

Northwest Territories Government Press Releases 2005

R(15)-28010588	Jan 28	Emergency management meetings in Ottawa.
R(15)-10020594	Feb 10	Northwest Territories budget shows fiscal house is in order.
R(15)-010305101	Mar 01	Get active NWT community challenge launched.
R(15)-250205102	Mar 01	Northwest FASD partnership announces inaugural meeting.
R(15)-250205103	Mar 04	Flags to be flown at half mast.
R(15)-090305104	Mar 09	Government of Canada and Government of the Northwest Territories announce intent to co-locate in joint emergency operations centre.
R(15)-150305106	Mar 15	New owner for Sirius Diamonds.
R(15)-220305112	Mar 22	NWT youth to meet the Premier and Minister for Youth on the Northern Strategy.
R(15)-290205113	Mar 29	Premier offers condolences to families of fallen firefighters.
R(15)-290205114	Mar 29	Eye on today – NWT Governance Conference 2005.
R(15)-310305115	Mar 31	New choices for victims of family violence.
R(15)-010405116	Apr 01	Get active NWT community challenge starts today.
R(15)-010405117	Apr 01	Directors appointed NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation Board.
R(15)-040405118	Apr 04	Deputy Ministers appointed for new GNWT departments.
R(15)-040405119	Apr 05	The Northwest Territories steps up campaign for fair deal from federal government.
R(15)-120405120	Apr 12	Bursaries available for Northern students to pursue aviation careers.
R(15)1204051221	Apr 12	2005 Northern Premier's Forum.
R(15)140405122	Apr 14	Update on Fort Simpson study.
R(15)150405123	Apr 15	New Judge appointed to Territorial Court.
R(15)190405125	Apr 19	2005 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards recipients announced.
R(15)260405126	Apr 26	Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs to receive award from Ontario global trader awards.
R(15)290405128	Apr 29	Northwest Territories residents are serious about "getting active".
R(15)211005186	Oct. 21	Small fire at the Samuel Hearne Secondary School.

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R(15)020505129	May 02	Premier leads talks on Northern Strategy and labour market shortages at the 2005 Western Premiers' Conference.
R(15)060505130	May 06	Educators gather to discuss methods for dealing with student behaviours.
R(15)180505133	May18	GNWT pumps up support for communities working on Mackenzie gas project.
R(15)180505134	May18	Funding support available for community governments to prepare for the pipeline.
R(15)180505135	May 18	Social impact workshops announced.
R(15)190505136	May 19	The Government of the Northwest Territories reaches agreement with teachers.
R(15)250505137	May 25	Fort Smith student receives scholarship to Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific.
R(15)300505138	May 30	New rules for new drivers.
R(15)310505139	May 31	Students celebrate world no tobacco day at the Legislative Assembly.
R(15)010605140	June 01	Saying 'Thanks' to NWT firefighters and fire departments.
R(15)030605141	June 03	NWT hospital satisfaction summary completed.
R(15)030605142	June 03	Community government staff complete programs with the School of Community Government.
R(15)060605143	June 06	Celebrating the Northwest Territories mining industry.
R(15)060605144	June 06	Agricultural policy framework programs now available to producers in the Northwest Territories.
R(15)090605145	June 09	Geographic Information System portion of ATLAS complete.
R(15)100605146	June10	Continued commitment to partnership and change spell accomplishment for Albert and the Northwest Territories.
R(15)140605147	June 14	NWT students recognized with aviation bursaries.
R(15)140605148	June 15	NWT Council of Sport and Recreation Partners announce members.
R(15)150605149	June 15	Premier's Award for Excellence recipients announced.
R(15)200605150	June 20	School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP) results released.
R(15)220605151	June22	NWT flags at half-mast to honour Air India anniversary.

Northwest Territories Government Press Releases 2005

R(15)290605153	June 29	Ingraham Trail will be monitored.
R(15)070705154	July 07	Northwest Territories Summer Games begin.
R(15)070705155	July 07	Engaging workshop planned for Aboriginal language instructors.
R(15)130705156	July 13	NWT Liquor Act review seeks public input.
R(15)200705158	July 20	Sponsors support Northwest Territories participation at Expo.
R(15)200705159	July 20	Artists to represent Northwest Territories at Expo.
R(15)260705160	July 26	Funding announced for new community recreation trails in the Northwest Territories.
R(15)290705161	July 29	Expo Premier's reception a resounding success.
R(15)040805162	Aug 04	CEO appointed for NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation.
R(15)080805163	Aug 08	\$40 Million to benefit all Northwest Territories Communities.
R(15)080805164	Aug 08	Northwest Territories Arts Council announces contributions to artistic projects 2005-06.
R(15)090805165	Aug 08	Get active community challenge winning communities announced.
R(15)100805166	Aug 10	Ministers agree improvement to sport and recreation infrastructure necessary.
<i>R(15)150805167</i>	<i>Aug 15</i>	<i>Changes to availability of overproof and high alcohol liquors</i>
R(15)230805169	Aug 23	Department of Transportation warns of increased risk of bison collisions.
<i>R(15)240805170</i>		
R(15)240805170	Aug 24	New nurse practitioner guidelines approved for Northwest Territories.
R(15)260805171	Aug 26	Department of Transportation wins international award.
R(15)120905174	Sept 12	Review of Commissioner's Land applications within Yellowknife completed.
R(15)130905175	Sept 13	Barren-ground caribou survey results released.
R(15)290905179	Sept 29	Agreement expands national highway system in NWT.
R(15)300905180	Sept 30	Policy forum announced to discuss violence against Aboriginal women.
R(15)300905181	Sept 30	Ministerial literacy awards announced for 2005.
R(15)061005182	Oct 06	New website and database to promote and support the NWT arts community.

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R(15)111005183	Oct 11	National Fire Prevention Week.
R(15)141005184	Oct 14	NWT Fire Service Merit Awards recipient announced.
R(15)181005185	Oct 18	New public library locations announced.
R(15)011105189	Nov 01	Ten-year plan for Yellowknife educational facilities released.
R(15)011105190	Nov 01	Beverage Container Program offers cash for your trash.
R(15)021105190	Nov 02	Community capacity building fund immediately available.
R(15)041105192	Nov 04	GNWT Public Works and Services hosts project management conference.
R(15)081105193	Nov 08	Governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories to fund intelligent transportation systems.
R(15)101105194	Nov 10	ECE strategic plan to 'Build on Success' of past work.
R(15)101105196	Nov 10	GNWT applauds US House of Representatives decision on ANWR (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge).
R(15)151105197	Nov 15	INAC and GNWT announce \$2 million investment in Geoscience in the Northwest Territories.
R(15)181105199	Nov 17	NWT passenger, air traffic grows sharply in 2004.
R(15)211105200	Nov 21	Trappers recognized.
<i>R(15)211105201</i>	<i>Nov 21</i>	<i>new Deputy Minister Appointed to Aboriginal & Intergovernmental Relations</i>
R(15)231105202	Nov 23	GNWT supports the Mackenzie Gas project.
R(15)291105203	Nov 29	GNWT releases new proposal for transportation infrastructure funding.
R(15)071205205	Dec 07	Safer heating : the Office of the Fire Marshal and the City of Yellowknife advise caution when using space heaters.
R(15)071205206	Dec 07	Fire Marshal's order regarding the closure of the Pinecrest Hotel in Fort Smith.
R(15)071205207	Dec 07	NWT traffic accidents, injuries drop in 2004.
R(15)081205208	Dec 08	Pet owners warned of traps set at Yellowknife Airport.
R(15)121209209	Dec 12	Minister clarifies statement in Washington Post.
R(15)131209210	Dec 13	Hunters asked to participate in the Bathurst Caribou Herd monitoring program.
R(15)131205212	Dec 13	Department of Transportation assumes operation of Fort Providence Ferry.
R(15)211205214	Dec 21	Northern Premiers seek Federal leaders' views on key issues.

R(15)28010588

Emergency Management Meetings in Ottawa

YELLOWKNIFE (January 28, 2005) – A number of new measures designed to improve Canada's emergency preparedness were developed at a meeting of federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for emergency management earlier this week in Ottawa, according to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Honourable Michael McLeod. The meeting was co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Honourable Anne McLellan, and Ontario Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Honourable Monte Kwinter.

"Cooperation among all levels of government is critical if we are to be prepared for emergency situations," said Minister McLeod. "This was the first gathering of federal, provincial and territorial ministers to discuss emergency management in more than 10 years," he added.

The challenges of ice storms, blackouts, floods, forest fires and medical emergencies such as SARS have demonstrated the need for quick and appropriate response mechanisms at the local, provincial and federal level.

Ministers agreed to an eight-point work plan that will address issues such as working together on emergency response frameworks, updating the federal government's disaster assistance policy, developing a national public alerting strategy, and coordinating federal, provincial and territorial efforts in the areas of training and emergency response exercises.

Ministers agreed to establish a forum that will meet yearly to advance these and other shared objectives.

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R(15)10020594

Northwest Territories Budget Shows Fiscal House is in Order

YELLOWKNIFE (February 10, 2005) – The new Fiscal Responsibility Policy was unveiled by Finance Minister Floyd Roland today when he presented the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) 2005-06 Budget to the 15th Legislative Assembly.

The Fiscal Responsibility Policy was presented as a cornerstone of the Budget and the government's fiscal strategy. The policy sets out the guidelines for how much the government may borrow, what it should borrow for, and how it will be held accountable for its borrowing decisions. Under the policy, the government will have to exercise fiscal discipline in order to generate cash operating surpluses to fund at least 50 per cent of annual capital infrastructure investment.

As part of the fiscal strategy, Moody's Investors Service, a respected international rating agency, was asked to undertake an independent credit rating for the government. On February 9, 2005, Moody's released an Aa3 credit rating for the GNWT. "This excellent rating is a testament to the sound fiscal management of this government," Minister Roland stated.

Today's Budget Address reveals the GNWT's fiscal position has improved significantly since last year. Expenditure restraint measures and increased transfers from the federal government have turned a projected \$46 million operating deficit for the current fiscal year into an expected \$44 million operating surplus.

"The good news in our fiscal situation means we have more flexibility to respond to the serious and pressing challenges we face in government programs, services and investments," said Minister Roland. "However, to ensure our fiscal situation remains sustainable, we have to exercise discipline in our expenditures."

To maintain this positive fiscal situation, the GNWT has kept operational spending growth in its 2005-06 Budget to under one per cent. An operating surplus of \$49 million is projected for 2005-06. The surplus permits the GNWT to budget \$116 million in infrastructure investments in 2005-06 to help meet the large and growing need for public infrastructure in the Northwest Territories.

The Budget Address can be found on the GNWT website at www.gov.nt.ca/currentnews, the Main Estimates can be found at www.gov.nt.ca then refer to the Financial Management Board Secretariat under the Departments link.

