments of Health and Social Services and Education, Culture and Employment invited residents to a community celebration and luncheon to mark the occasion.

"Don't Be a Butthead – Be Smoke Free", the anti-smoking campaign launched in May 2004, which boasts 676 participants to date, now moves into schools in the form of "The Challenge to Be Smoke Free". Individual classrooms and entire schools are encouraged to challenge each other to make the commitment to be smoke free. Kaw Tay Whee is the first school in the NWT to participate, by challenging K'álemì Dene School in N'dilo. The challenge will run for the next four months, with draw dates set for January and May.

This initiative is strengthened by new tobacco teaching materials for the NWT health curriculum. The tobacco curriculum materials provide lessons for teachers to educate youth in grades 3 through 9 about the effects of smoking, costs and industry tactics. While the "Butthead" campaign will be in the schools until June 2005, the curriculum materials will be a resource available year after year to help young people learn about the effects of tobacco.

"These two resources work really well together," says Chief Medical Health Officer, Dr. André Corriveau. "We believe we're reaching a point where our young people are becoming more aware of the dangers of smoking and are choosing to stay smoke free. These initiatives, combined with the support of the community leadership and parents, as we demonstrated today in Dettah, will lead us toward markedly lower smoking rates among young northerners."

Principal of Kaw Tay Whee School in Dettah, Don Finley agreed. "By combining the tobacco curriculum materials, aimed at grades 3 to 9, with the humour of the Butthead campaign, we are hoping to educate children about the harmful effects of smoking in a fun and interactive way, allowing them to make an informed decision to remain smoke free. These tobacco curriculum materials will give teachers the tools to help our students make an educated choice," said Principal Finley.

The school's challenge and new tobacco curriculum material are also supported by Yellowknives Dene First Nation. Chief Peter Liske says, "The Yellowknives Dene First Nation sees this campaign and this challenge as something sensible, something worthwhile supporting, and something that all NWT communities should see as being valuable."

Through this joint effort, the departments of Health and Social Services and Education, Culture and Employment are anticipating a positive change in youth's perception of smoking. Says Dr. André Corriveau, "We're hoping to help students identify themselves as committed to remaining non-smokers for life. After all, the easiest way to quit smoking is never to start."

For more information contact:

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Health and Social Services Education, Culture and Employment  
920-8927 920-6222

**GNWT Releases a Framework for Action to Help Eliminate Family Violence**[Print](#) [Close](#)**R(15)55** - Friday, October 15, 2004

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The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Response to the NWT Action Plan on Family Violence, published by the Coalition Against Family Violence, was released today by Charles Dent. The response, A Framework for Action, identifies 72 actions involving collaboration and partnership by GNWT departments and coalition agencies.

"Family violence is brutally destructive to the health and well-being of children and families. It is unacceptable in our society," said Minister Dent. "Working to eliminate family violence requires a consistent and unified effort on all our parts; as individuals, in communities and between governments and agencies. A Framework for Action details initiatives this government is undertaking to address areas that need improvement. We aim to do this through strong partnerships with communities and agencies."

The Government is already taking action, including preparing to implement the Protection Against Family Violence Act in April 2005; increasing the number of government positions focused on family violence across the GNWT – these standardized definitions will allow partners to collect more accurate data.

"I want to thank the Coalition Against Family Violence for their vital work towards eliminating family violence in the NWT communities," said Minister Dent. "The Coalition's research and action plan, working in tandem with our own Framework in Action, provides an opportunity to focus our efforts through practical actions that, we are very hopeful, will result in positive change."

The Coalition Against Family Violence is an organization made up of government and non-government organizations. Members of the Coalition includes the Status of Women Council of the NWT; NWT Seniors Society; Native Women's Association of the NWT; NWT Legal Services; Salvation Army; Yellowknife YWCA; Yellowknife Victims Services; RCMP; Yellowknife Education District No. 1; Yellowknives Dene First Nation; Women and Children's Health and Recovery Program; Centre for Northern Families; Yellowknife Housing Authority; Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority; GNWT Health and Social Services; GNWT Justice; GNWT Education, Culture and Employment; and Justice Canada.