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Backgrounder

R(15) 10020594 NWT Budget
YELLOWKNIFE (February 10)

The second Budget of the Fifteenth Assembly focuses on sound long-term fiscal planning. Increased revenues have significantly improved the GNWT's fiscal position. However, revenues beyond 2005-06 are uncertain and the GNWT must exercise fiscal prudence. The new Fiscal Responsibility Policy introduced in this Budget sets the guidelines for GNWT fiscal planning.

Economic and Fiscal Review

- ◆ NWT economic growth has been unprecedented over the last five years and is expected to remain strong, driven largely by diamond mining. Real GDP grew over 62 per cent from 1999 to 2003 and another 10.6 per cent growth is expected in 2004.
- ◆ Final results for 2003-04 show an operating deficit of \$65 million, \$13 million lower than estimated last March.
- ◆ Increased federal funding under the Formula Financing Grant and health care, together with expenditure restraint, have turned the forecast \$46 million deficit for 2004-05 into an expected \$44 million operating surplus.
- ◆ The 2005-06 Budget forecasts an operating surplus of \$49 million. 2005-06 operating expenditures are budgeted to grow by less than one per cent from 2004-05. Capital investment in 2005-06 will be \$106 million.
- ◆ Over the medium-term, Government debt is not expected to exceed the \$300 million borrowing limit imposed by the federal government. However, uncertainty over fiscal arrangements with the federal government beyond 2005-06 and a \$290 million Corporate Income Tax repayment to be made in 2006-07 mean that the Government must continue to exercise fiscal prudence.

Fiscal Strategy

- ◆ The cornerstone of the GNWT's fiscal strategy is the new Fiscal Responsibility Policy, which establishes the guidelines for how much the Government may borrow, what it should borrow for, and how it will be held accountable for its borrowing decisions.
- ◆ The Fiscal Responsibility Policy requires that at least 50 per cent of annual capital infrastructure investment must be financed by the cash generated from operating surpluses. Therefore, the Policy requires that the GNWT exercise fiscal prudence in order to achieve these operating surpluses.
- ◆ As part of the fiscal strategy, Moody's Investors Service, a respected international rating agency, was asked to undertake an independent credit rating for the GNWT. On February 9, 2005, Moody's released a high grade Aa3 credit rating for the GNWT. This rating represents

an independent assessment of the strength of the NWT economy and the GNWT's fiscal position.

Expenditure Measures

- ◆ Total budgeted expenditures will grow to \$974 million in 2005-06; including \$20 million to meet increased costs and demands of existing programs and services and \$16 million in new initiatives. However, expenditure increases are largely offset by \$26 million in expenditure reductions. Uncertainty in some expenditure areas such as health and public sector wages have required the establishment of a larger than usual supplementary appropriation reserve.
- ◆ New expenditure measures focus on priorities identified in the goals of the 15th Legislative Assembly's *Strategic Plan*.

Strong Northern Voice and Identity

- ◆ \$355,000 for support of initiatives such as the Northern Strategy.
- ◆ \$1.8 million for continuation of devolution and resource revenue sharing negotiations, including a \$500,000 contribution to the Aboriginal Summit for their continued participation.

Healthy, Educated People Living in Safe Communities

- ◆ Over \$695 million of the GNWT's operating expenditures are targeted to support social and community programs.
- ◆ \$12 million in additional funds for existing and enhanced health programs and services, including \$895,000 in new funding for eight Community Demonstration projects as part of the Government's Response to the Social Agenda.
- ◆ \$3 million in this Budget for new initiatives in the NWT education system including:
 - ◆ \$742,000 for Alberta Learning Services to use, score and report on results of Grade 12 and Alberta achievement tests taken by our students;
 - ◆ \$727,000 to support continued development and implementation of early childhood Aboriginal languages immersion programs; and
 - ◆ \$622,000 to implement the final year of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Aurora College.
- ◆ Four year Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) projects in support of oil and gas and mining will train over 800 Northerners for jobs in these sectors.
- ◆ \$1.4 million for ten new RCMP positions, including six positions assigned to the Rae, Tuktoyaktuk, Fort Providence and Yellowknife detachments, a three-person traffic unit with two officers in Hay River and one officer in Yellowknife, and a new dog and handler unit located in Yellowknife but serving the entire territory.
- ◆ \$400,000 for the on-going operations of the new family law clinic.
- ◆ Over \$200,000 has been allocated for the continued public education and training on the *Protection Against Family Violence Act*.

Well-Governed, Sustainable Communities

- ◆ The GNWT has introduced a New Deal for Communities designed to provide all NWT communities with the tools and resources they need to operate effectively. In the 2007-08 fiscal year, most community governments will become municipal taxation authorities.
- ◆ Implementation of an interim grant program for 2005-06 to flow property tax revenue to most General Taxation Area communities that do not currently raise their own property tax revenues. This program will continue until community governments are granted full taxation authority on January 1, 2008.
- ◆ As part of the New Deal, the GNWT has established the Community Public Infrastructure plan to provide a funding base for infrastructure development in NWT communities. The Infrastructure Acquisition Plan will include an additional \$13 million in 2006-07, \$15 million in 2007-08 and \$17 million in 2008-09 for General Taxation Area communities. To help these communities with the planning for this work, \$1 million is provided in 2005-06. The Plan also includes an additional \$3 million annually starting in 2006-07 for tax-based communities.

Diversified Economy

- ◆ \$500,000 for a partnership program with the private sector to promote Northwest Territories tourism at Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan.
- ◆ \$32 million in reconstruction projects on our highway system, including the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road, are scheduled for 2005-06 using the 50/50 federal cost-sharing contributions of the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund.
- ◆ Additional funding to prepare for the Mackenzie Gas Project includes:
 - ◆ \$200,000 for additional resources required to review prospecting permits for potential impacts on heritage areas due to increased land use activity;
 - ◆ \$110,000 for additional funding to the Aurora Institute for increased licensing of research applications; and
 - ◆ \$120,000 for the Bureau of Statistics to provide support in assessing cumulative social and economic impacts of resource development.

Care and Protection of the Natural Environment

- ◆ \$1.5 million will be invested over five years to fund the implementation of the *NWT Protected Areas Strategy Action Plan*.
- ◆ \$275,000 in new funding for the Bathurst Caribou monitoring program to ensure that any impacts of increased human activity on the herd can be identified and mitigated.
- ◆ \$390,000 to address immediate environmental assessment and review requirements.
- ◆ \$250,000 for two new regional Environmental Protection Officer positions in Yellowknife and Inuvik to address regional impacts from development.

Infrastructure Investment

- ◆ The Fiscal Responsibility Policy requires that at least 50 per cent of GNWT capital investments must be funded by operating surpluses. Budgeted operating surpluses over the three-year planning period permit capital investments of \$116 million in 2005-06.
- ◆ The Government's three-year capital investment plan proposes to invest:
 - ◆ \$78 million for school replacement and renovation projects;
 - ◆ \$48 million for renovations and upgrades to our hospitals and health centres;
 - ◆ \$37.2 million for continued improvements to community water and sewer systems;
 - ◆ \$22.7 million for replacement, upgrades and capacity increases for community tank farms; and
 - ◆ \$9.4 million for new medical equipment for hospitals and health centres.

Revenue Initiatives

- ◆ The Government will continue to work with the federal government and Expert Panel on Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing to ensure that new Formula Financing arrangements for 2006-07 continue to meet the GNWT's needs.
- ◆ The Government will continue to work with its Aboriginal Summit partners to get a resource revenue sharing and resource devolution agreement with the federal government.
- ◆ The Risk Capital Investment Tax Credit that expired in 2003 will be re-introduced in 2005, with up to \$2 million in tax credits available annually for the next 3 years.

R(15)010305101

***GET ACTIVE NWT* Community Challenge Launched**

YELLOWKNIFE (March 01, 2005) – The *GET ACTIVE NWT* community challenge was launched today in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly by Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Health and Social Services and Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

“The *GET ACTIVE NWT* community challenge is part of the ongoing work we are doing to promote healthy choices among residents of the Northwest Territories,” said Minister McLeod. “This challenge will provide NWT residents with a reason to start and continue being physically active on a daily basis.”

The challenge is simple; residents just need to get out and get active. There are four categories determined by community population, ensuring all communities have the same opportunity to win. The four communities that are the most physically active during the challenge period will each receive a grant of \$5,000 to purchase recreation equipment.

“The benefits of physical activity are numerous,” added Minister Miltenberger. “Northerners who participate in regular activity can expect to live longer, reduce their risk of getting colon cancer and type 2 diabetes, feel less stressed, and be less likely to get heart disease or have a stroke.”

“The Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes the value in partnerships at both the departmental and community levels,” said Minister Dent. “We are encouraging schools, community health representatives and recreation coordinators to work together supporting and promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyle choices to make this Challenge a success.”

The *GET ACTIVE NWT* community challenge will run from April 1 to July 1 and all NWT residents are encouraged to participate. All kinds of physical activity are included in the challenge: walking, running, skiing, skating or playing outside with your children. Residents can register online or by fax at (867) 920-6467 starting today.

For more information and to register online visit the *GET ACTIVE NWT* website at www.getactivenwt.ca or contact:

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News Release



R(15)250205102

NORTHWEST FASD PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL MEETING

VICTORIA (March 1, 2005) – The Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Partnership ministers were pleased to announce the inaugural meeting of a research network board newly-created to address Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

The 15-member Canada Northwest FASD Research Network Board comprises experts from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut and will oversee the research network's strategic direction. Alberta representative Ms. Lou Winthers was elected by the board to serve as chair.

"FASD is an incredibly complex issue that affects the lives of thousands of families," said Linda Reid, B.C. minister of state for early childhood development. "By sharing our resources – most particularly the talents and expertise of leading researchers – we can achieve new milestones more quickly. That, in turn, means better lives and better futures for children and youth affected by this disorder and greater inroads into its prevention."

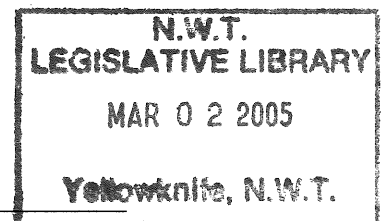
Under the guidance of FASD expert Dr. Sterling Clarren as CEO/scientific director, the research network will advance research projects and build relationships across and within its jurisdictions. The intention is to compile evidence-based information that will guide progressive, inclusive policy, ultimately bettering the lives of individuals and families affected by the disorder. Plans are currently underway to conduct consultations with stakeholders in the partnership jurisdictions.

"Research and the creation of the Canada Northwest Research Network has been a real focus of the partnership," said Heather Forsyth, Alberta's Minister of Children's Services and the next chair of the partnership. "This board is comprised of some of the best and brightest minds in FASD research and planning, and is poised to lead the way."