A Framework for Action is available from the Department of the Executive or online at the GNWT website <http://www.gov.nt.ca/research/publications/index.html>.

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**Implementation begins for the NWT Council of Sport and Recreation****Partners****R(15)56** - Monday, October 18, 2004[Print](#)[Close](#)

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Plans for the implementation of the Northwest Territories Council of Sport and Recreation Partners were announced today by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Honourable Michael McLeod. A document tabled in the Legislative Assembly outlines the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) plan for the new governance structure for the sport and recreation system.

"The announcement of this plan is the result of more than three years of ongoing collaboration between our major partner organizations and my department to develop a new system for delivery of sport and recreation programs," said Minister McLeod. "I am extremely pleased to be moving forward with an approach that will result in better coordination of programs and services. This will lead to more opportunities for NWT residents to make healthy choices."

Minister McLeod will be inviting the Aboriginal Sport Circle of the Western Arctic, the Beaufort Delta Sahtu Recreation Association, the Mackenzie Recreation Association, the NWT Recreation and Parks Association and the Sport North Federation to name one representative each to sit on an Implementation Steering Committee. This Committee will be responsible for establishing the new Council.

The Implementation Plan outlines Minister McLeod's intention to formally appoint the first Members of the NWT Council of Sport and Recreation Partners by February 2005. The new Council will have their founding meeting by early April 2005.

The objectives of the new Council are:

- To create a forum for all communities and sport and recreation leaders to have a voice in sport and recreation planning and decision-making;
- To streamline decision-making, and improve coordination in program delivery;
- To provide opportunities for all Northwest Territories residents to access sport, recreation and physical activity programs by improving integration and more effective use of resources; and
- To establish a mechanism to allocate available resources equitably to address program and community needs.

For more information, contact:

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Sport, Recreation and Youth Division  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Phone: (867) 873-7245

**2007 Canada Games Pan-Northern Ambassador Appointed**  
**R(15)57** - Tuesday, October 19, 2004[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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WHITEHORSE – Territorial Premiers and the 2007 Canada Winter Games Host Society have appointed Jim Antoine as the Pan-Northern Ambassador for the 2007 Canada Winter Games.

The 2007 Canada Winter Games will take place from February 24 to March 10 in Whitehorse, Yukon. All three Northern territories are partnering to deliver a pan-Northern approach to hosting the event.

"This is a great opportunity to demonstrate the emergence of the North as a place of increasing importance and relevance to Canadians as an economic engine, a place of opportunity and an important part of the Canadian identity," Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie said.

"The Canada Games will allow all three territories to join hands in showcasing our culture, our people, our communities, and our economic opportunities. The marketing potential of this partnership is beyond anything that we have experienced to date," Host Society president Piers McDonald added.

Antoine will chair the inter-governmental/host society committee responsible for coordinating the pan-Northern games partnership. He will facilitate an agreement between the three territories defining the pan-Northern approach, including joint marketing and promotion activities.

Northwest Territories Premier Joe Handley praised the appointment saying, "Jim is a very well-known and highly respected member of the NWT community. I am pleased my colleagues have chosen to appoint him to this important role. I know he will be a dedicated and committed ambassador for the Games. I look forward to working with him."

"Nunavut is also looking forward to working with Jim Antoine and the other territories on developing the Pan Northern Approach to the Canada Winter Games," Louis Tapardjuk, Minister of Culture, Language Elders and Youth added. "This is just one more example of cooperation amongst the three territories in showcasing our unique Northern spirit."

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The 2007 Canada Winter Games will be the first time the games have come North of 60, and also the last Canada Winter Games before 2010 Olympics in Vancouver/Whistler.

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