FASD is the result of permanent brain damage and affects approximately nine of every 1,000 children born in Canada each year.

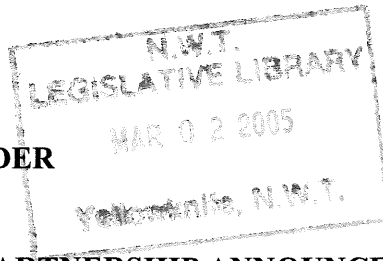
For more information, contact

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BACKGROUND



Canada
Northwest
FASD
Partnership

NORTHWEST FASD PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL MEETING

The board of directors for the Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Research Network convened in Victoria today for their inaugural meeting. The 15-member board consists of leading researchers and experts, including:

Manitoba

- Dr. Albert Chudley – president of medical staff, genetics and metabolism at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg.
- Dr. John O’Neil – professor and director of the Aboriginal Health Centre for Aboriginal Health Research and head of the Dept. of Community Health Sciences in the faculty of medicine at the University of Manitoba.

Saskatchewan

- Dr. Josephine Nanson – registered doctoral clinical consultant and national expert on FASD.
- Dr. Caroline Tait – Fulbright scholar, past co-ordinator of the National Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research, planning committee member of the Aboriginal Women’s Health and Healing Research Group, and the Indigenous People’s Health Research Centre, First Nations University of Canada.

Alberta

- Dr. Gail Andrew – member of the multi-disciplinary team of the Alberta Medical Association that developed clinical practice guidelines for prevention and diagnosis of FASD.
- Jeannine Carriere – teacher in the faculty of social work at the University of Calgary with more than 20 years’ experience in the field of aboriginal child welfare.
- Ms. Audrey McFarlane – executive director for the nationally recognized Lakeland Centre for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
- Ms. Lou Winthers – winner of the 2002 Queen’s Golden Jubilee medal and the 2002 Alberta Medical Association Medal of Honour for her contributions to health care in Alberta.

British Columbia

- Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater – former director for addictions research of British Columbia and professor in the department of psychology at UVic, involved in research and community work with at-risk youth, injury prevention and community-university research alliances.
- Ms. Margo Greenwood – assistant professor, faculty of education, University of Northern British Columbia, expert in indigenous early childhood education and site director with the Centre for Excellence for Children and Adolescents with Special Needs, UNBC Task Force on Substance Abuse.
- Mr. Peter Webster – businessman, philanthropist and trustee of the R. Howard Webster foundation, one of Canada’s largest private foundations specializing in supporting children’s needs, education and criminal justice issues.

- Dr. Sharon Wilsnack – Fulbright scholar, member of the Institute of Medicine’s Committee to Study Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, the National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and current member of the National Advisory Committee, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Yukon

- Dr. Jeremy Baumbach – registered psychologist published in the area of adapting standard sexual offender treatment for persons with FASD, committed to the right of persons with FASD to obtain the best treatment possible.

Northwest Territories

- Ms. Catherine Praamsma – assistant deputy minister of health and social services, GNWT with more than 30 years experience in northern health administration.

Nunavut

- Ms. Rosie Kagak – member of Health Canada’s National Advisory Committee for FASD, representative for the National Advisory Committee for Healthy Communities, Mothers and Children Research Project and participant in meetings and discussions to facilitate an agenda for FASD Prevention and Intervention in Nunavut.

Scientific Director:

- Dr. Sterling K. Clarren – professor of pediatrics and head, division of hospital medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine and division of genetics and development at the University of Washington in Seattle and recently appointed to the division of developmental pediatrics and the child development and rehabilitation program at UBC. Dr. Clarren has been involved in FASD diagnosis, evaluation, intervention and research for 30 years, helping set standards for FASD diagnosis in Canada and coining the term ‘fetal alcohol effects’ in an article in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1978.

R(15)250205103

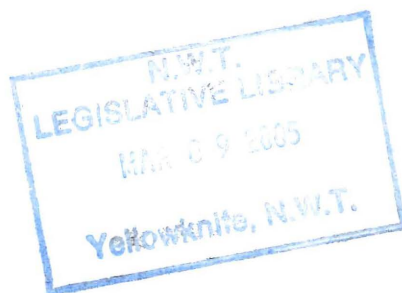
Flags to be Flown at Half Mast

YELLOWKNIFE (March 4, 2005) – NWT and Canadian flags on GNWT buildings across the Northwest Territories are being flown at half-mast until further notice to honour the 4 RCMP officers who died while on duty near Rochfort Bridge Alberta on March 3, 2005.

The Canadian Flag on the Peace Tower in Ottawa and on all Government of Canada buildings and establishments across Canada are also being flown at half-mast.

For more information, contact

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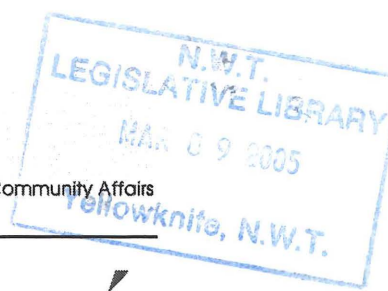


Government
of Canada

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Northwest
Territories Municipal and Community Affairs



News Release / Communiqué

R(15)090305104

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND GOVERNMENT OF NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ANNOUNCE INTENT TO CO-LOCATE IN JOINT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE

YELLOWKNIFE, March 09, 2005—The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Minister of State (Northern Development) and Member of Parliament for Western Arctic, on behalf of the Honourable Anne McLellan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, and the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Northwest Territories, today announced plans for the establishment of a common, integrated emergency operations centre. The centre, to be located in Yellowknife, will help in responding to security threats and natural disasters in the Northwest Territories.

This co-location initiative will integrate emergency management functions of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's (RCMP) "G" Division, leading to a more effective overall response to all types of emergencies.

"The Government of Canada believes this is an important step so our two levels of government can maximize efforts in dealing with all types of emergencies – be they threats to public safety or security," said Minister Blondin-Andrew. "Together, we are firmly committed to enhancing our emergency preparedness and response efforts for citizens of the Northwest Territories."

Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEPC) has also announced its intent to establish a regional office within the MACA/RCMP emergency operations centre. As part of an integrated national emergency response structure, this office will provide for a direct liaison between PSEPC, the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and Nunavut.

"I am pleased that Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada and the RCMP have taken such a cooperative stance in working with our government on this initiative," said Minister McLeod. "This will help advance our common agenda to enhance emergency preparedness arrangements in the Northwest Territories and indeed all the north."

The RCMP is the primary enforcement agency in the Northwest Territories with national security responsibilities. The RCMP is also involved in emergency planning and response with the Government of the Northwest Territories at the territorial level, and with individual communities through the various RCMP detachments across the north.

Canada

Discussions to co-locate began shortly after the Government of Canada's *National Security Policy* (NSP) was announced in April 2004. The NSP sets the direction for a national framework and action plan to ensure that the Government of Canada is prepared for and can respond to emerging or occurring threats to national public safety and security. Co-location with provincial/territorial emergency operations centres is a key action item identified in the NSP.

- 30 -

For further information:

Alex Swann
Director of Communications
Office of the Honourable Anne McLellan
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public
Safety and Emergency Preparedness
(613) 991-2863

Amy Hacala
Communications and Policy Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Government of the Northwest Territories
(867) 920-3092

Media Relations
Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
Canada
613-991-0657

R(15)150305106

New Owner for Sirius Diamonds

YELLOWKNIFE (March 15, 2005) - The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Receiver, Deloitte & Touche Inc. have agreed to terms for the sale of the Sirius Diamonds operations.

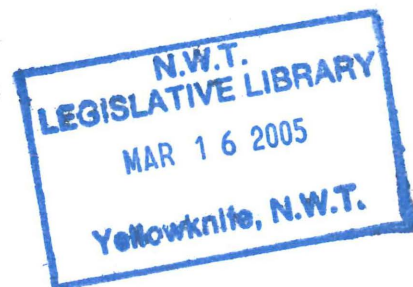
The current owners of Arslanian Cutting Works (NWT) Limited will be forming a new company to purchase the assets of Sirius Diamonds NWT Limited in Yellowknife and Sirius Diamonds Limited in Vancouver. The new owners will continue to operate the Sirius Diamonds factory.

The purchase and sale agreement is subject to court approval under the procedures the Receiver must follow. Final approval could take up to eight weeks. Finance Minister Floyd Roland said, "The new investors have entered into a management agreement with the Receiver which sees them assume immediate management control of the factory, under the supervision of the Receiver. I am very pleased we have concluded this agreement which ensures the continuation of a viable secondary diamond industry in the Northwest Territories."

~~Under the management agreement the new owners will provide the financing for the purchase of rough diamonds and assume responsibility for payroll and other operating expenses.~~

For further information contact:

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



R(15)220305112

NWT Youth to Meet with Premier and Minister for Youth on Northern Strategy

YELLOWKNIFE (March 22, 2005) – Nominations are open for the Northern Strategy Youth Consultation Session. This was announced by the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister Responsible for Youth.

Youth from across the Northwest Territories will meet in Yellowknife on April 22, 2005, to discuss their views on a Northern Strategy with Premier Joseph Handley and Minister McLeod.

“The Northern Strategy will develop a long-term vision for the North and will identify the steps that need to be taken to achieve this vision,” said Minister McLeod, “Our young people are a critical and essential part of this process.”

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) encourages all Northwest Territories youth to submit an application to participate in this important process. Information and nominations forms can be found on the MACA website at www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

Fifteen youth will be selected, and must be between 14 and 19 years of age, have demonstrated good conduct, and be willing to be an active contributor to the consultation process. In addition to the meeting with the Premier and the Minister for Youth, participants will be provided a tour of the Legislative Assembly.

Youth are also encouraged to complete the questionnaire found online at www.northernstrategy.ca or in the booklet, available by calling 867-669-2303 (collect).

For more information about the youth consultation session, contact:

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

For more information about the Northern Strategy, contact:

Laura Seddon
A/Deputy Secretary,
Corporate Communications and Protocol
Department of the Executive
Phone: (867) 920-8813



R(15)290205113

Premier Offers Condolences to Families of Fallen Firefighters

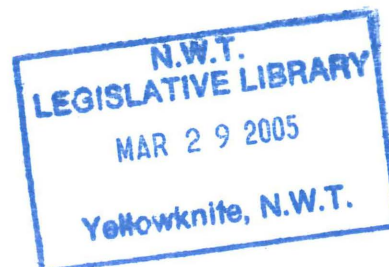
YELLOWKNIFE (March 29, 2005) – Premier Joe Handley today extended condolences to the families of Lieutenant Cyril Fyfe and Fire Fighter Kevin Olson.

"On behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories, I want to offer my heartfelt sympathy to the families and loved ones of the two fallen firefighters," said Premier Handley. "We are deeply saddened by this loss, and are thankful for the dedicated service and contribution these brave men made to our community," added Premier Handley.

Anyone wishing to express sympathy and condolences to the families of the fallen Fire Fighters, and to the Yellowknife Fire Division, is encouraged to e-mail condolences@yellowknife.ca.

For more information contact:

Megan Munro
Communications Assistant
Cabinet Communications
Phone: (867) 669-2302



R(15)290205114

Eye on Today – NWT Governance Conference 2005

YELLOWKNIFE (March 29, 2005) – From April 12-14, 2005, northerners who represent community councils, boards, Aboriginal organizations, and voluntary agencies across the Northwest Territories will attend the NWT Governance Conference 2005 taking place in Yellowknife at the Explorer Hotel.

“This is the first time a conference with a focus on governance has been held in the Northwest Territories,” said Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. “It will provide an excellent opportunity for northerners involved in board, council and agency governance to meet, share ideas and develop new skills.”

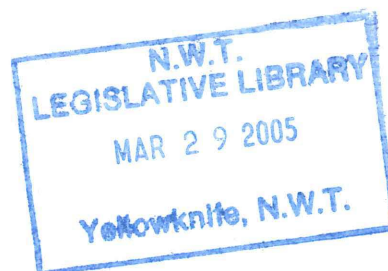
Eye on Today offers a series of compelling keynote addresses and presentations; an opportunity to network and discuss community governance issues; workshops related to innovative governance practices and best practices; and successful governance transformation models.

The three-day conference will feature presenters with extensive governance experience at the national and territorial levels, including Premier Joseph Handley; the Honourable Michael McLeod; and Stephen Kakfwi, a former Premier of the Northwest Territories. The conference agenda, session summaries and registration information is available on-line at www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

The *Eye on Today* conference is hosted by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

For more information, contact

Sharon Morrison
Conference Coordinator
Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone: (867) 920-6105
Fax: (867) 873-0584
sharon_morrison@gov.nt.ca



New Choices for Victims of Family Violence

YELLOWKNIFE (March 31, 2005) – New choices for responding to family violence were announced by Minister of Justice and Attorney General Brendan Bell today.

An emergency protection order (EPO) is a way for people to get protection from family violence quickly and easily, without going to court. It is one of three new remedies available under the *Protection Against Family Violence Act*, which comes into force April 1, 2005.

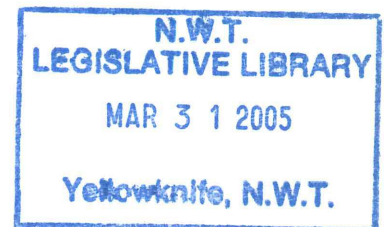
Other remedies available under the Act include protection orders, which are ordered by the Court and can include similar provisions as an EPO but can last longer than 90 days. Also available is a warrant for entry that would allow someone to enter a residence if they believe someone is being held in the house and experiencing family violence.

“These are new tools for people who are living with family violence,” said Minister Bell. “They will have a quick way to get help, without having to go to court or hire a lawyer. Emergency protection orders give people a chance to be safe from violence while they decide if they need longer-lasting protection through the courts.”

Emergency protection orders are available through the RCMP or through a toll-free number (1-866-223-7775). People can call any time of the day or night, and someone will help them apply for an order. The entire process takes a few hours, from the time of the application to the time the order is issued. A judge reviews the order within three days to make sure it was fair.

Emergency protection orders can last up to 90 days and can include things like:

- Ordering the abuser to stay away from the victim;
- Allowing the victim to use the family home without the abuser being there;
- Requiring the RCMP to take away the abusive person’s weapons.



The new legislation defines “family violence” very broadly. People can use emergency protection orders to stay safe from family members who are abusing them in any of the following ways:

- **Physical abuse** – injuring family members;
- **Psychological abuse** – threatening someone or making them fear for their safety;
- **Emotional abuse** – being so mean to someone that they think they’re worthless;
- **Financial abuse** – taking someone’s money or other things that are valuable;
- **Sexual abuse** – forcing someone to have sex or do other sexual things they don’t want to do; and
- **Abusive control** – not letting someone come and go freely.

For more information:

Megan Holsapple
Communications
Department of Justice
(867) 920-3130
Megan_Holsapple@gov.nt.ca

R(15)010405116

GET ACTIVE NWT Community Challenge Starts Today

YELLOWKNIFE (April 1, 2005) – Today marks the beginning of the first annual *GET ACTIVE NWT* community challenge! The challenge runs from April 1st to July 1st, 2005 and all NWT residents are encouraged to participate.

To date, 2,141 people from across the NWT have registered to participate in the *GET ACTIVE NWT* community challenge. These people have taken the first step towards making healthier lifestyle choices and living more active lives.

The challenge is simple; residents just need to get out and get active. All kinds of physical activity are included in the challenge: walking, running, skiing, skating or playing outside with your children.

There are four categories determined by community population, ensuring all communities have the same opportunity to win. The four communities that are the most physically active during the challenge period will each receive a grant of \$5,000 to purchase recreation equipment.

It is not too late to register for the challenge and it's very simple to do it:

- Go to the website at www.getactivenwt.ca and fill in the online registration form; or
- Fill out a registration form on the back of a *GET ACTIVE NWT* brochure and mail it or fax it back to:

Sport, Recreation, Youth and Volunteerism
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
Suite 400, 5201-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S9
FAX (867) 920-6467

For more information contact:

Amy Hacala
Communications and Policy Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone (867) 920-3092

Shawn McCann
Manager, Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
Phone (867) 920-6222

Damien Healy
Manager, Communications
Health and Social Services
Phone (867) 920-8927

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YAROWKING, N.W.T.

R(15)010405117

Directors Appointed NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation Board

YELLOWKNIFE (April 1, 2005) – The *Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation Act*, passed by the Legislative Assembly in March, comes into effect today.

Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) Minister Brendan Bell today announced the appointment of nine directors to the board of the new Business Development and Investment Corporation (BDIC), effective April 1, 2005.

“The Board of Directors will play an instrumental role in developing an improved model of support for the Northwest Territories business community,” said the Minister. “They will ensure the BDIC plays a significant role in assisting businesses, particularly businesses located in smaller communities or regional centers to take advantage of the many existing and future opportunities resulting from our rapidly growing economy.”

The Directors, representing all regions of the NWT, are:

- Darrell Beaulieu, N’ dilo
- Charlie Furlong, Akalvik
- Ernie Smith, Rae
- Peggy Near, Yellowknife
- Ed Dillon, Tuktoyaktuk
- Anne Marie Tout, Norman Wells
- Janet Marie Fizer, Hay River
- Albert Lafferty, Fort Providence
- Denise Yuhas, Fort Smith.

The BDIC replaces the NWT Development Corporation and the NWT Business Credit Corporation. In addition, the corporation assumes management of the Community Futures program in the NWT and the Canada/NWT Business Service Centre.

For more information, contact:

Caitlin Cleveland
Cabinet Communications
Tel: (867) 669-2302

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YAKOWITZ, N.W.T.

R(15)040405118

Deputy Ministers Appointed for New GNWT Departments

YELLOWKNIFE (April 4, 2005) – Premier Joe Handley appointed Peter Vician as Deputy Minister for the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), and Robert Bailey as Deputy Minister for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) effective April 1, 2005.

“As the Deputy Minister of the former Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Vician will bring continuity and leadership to the government’s role in economic development for the Northwest Territories,” stated Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Brendan Bell.

Mr. Vician was appointed Deputy Minister of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) in December 2003. He also served as the Deputy Minister of the Department of Transportation from 1999-2003.

“I look forward to the expertise that Mr. Bailey brings to this new department,” stated Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Michael Miltenberger. “His extensive service in the environment and natural resource sector within government will assist in establishing a solid beginning for ENR.”

Mr. Bailey was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations position with the RWED in 1998. He also served as the Director of Forest Management for RWED from 1996-1998 and as Director of Forest Fire Management from 1987-1996.

The appointments are effective immediately.

For more information, contact:

Judy McLinton
Public Affairs and
Communications
ENR
Tel: 867-873-7379

John Stephenson
Public Affairs and
Communications
ITI
Tel: (867) 920-8696

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Yukon-Charley, N.W.T.



R(15)040405119

The Northwest Territories Steps Up Campaign For Fair Deal From Federal Government

OTTAWA (April 5, 2005) – Premier Joseph Handley will head a delegation of Northwest Territories cabinet ministers, and business and aboriginal leaders to Ottawa to press for an urgently needed devolution of powers and resource revenue-sharing deal for the NWT.

Premier Handley will deliver a Newsmaker Breakfast speech at the National Press Club, 150 Wellington Street, at 7.30 a.m. Tuesday, April 5, before launching a series of delegation meetings with federal cabinet ministers.

Talks with the federal government have proceeded well in terms of forging an agreement in principle that would see jurisdiction over natural resources pass from Ottawa to the NWT by 2006. Progress now needs to be made to negotiate a resource revenue sharing agreement that fairly shares resource revenues with northern governments.

The rapid growth generated by the diamond industry, Mackenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea natural gas exploration and work on the planned Mackenzie Valley Pipeline has already placed major strains on the NWT in terms of meeting social and infrastructure needs.

The NWT must gain both control of its natural resources and a substantial share of the revenues they generate if this growth is to be sustained in a manner that allows northerners to properly share in the benefits.

“We believe we are close to achieving an agreement in principle this spring and implementation of a final agreement next year, but it will require political will at the federal level to ensure that red tape and bureaucratic stalling is not allowed to prevent this from happening,” says Premier Handley.

Premier Handley will also use his breakfast speech at the National Press Club and meetings with senior federal ministers and the Prime Minister to discuss the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline project and the importance of the natural gas supply that it is scheduled to start carrying south in the next few years.

For more information, contact:
Richard Bargery
Principal Secretary
(867) 444-1589

NWT Day Delegate List

Cabinet Ministers

Premier Joe Handley
Hon. Brendan Bell
Hon. Charles Dent
Hon. David Krutko
Hon. Michael McLeod
Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger
Hon. Floyd Roland

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Calvin Pokiak
Robert Villeneuve
Norman Yakeleya
Robert Hawkins
Sandy Lee
Bill Braden
David Ramsay
Paul Delorey
Robert McLeod
Henry Zoe
Jane Groenewegen
Kevin Menicoche

Business Delegation

Kelly Kaylo- Chair, NWT Business Coalition
David Tucker- President, NWT Construction Association
Lou Covello- President, NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines
Jerry Jaud- President, Ferguson, Simek, Clark
Allen Stanzell - Executive Director, NWT Chamber of Commerce
Kelly Haydon - Vice President, WAM Development Group North
Jack Rowe - President, Rowe's Construction Ltd.
Gord Stewart - Executive Chief Officer, Braydon-Bury Expediting
Trent Fequet - General Manager, Tli Cho Logistics
Patrick McGuinness - Chief Financial Officer, Dowland Contracting Ltd.
Derek Teevan - De Beers Canada Inc.

Aboriginal Leaders

Chief Eddy Dillon - Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
President Fred Carmichael - Gwich'in Tribal Council
Bertha Rabesca - Tli Cho Treaty 11 Tribal Council
President Robert Tordiff - NWT Metis Nation
President Ken Hudson - Fort Smith Local
President Lloyd Cardinal - Fort Resolution Local
President Danny Beck - Hay River Local
Don Morin - Aboriginal Summit
Bill Enge - North Slave Metis

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Yakovlev, N.W.T.

R(15)120405120

Bursaries Available For Northern Students To Pursue Aviation Careers

YELLOWKNIFE (April 12, 2005) – Bursaries worth a total of \$40,000 are available again this year to northern students who want to make a career in the aviation industry.

The deadline for students to apply for one of eight \$5,000 bursaries that can be awarded for the upcoming academic year through the Aviation Career Development Program is May 31, 2005. The program, now in its fifth year, is co-sponsored by the Department of Transportation and Canadian North, with support from the Northern Air Transport Association (NATA) - the umbrella organization for northern air carriers.

Recipients are chosen on the basis of their scholastic history, career plan, an essay explaining their interest in a career in the aviation industry, and letters of recommendation.

“The Aviation Career Development Program was established to encourage and assist NWT students to train for a future in the aviation field,” stated Transportation Minister Michael McLeod. “With \$160,000 in bursaries awarded so far, the program has been an outstanding success and an example of how government and the private sector can work together to achieve a common goal.”

“Canadian North is pleased to continue to jointly fund the Aviation Career Development Program with the GNWT,” said Tom Ruth, president of Canadian North. “This program is perfectly aligned with Canadian North’s ongoing youth strategy which assists young Northerners in developing careers for the future.”

“The Northern Air Transport Association is proud to support the Aviation Career Development Program and its efforts to promote the aviation sector and provide career development opportunities for our youth,” added Hugh Kitchen, NATA president. “Air services provide a necessary and vital role in the diversified economic development and social well-being of Northerners and career development is imperative to maintaining a highly qualified and strong workforce.”

Applications and information on the program are available from the Operations and Training Officer in the Airports Division of the Department of Transportation in Yellowknife, (867) 873-7161, or on the department’s website at www.dot.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

Megan Munro
Communications Assistant
Cabinet Communications
Phone: (867) 669-2302

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

R(15)120405121

2005 Northern Premier's Forum

YELLOWKNIFE (April 12, 2005) – The 2005 Northern Premier's Forum will be held on Saturday, April 16 in Yellowknife. Northwest Territories Premier Joe Handley will host this year's meeting attended by Yukon's Premier Mr. Dennis Fentie and Nunavut Premier, Mr. Paul Okalik.

The theme of this year's forum is "Working Together for Shared Success".

"Our three northern jurisdictions share many of the same challenges and opportunities", said Premier Handley, "We have been successful in the past by working together and delivering a common, unified message."

The most recent example of such pan-Territorial cooperation is the current development of a Northern Strategy, expected to be a main item on the agenda for Saturday's discussion. The Strategy, which was initiated by the northern Premiers in cooperation with the Prime Minister of Canada, will be the first-ever comprehensive strategy for the North, developed with the participation from NWT Aboriginal and public governments, organizations and Northern residents. The purpose of the Northern Strategy is to develop a common long-term vision for the North and to jointly identify the actions and initiatives that need to be undertaken to achieve this vision.

The previous Northern Premiers Forum was hosted by Premier Fentie in Whitehorse on May 7, 2004.

For more information:

Megan Munro
Communications Assistant
Cabinet Communications
Phone: (867) 669-2302

R(15)140405122

Update on Fort Simpson Study

YELLOWKNIFE (April 14, 2005) – At a meeting yesterday, the Village of Fort Simpson and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) reviewed a joint study to analyze the implications of a possible change in status for the community government.

The Village Council requested that the study be done to provide a basis for discussion with residents regarding on-going concerns about the adequacy of Government of the Northwest Territories funding provided to the Village. MACA agreed to fund the study, and assisted the community in drafting terms of reference and choosing a consultant.

“We are pleased with the results of the study,” said Fort Simpson Mayor Raymond Michaud. “It provides a thorough and useful basis as a starting point for discussions with our residents.”

However, the Mayor noted that although the study provides an accurate assessment of the Village’s situation at the time the study was completed, new policy announcements by MACA mean that some of the information and conclusions may no longer be up-to-date.

The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, agreed with Mayor Michaud’s assessment, and stated that he was pleased both with the results of the study and today’s meeting with the Village Council. “The Department will work with the Village to ensure that information is available to residents of Fort Simpson about policy changes that may have an impact on the study findings,”

“We had a productive meeting and agreed to continue open discussions about the best options for the Village, and how MACA can support them in moving forward,” added Minister McLeod.

The study will be publicly released by the Village and used as the basis for consultations between the Village Council and residents of Fort Simpson.

For more information, contact:

Megan Munro
Communications Assistant
Cabinet Communications
Phone: (867) 669-2302

Mayor Raymond Michaud
Mayor of Fort Simpson
Phone: (867) 695-2253

R(15)150405123

New Judge Appointed to Territorial Court

YELLOWKNIFE (April 15, 2005) – The appointment of Robert (Bob) Gorin as a Judge of the Territorial Court was announced today by Minister of Justice and Attorney General Brendan Bell.

“Mr. Gorin is an excellent addition to the Territorial Court,” said Minister Bell. “His extensive knowledge of the law and broad northern experience make him an outstanding candidate.”

The swearing-in for Mr. Gorin will be in May.

“Judge Schmaltz and I look forward to working with Mr. Gorin. We welcome his appointment to the Territorial Court,” said Chief Judge Brian Bruser.

Mr. Gorin graduated from the University of Saskatchewan's Law School in 1989. Later that year, he moved to Yellowknife and articulated with the law firm of Cooper Hardy Regel. He carried out a mixed practice with that firm until 1994, when he went on his own to practice almost exclusively in the area of criminal law.

For the past 11 years he has practiced as a criminal lawyer doing work for both legal aid and private clients. He has extensive experience before the courts and has appeared in communities across the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Mr. Gorin is particularly known in the Sahtu, where he has been a regular member of the court circuit for the past 10 years.

This appointment fills a vacancy on the Territorial Court created by the retirement of former Chief Judge R. Michel Bourassa. The Territorial Court hears both criminal and civil matters, including family law, child protection and civil claims of up to \$10,000.

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

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple
Communications and Policy Advisor
Department of Justice
Tel: (867) 920-3130

R(15)190405125

2005 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards Recipients Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (April 19, 2005) – The recipients of the 2005 Northwest Territories (NWT) Outstanding Volunteer Awards were announced at a ceremony in Inuvik last night by the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and His Worship, Peter Clarkson, Mayor of Inuvik.

“MACA recognizes and appreciates the important work that volunteers do across the Northwest Territories,” stated Minister McLeod. “These annual awards are a way of acknowledging the individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions to their communities.”

Recipients of the NWT Outstanding Volunteer awards for 2005 are:

- Outstanding Youth Award – Brittany Scott, Fort Smith
- Outstanding Elder Award – Joe Punch, Trout Lake
- Outstanding Individual Award – Michael Lafferty, Fort Resolution
- Outstanding Group Award – Ecology North, Yellowknife

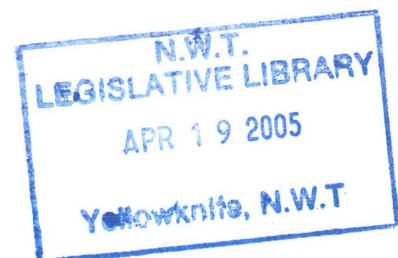
The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, in partnership with the NWT Power Corporation, presents the Outstanding Volunteer Awards annually during National Volunteer Week to individuals and groups who have helped improve the quality of life in the NWT through their work as volunteers. National Volunteer Week takes place from April 17-23, 2005.

“Volunteers play a critical role in our communities; their efforts make our communities better places to live,” said Minister McLeod. “I would like to thank the Outstanding Volunteer Awards recipients for their dedication and hard work.”

Visit the MACA website at www.maca.gov.nt.ca for further details about the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards and award recipients.

For more information, contact:

Amy Hacala
Communications and Policy Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone: (867) 920-3092



R(15)260405126

Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs to Receive Award From Ontario Global Traders Awards

YELLOWKNIFE (April 26, 2005) – The Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs (GMVF) program has been selected as an award recipient at the 2004 Ontario Global Traders Awards, being presented at the regional awards ceremony in Thunder Bay, Ontario, on April 27, 2005. The GMVF program is administered by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and delivers harvesting support to trappers of the Northwest Territories (NWT).

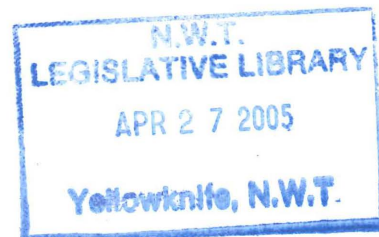
“This award recognizes the GMVF program as a first class exporter of goods,” Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister Brendan Bell said. “Receiving this prestigious award is a great accomplishment for the GMVF program and confirms that our program is second to none in Canada.”

In December 2003, Fur Harvesters Auction (FHA) Inc. entered into a partnership agreement with the GNWT to promote and market NWT wild fur under the GMVF label. FHA has seen a significant increase in the value and quality of NWT fur pelts as a result of this partnership agreement. Sales for the 2003/04 season increased by about 20 per cent, a positive trend that has continued into the current 2004/05 season. FHA supplies high quality fur pelts, from more than 30 species of animals, received from trappers across Canada and the United States to buyers in Canada, United States, Europe, China, Korea and Russia.

For more information about the Ontario Global Traders Awards, visit [www.ontarioexportsinc.com/oei/redirect.jsp?page=English/Global Traders Awards/2004/About Global Traders.html](http://www.ontarioexportsinc.com/oei/redirect.jsp?page=English/Global%20Traders%20Awards/2004/About%20Global%20Traders.html)

For more information, please contact:

Francois Rossouw
Traditional Economy and Fur Management
Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories
Phone: (867) 873-7478



R(15)290405128

Northwest Territories Residents Are Serious About “Getting Active”

YELLOWKNIFE (April 29, 2005) – Since the *GET ACTIVE NWT Community Challenge* was officially launched on April 1, 2005, over 5568 residents of the Northwest Territories – 13% of our total population - have registered to *Get Active*. By logging their activity minutes, these Northerners are recognizing the value of including physical activity in their daily lives.

It is not too late to register for the challenge and it's very simple to do:

- Go to the website at www.getactivenwt.ca and fill in the online registration form; or
- Fill out a registration form on the back of a *GET ACTIVE NWT* brochure and mail it or fax it back to:

Sport, Recreation and Youth
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
Suite 400, 5201-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S9
FAX (867) 920-6467

The challenge runs from April 1st to July 1st, 2005. All kinds of physical activity are included in the challenge: walking, running, bicycling or playing outside with your children.

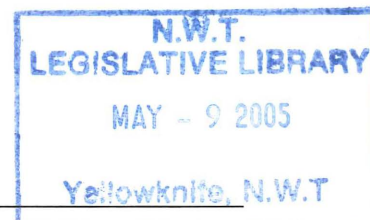
There are four categories determined by community population, ensuring all communities have the same opportunity to win. The four communities that are the most physically active during the challenge period will each receive a grant of \$5,000 to purchase recreation equipment.

For more information, contact:

Amy Hacala
Communications and Policy Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone (867) 920-3092

Shawn McCann
Manager, Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
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R(15)020505129

Premier Leads Talks on Northern Strategy and Labour Market Shortages at the 2005 Western Premiers' Conference

YELLOWKNIFE (May 2, 2005) – Premier Joe Handley will lead discussions with Canada's western Premiers on the Northern Strategy and on the shortages in labour market skills in western and northern Canada.

“Western Premiers have been very supportive of the shared goals of the three territories for greater self-sufficiency and economic prosperity,” stated Premier Handley. “The Western Premiers' Conference offers an opportunity to provide Premiers with an update on Northern Strategy activities and highlight emerging priorities resulting from consultations with Northerners.”

The Premier will also lead discussions on anticipated skill shortages in the west and north over the next decade. The focus will be on strategies that will support labour market development.

“The North, and particularly the Northwest Territories is in the midst of remarkable development which has created unprecedented employment opportunities and challenges,” said Premier Handley. “I look forward to discussing how we can work together to better meet the labour force needs of western and northern Canada both now and over the coming years.”

The Western Premiers Conference takes place annually and brings together Premiers from Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. This year's conference is hosted and chaired by Alberta and will take place from May 4-6 in Lloydminster, Alberta. The Northwest Territories hosted and chaired last year's Western Premiers' Conference in Inuvik. Details on this year's conference, including media accreditation information, are available from:

Marisa Etmanski
Office of the Premier
Communications
(780) 422-4897
(780) 232-7386 (cell)
marisa.etmanski@gov.ab.ca

Kathryn Wiegiers
Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations
Communications
(780) 422-2465
(780) 719-4437 (cell)
kathryn.wiegiers@gov.ab.ca

For more information, contact:

Megan Munro
Communications Assistant
Cabinet Communications
Phone: (867) 669-2302



Backgrounder

<p>Western Premiers' Conference*</p> <p>May 4-6, 2005</p> <p>Lloydminster, Alberta/Saskatchewan</p> <p><i>(events open to the media are indicated)</i></p>	
<p>Wednesday, May 4</p>	
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media registration - Room 104, Best Western Wayside Inn and Suites, 5411 - 44th Street
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Reception - Barr Colony Heritage and Cultural Centre (open to media, social only), Highway 16 - 45th Avenue, Lloydminster
<p>Thursday, May 5</p>	
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media registration - Room 104, Best Western Wayside Inn and Suites
9:30 am - 12:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premiers' Working Session I - Best Western Wayside Inn and Suites (short media photo opportunity at beginning of meeting)
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premiers' luncheon - Lloydminster City Hall • 11:55 am - Premiers arrive - west side of City Hall (photo opportunity) • 12:05 pm - official photo/flag raising - east side of City Hall (photo opportunity)
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premiers' Working Session II - Best Western Wayside Inn and Suites
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media availability - media centre (Canada/Alberta Room), Best Western Wayside Inn and Suites

6:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community reception - Lloydminster Agricultural Exhibition Association (open to media, social only), 5521 - 49th Avenue, Lloydminster
Friday, May 6	
9:30 am - 12:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Premiers' working session III - Best Western Wayside Inn and Suites (short media photo opportunity at beginning of meeting)
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Premiers' closing news conference - media centre (Canada/Alberta Room), Best Western Wayside Inn and Suites

*Agenda may be subject to change.

Please note:

Media covering the WPC must be accredited.

A media accreditation form is available on the Western Premiers' Conference website at http://www.gov.ab.ca/premier/wpc/index_media.cfm, or through the Canadian Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat at http://www.scics.gc.ca/new_e.html.

R(15)060505130

Educators Gather to Discuss Methods for Dealing with Student Behaviours

YELLOWKNIFE (May 6, 2005) – Over 150 educators, parents and support personnel from across the Northwest Territories (NWT) met this week in Yellowknife at a conference hosted by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. The theme of the conference was how to use Effective Behaviour Supports (EBS) to assist students develop good behavioural skills in the classroom and at home.

“This conference focuses on educators and parents working together towards student’s ongoing success in school,” said Education, Culture and Employment Minister, Charles Dent.

The EBS approach is based on the concept that students’ self-discipline is improved when positive behaviours are identified and supported. It has proven to work best on a school-wide level when teachers, other school staff and students work together.

“I can see how this approach can help our staff and students to become better citizens,” said Velma Illasiak, principal of Moose Kerr School in Aklavik.

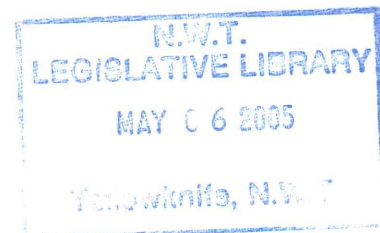
During the conference, the participants have had an opportunity to hear about successful strategies in EBS from Dr. Terry Scott from the University of Florida.

“Our cultural programs have a lot to do with student’s good behaviours like respect.” added Linda Kochon, a teacher from Colville Lake. “This approach will only enhance that.”

Participants also prepared specific plans, strategies and methods for their individual schools based on the EBS approach. All NWT education divisions were represented at the conference.

For more information, contact:

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R(15)180505133

GNWT Pumps up Support for Communities Working on the Mackenzie Gas Project

YELLOWKNIFE (May 18, 2005) - The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) continues to support communities in their efforts to prepare for the Mackenzie Gas Project.

“When I speak to residents in the Mackenzie Valley they are optimistic and excited but also concerned about potential impacts relating to the development of the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline,” said Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) Minister Brendan Bell. “I am pleased to be announcing new initiatives to assist communities and residents as the Mackenzie Gas Project moves forward.”

On April 28, 2005, the Mackenzie Gas Producers announced a refocusing of immediate priorities affecting some pre-construction activities. The Producers propose to wait to invest additional money on engineering, geotechnical or contract work until they feel progress is made in negotiations with Aboriginal organizations and additional clarity in the regulatory process is established.

Since the announcement Premier Joe Handley and Minister Bell have had successful meetings to encourage future discussions between Aboriginal organizations and industry. Premier Handley and Minister Bell have also received commitments from the Federal government that issues associated with the regulatory process will be worked out.

“Resolving these issues will contribute to the Mackenzie Gas Project moving ahead. This is a very important project for the Northwest Territories,” said Minister Bell. “ITI will continue to work with other GNWT departments to ensure communities and residents benefit first and foremost from the Project.”

For more information, contact:

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Coordinator, Cabinet Communications
Cabinet Communications
Phone: (867) 669-2304



R(15)180505134

Funding Support Available for Community Governments to Prepare for the Pipeline

Yellowknife (May 18, 2005) – Community governments in the Northwest Territories (NWT) will receive \$1.295 million to assist them in assessing the impacts of the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP), and prepare strategies to maximize benefits and minimize potential negative impacts, the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), announced today.

“Community governments in the Mackenzie Valley face many challenges in preparing for the proposed pipeline, along with the associated exploration and development,” Minister McLeod states. “We heard this loud and clear at the *Preparing for the Pipeline* community conference my department sponsored in Inuvik last December.

MACA will provide \$20,000 to each of the 21 communities directly affected by the pipeline to assist them in participating in the environmental review process. Subsequent funding of up to \$30,000 per community will be available for the 22 impacted communities (21 directly affected communities plus Yellowknife) to review proposals, assess impacts, negotiate community access agreements and undertake general planning and preparation.

In addition, up to \$15,000 can be accessed by each of the remaining 11 communities in the NWT not identified as being directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed pipeline to help them review, plan and assess any potential impacts or opportunities for their community.

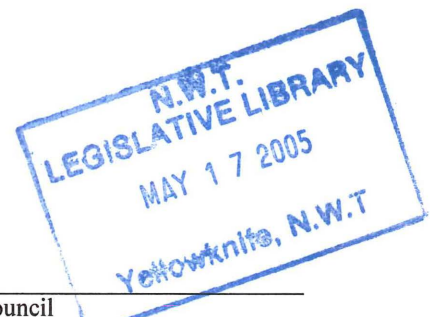
Funding will also be available to support regional workshops, and research and analysis of common issues for NWT communities, which may include engineering, infrastructure and legal research and advice.

The GNWT recognizes communities need support in order to participate meaningfully in the review of the Environmental Impact Statement and the regulatory review process. As well, communities must address capacity shortfalls resulting from the added workload associated with pipeline response and socio-economic pressures.

“Communities have made it clear they need financial support in order to ensure a thorough and balanced review of impacts and opportunities,” Minister McLeod added. “I am pleased to provide this support and meet the need. I have listened to communities, and to groups such as the Deh Cho First Nations and Deh Gah Alliance Society, all of whom have stressed the importance of adequate funding for the review of community impacts.”

For more information contact:

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



R(15)180505135

Social Impact Workshops Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (May 18, 2005) - Plans for three workshops to discuss the social impacts of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project were announced today by Minister Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Health and Social Services, on behalf of all ministers responsible for social programs, including the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment, Justice and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. The workshops will provide a forum for representatives from communities in the Mackenzie Valley to identify and discuss social issues and concerns related to pipeline construction and operation. The two-day workshops will also serve as a first step in collaborative planning to monitor and manage negative impacts from the project.

“Communities, governments and people themselves have a responsibility to support the improvement of social conditions. By hosting workshops, the GNWT intends to start a dialogue leading to community-based solutions to social issues,” said Minister Michael Miltenberger. “Regional workshops provide an opportunity for communities and governments to discuss current issues, identify existing resources and consider how we can cooperatively manage potential social impacts from oil and gas development.”

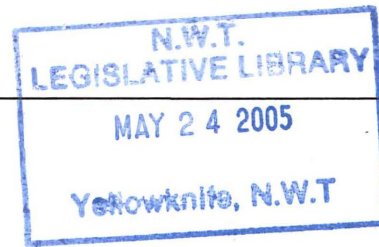
The workshops respond to requests from community leaders made during the “Preparing for the Pipeline conference”, in Inuvik in December 2004.

The workshops will take place in Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, and Inuvik before the end of June.

For more information, contact:

Julia Mott
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Cabinet Communications
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The Government of the Northwest Territories Reaches Agreement with Teachers

YELLOWKNIFE (19 May, 2005) – Members of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association (NWTTA) voted to accept the agreement reached between the NWTTA and the Government of the Northwest Territories today with eighty-five percent of the membership voting in favour. Eighty-eight percent of eligible voters cast ballots.

The Honourable Floyd Roland, Chair of the Financial Management Board, said this afternoon, "I am very pleased we have reached agreement on this important issue. The over-whelming 'yes' vote is particularly pleasing. I would like to thank both groups of negotiators for their hard work and dedication to these talks over the past weeks."

"I am glad a favourable resolution has resulted from these negotiations. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment looks forward to continuing to work with the NWTTA to provide top quality education to our students and the best possible working conditions for teachers," said the Honourable Charles Dent, Minister for Education, Culture and Employment.

The three-year contract, reached in eight weeks, allows for increases in salary and northern allowances, as well as additional funds for Aboriginal language proficiency and other benefits.

For more information, contact:

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R(15)250505137

Fort Smith Student Receives Scholarship to Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific

YELLOWKNIFE (25 May 2005) – Krystal Brown of Fort Smith will receive a scholarship to attend Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific this year. The scholarship, worth more than \$30,000, is awarded every year to one high school student in the Northwest Territories (NWT.) Candidates must demonstrate outstanding academic ability, and extensive involvement in leadership and volunteer roles, both in their school and community.

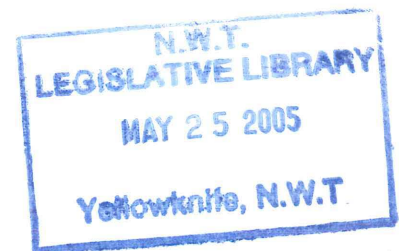
Ms. Brown, a Grade 11 student at P.W. Kaiser High School in Fort Smith, has a very impressive resume, which ultimately won her the scholarship. This year alone she has traveled both to the Netherlands as a Canadian representative at the Model United Nation, and has participated in the Forum for Young Canadians held in Ottawa. While involved in these activities she has maintained a position on her school's honour roll, and has been an active volunteer at the Northern Lights Special Care Home.

The scholarship, which is funded by the College itself, is awarded annually to only 100 students from around the world. The total enrollment in this unique and prestigious school is 200, with the student body made up of individuals from over 80 countries. Selection for the NWT scholarship is made by a committee of community members and members of the education community. The selection committee is organized by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

The Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific is one of 10 United World Colleges located around the globe. Students at these schools are taught based on the International Baccalaureate program, which, among other things, is designed to promote understanding and cooperation amongst students of different nationalities.

For more information, contact;

Shawn McCann
Manager, Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
Phone: (867) 920-6222



R(15)300505138

New Rules For New Drivers

YELLOWKNIFE (May 30, 2005) – The rules governing new drivers in the NWT will change on August 1, 2005 when the Department of Transportation introduces a Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program designed to make the process of learning to drive a safer experience for everyone involved.

“Graduated Driver Licensing is intended to give new drivers, regardless of age, an appropriate period in which to gain more driving experience and more skills as they progress through stages leading to a full licence,” Transportation Minister Michael McLeod said today as he announced the implementation date for the program.

“These new measures, similar to what are in place in the rest of Canada, are another step forward in continuing efforts to make roads in the NWT as safe as they can be,” he added. “Our new drivers must be fully prepared to meet the challenges of safely sharing our roadways, both here in the NWT and elsewhere in Canada.”

The GDL program will attach some new conditions to the process of acquiring a driver’s licence for the first time. Among the changes is a requirement that anyone who obtains a Learner’s licence must spend a full 12 months learning to drive before being tested for a full Class 5 licence. During that period, a Learner cannot drive between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. Similarly, a new Class 5 licence is probationary for 12 months.

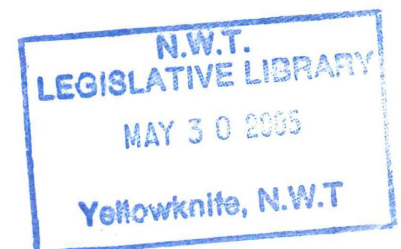
New drivers will not be permitted to drive with any amount of alcohol in their blood. Violations will result in a 30-day suspension. The mandatory demerit point licence suspension for experienced driver is 15 points, but will be reduced to six points for novice drivers.

“The GDL program emphasizes to new drivers that they must acquire skills, knowledge and experience in order to become safe drivers,” Mr. McLeod said. “It also reinforces the fact that driving a motor vehicle is a privilege that comes with a responsibility to drive in a manner that respects others.”

More information on the GDL program is available from the Manager of Driver and Vehicle Licensing Programs in the Department of Transportation at (867) 873-7406.

For more information, contact:

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



R(15)310505139

Students Celebrate World No Tobacco Day at the Legislative Assembly

YELLOWKNIFE (May 31, 2005) – Today at the Legislative Assembly, Yellowknife students celebrated World No Tobacco Day by showing politicians that they are doing their part to create a smoke free generation. 278 students from École St. Joseph School were recognized for their commitment to be smoke-free for life, representing more than 2000 other northern youth who also made the commitment in the last year. Students challenged members of the Legislative Assembly to do their part now by passing legislation making it more difficult for youth to buy tobacco.

The Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Health and Social Services said, “I am committed to supporting you by bringing forward tobacco legislation in the NWT this fall.”

The Honourable Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment congratulated the students from grades 3 to 8 and encouraged them to continue saying no to smoking. He also presented École St. Joseph School Vice Principal Gillian Dawe-Taylor with specially imprinted ‘Butthead’ soccer balls to celebrate that almost 50% of the school population made the commitment to be smoke-free for life.

Dr. André Corriveau, Chief Medical Officer for the Northwest Territories (NWT) spoke to students about why it is important to pay attention to tobacco issues across the world. He said, “While the rates of tobacco use are dropping in many developed countries such as Canada, the tobacco industry is moving aggressively into developing countries and targeting youth. This is how the tobacco industry starts new generations of smokers. I hope this generation of young people in the NWT will be strong and continue to stay smoke free, so that the tobacco industry doesn’t win here.”

Student speaker, Katie Heine, a grade 10 student from Sir John Franklin congratulated all the kids who made the commitment and said, “I encourage you not to just sit back, but to take your own actions to move towards a smoke-free society”.

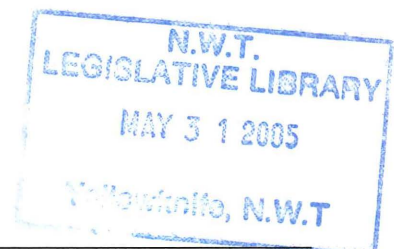
Natalie MacFadyen, a Grade 8 student from École St. Joseph School, also spoke about her personal commitment to never start smoking.

Another highlight of the event was the announcement of the last two prize draw winners for the *Don't Be a Butthead – Be Smoke-Free* initiative. Travis Andre of Tsiigehtchic won the sports package and Summer Desjarlais of Yellowknife won the electronics package, each valued at approximately \$1000.

The students from École St. Joseph School were seated in the visitor’s gallery and recognized by Minister Miltenberger in his opening remarks at the Legislative Assembly session.

For more information contact:

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Health Promotions Consultant
Health and Social Services
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R(15)010605140

Saying 'Thanks' to NWT Firefighters and Fire Departments

YELLOWKNIFE (June 1, 2005) – Firefighters from fire departments across the Northwest Territories play a key role in keeping our communities safe and the Honorable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, is urging all Northwest Territories (NWT) residents to take an active role in thanking them.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) is currently accepting nominations for the 2005 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, 2005.

“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 even death. 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 then selected from the regional winners. The community award is presented in recognition of improvement in community-based fire protection systems.

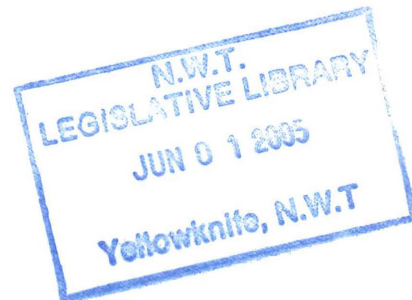
Nomination forms are available from any MACA office, by calling (867) 920-3092 and on the MACA website at <http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca>.

For more information please contact:

Claude Gervais
Acting NWT Fire Marshal
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone: (867) 777-7297

OR

Amy Hacala
Communications and Policy Advisor
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
Tel: (867) 920-3092



R(15)030605141

NWT Hospital Satisfaction Summary Completed

YELLOWKNIFE (June 3, 2005) – *NWT Hospital Satisfaction Questionnaire* summary reports have been released for the four hospitals in the Northwest Territories.

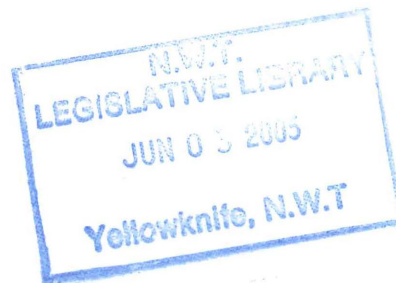
These reports highlight the findings of questionnaires completed by people utilizing hospital services in Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik and Yellowknife for the month of October 2004. The questionnaire gathered feedback from clients on general hospital services, health care providers, treatment/procedure and overall satisfaction.

The reports represent the first comprehensive profile of hospital satisfaction prepared by the Department of Health and Social Services in collaboration with the relevant Health Authorities.

Summary reports for each hospital are available on the Department's web site: www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca (click on What's New).

For more information, please contact:

Damien Healy
Manager Communications
Department of Health and Social Services
Phone: (867) 920-8927



R(15)030605142

Community Government Staff Complete Programs with the School of Community Government

YELLOWKNIFE (June 3, 2005) – A ceremony to honour the 21 community government staff who successfully completed programs with the School of Community Government this year was held last night at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) was pleased to host this public ceremony recognizing the hard work of these individuals.

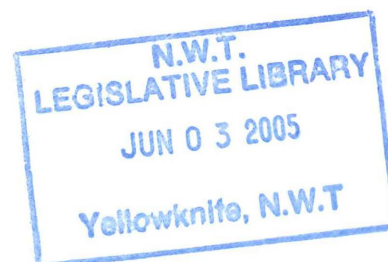
“MACA’s School of Community Government, working with its partners, improves and increases capacity building opportunities for community governments and their staff,” said Minister McLeod. “The School of Community Government offers training opportunities in management, finance, administration, lands, recreation, fire protection, emergency service, public safety, water and waste, works and airport maintenance.”

Certificates of Program Completion in the Community Management Program were awarded to:

- Marjorie Hansen of Inuvik; and
- Elizabeth Ann McKay of Fort Resolution.

Certificates of Program Completion in Recreation Facility Operator Program were awarded to:

- Shane Thompson of Fort Simpson;
- Ted Matto of Fort Providence; and
- Louis Balsillie of Fort Resolution.



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Certificates of Program Completion in the Community Finance Program were awarded to:

- Pauline Simba of Fort Liard;
- Fred Rabisca of Fort Good Hope;
- Marty Kenny of Deline;
- Freda Taniton of Deline;
- Anita Simba-Chicot of Kakisa;
- Louisa Wedzin of Rae;
- Ruth Elemie of Deline;
- Louisa Wetrade of Gameti;
- Anne Bayha of Deline; and
- Sandra Lockhart of Lutselk'e.

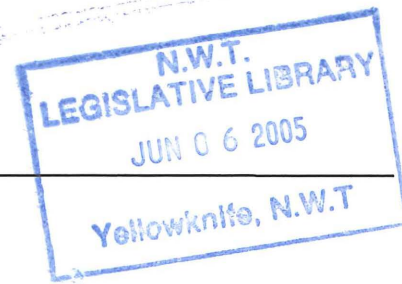
Occupational Certification as a Finance Officer was awarded to:

- Pauline Simba of Fort Liard;
- Agnes Aleekuk of Deline;
- Rosemary Vandell of Fort Providence;
- Susan Christie of Fort Providence;
- Ruth Elemie of Deline;
- Jackie Nogasak-Thrasher of Tuktoyaktuk;
- Anne Bayha of Deline;
- Sandra Lockhart of Lutselk'e.
- Annie Snowshoe of Fort McPherson; and
- Susan Blake of Fort McPherson

“I congratulate each of these individuals on their hard work, determination and tenacity,” added Minister McLeod. “Their success will certainly inspire their colleagues and other community government staff to pursue their goals and further their education and training.”

For more information contact:

Amy Hacala
Communications/Policy Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone: (867) 920-3092



Celebrating the Northwest Territories Mining Industry

YELLOWKNIFE (June 6, 2005) – Every year, the Northwest Territories (NWT) and Nunavut Chambers of Mines organizes NWT Mining Week. This year, Mining Week will be held from June 6th to 11th, 2005. Many activities are planned throughout the week to highlight and celebrate the mining industry of the NWT.

“Mining and mineral exploration are two significant contributors to the NWT economy,” said Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) Minister Brendan Bell. “In 2004, the mining industry accounted for \$1.8 billion of the \$3.7 billion Gross Domestic Product for the Territory. As well, total mineral exploration accounted for \$109 million spent in the NWT.”

A recent survey found that mining companies spent an average of 66% of their total exploration and deposit appraisal expenditures for 2004 in the NWT. This percentage falls between the required Northern Spending in mine construction and operation stages, as outlined in Socio-Economic Agreements between the mining companies and Government of the NWT.

The NWT Geoscience Office is assisting in Mining Week activities by hosting Rock Walks. These guided tours of the local geology will be held every evening during Mining Week. New to the celebrations this year is the Mining Heritage Art Show, featuring photographer George Hunter. This collection of black and white stills is sponsored by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the NWT Mining Heritage Society, the Department of ITI and the NWT and Nunavut Chambers of Mines. Other activities organized for the week include the Prospectors Challenge and the NWT and Nunavut Mine Rescue competition.

NWT Mining Week is sponsored by a wide range of supporters including government agencies, junior and major mining groups, transportation organizations and expediting and supply companies.

For more information, contact:

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Government of the NWT
Phone: (867) 669-2304

News Release

R(15)060605144

For immediate release

AGRICULTURAL POLICY FRAMEWORK PROGRAMS NOW AVAILABLE TO PRODUCERS IN NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, June 6, 2005 - A suite of agricultural programs is now available to eligible producers involved in the agriculture and agri-food industry of the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The Canada/NWT Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) is a long-term action plan for Canadian agriculture. The APF offers programs designed to provide the agriculture and agri-food industry with the tools, services and options to strengthen business, increase prosperity and meet the demands of consumers. Assistance is available to NWT producers to enhance food safety, environmental stewardship, strengthen business management skills and increase the technical knowledge base of the industry.

“Under the Canada/NWT APF, these programs will provide new opportunities and support for the agri-food industry in the NWT,” said Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Andy Mitchell. “I am certain that, through the collaboration of government and industry, these programs will help the sector play an increasingly important role in the economic development of the territory.”

“The Government of the NWT is committed to providing technical and financial support to ensure continued progress of the NWT agriculture and agri-food industry,” stated Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) Minister Brendan Bell. “Participation in the APF will allow us to undertake important initiatives aimed at providing the industry with tools and information to enable a strong and viable sector to the NWT economy.”

The NWT agri-foods industry is comprised of traditional forms of production as well as commercial wildlife harvesting operations carried out throughout the NWT. The newly developed Canada/NWT APF Program Guide is available through regional ITI offices or online at www.iti.gov.nt.ca.

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For more information, please contact:

Gene Hachey
Agri-foods and Commercial Wildlife Harvesting
Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories
Phone: (867) 874-4567

Elizabeth Whiting
Press Secretary Minister Mitchell's Office
Ottawa
Phone: (613) 759-1059

Media Relations
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Ottawa
1-866-345-7972

Backgrounder

In the summer of 2002, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories (NWT), along with many other Canadian jurisdictions, signed the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Framework Agreement on Agricultural and Agri-Food Policy for the Twenty-First Century.

The NWT is ready to deliver four elements of the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) designed to enhance opportunities for the NWT agri-foods industry:

Food Safety and Quality: Designed to improve the sector's ability to identify and respond to food safety and quality issues, improve the industry's ability to meet or exceed market requirements, increase consumer confidence and create valued-added opportunities.

Environment: Designed to enhance environmental stewardship of water, soil, air and biodiversity resources of the NWT through broadening the general knowledge base as it applies to NWT production.

Renewal: Designed to provide farmers with the skills, knowledge and tools to help them succeed in farming; access to advice on increasing profitability through new business opportunities and value-added activities; and opportunities to help them improve farm family incomes and/or make informed choices about sources of income.

Science and Innovation: Designed to provide scientific and technical support aimed at developing innovative approaches to the diversification of the agri-foods industry.

The Agreement provides for yearly contributions to the agri-foods industry of the NWT totalling \$435,000 per year on a 60 per cent Federal and 40 per cent NWT basis. The agreement is effective until March 31, 2008, and will equal a cumulative program value of \$2.175 million.

Communiqué

R(15)060605144

pour diffusion immédiate

LES PROGRAMMES DU CADRE STRATÉGIQUE POUR L'AGRICULTURE SONT MAINTENANT OFFERTS AUX PRODUCTEURS DES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST

Yellowknife (Territoires du Nord-Ouest), le 6 juin 2005 – Une série de programmes agricoles sont maintenant offerts aux producteurs admissibles de l'industrie agricole et agroalimentaire des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (T.N.-O.).

L'accord de mise en œuvre Canada–T.N.-O. sur le Cadre stratégique pour l'agriculture (CSA) est un plan d'action à long terme visant l'agriculture canadienne. Le CSA offre des programmes qui donnent au secteur canadien de l'agriculture et de l'agroalimentaire les outils, les services et les options nécessaires pour renforcer sa position commerciale, accroître sa prospérité et satisfaire aux exigences des consommateurs. Une aide est offerte aux producteurs des T.N.-O. afin d'améliorer la salubrité des aliments et la gérance de l'environnement, d'acquérir de nouvelles compétences en gestion d'entreprise et d'accroître le savoir technique du secteur.

« Conformément à l'accord de mise en œuvre Canada–T.N.-O. sur le CSA, ces programmes offriront de nouvelles possibilités ainsi qu'un soutien à l'industrie agroalimentaire des T.N.-O., a souligné le ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Agroalimentaire, l'honorable Andy Mitchell. Grâce à la collaboration des gouvernements et de l'industrie, je suis convaincu que ces programmes aideront l'industrie à jouer un rôle de plus en plus important dans le développement économique du territoire. »

« Le gouvernement des T.N.-O. est déterminé à fournir une aide technique et financière à l'industrie agricole et agroalimentaire des T.N.-O. pour qu'elle continue de progresser, a ajouté le ministre de l'Industrie, du Tourisme et de l'Investissement (ITI), M. Brendan Bell. En participant au CSA, nous pourrions entreprendre des initiatives importantes afin de fournir à l'industrie des outils et des renseignements qui lui permettront d'assurer sa prospérité et sa viabilité au sein de l'économie des T.N.-O. »

L'industrie agroalimentaire des T.N.-O. comprend des formes traditionnelles de production et des activités commerciales de capture d'animaux sauvages menées sur l'ensemble du territoire. Le nouveau Guide des programmes de l'accord de mise en œuvre Canada–T.N.-O. sur le CSA est distribué dans les bureaux régionaux de l'ITI ou accessible en ligne à l'adresse www.iti.gov.nt.ca.



Pour de plus amples renseignements, prière de s'adresser à :

Gene Hachey

Agroalimentaire et Exploitation commerciale
des ressources fauniques
Ministère de l'Industrie, du Tourisme et de
l'Investissement
Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest
Téléphone: (867) 874-4567

Elizabeth Whiting

Attachée de presse du ministre Mitchell
Ottawa
Téléphone : (613) 759-1059

Relations avec les médias

Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada
Ottawa
1 866 345-7972

Document d'information

Au cours de l'été 2002, le gouvernement du Canada, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (T.N.-O.) et d'autres ressorts canadiens ont signé l'Accord fédéral-provincial-territorial sur un cadre stratégique agricole et agroalimentaire pour le vingt et unième siècle.

Les T.N.-O. sont prêts à mettre à exécution quatre volets du Cadre stratégique pour l'agriculture (CSA) afin d'améliorer les possibilités qui s'offrent à leur industrie agroalimentaire.

Salubrité et qualité des aliments : Ce volet vise à améliorer la capacité du secteur de cerner et de traiter les problèmes de salubrité et de qualité des aliments, à améliorer l'aptitude du secteur à satisfaire ou à dépasser les exigences du marché, à accroître la confiance des consommateurs et à créer des débouchés à valeur ajoutée.

Environnement : Ce volet vise à améliorer la gérance environnementale des ressources en eau, du sol, de l'air et de la biodiversité des T.N.-O. en élargissant les connaissances générales appliquées à la production des T.N.-O.

Renouveau : Ce volet vise à doter les agriculteurs des compétences, des connaissances et des outils qui les aideront à réussir en agriculture, à leur donner accès à des conseils sur les moyens d'augmenter la rentabilité en mettant à profit de nouveaux débouchés commerciaux et des activités à valeur ajoutée, et à leur offrir des possibilités pour améliorer leur revenu familial et faire des choix éclairés concernant les sources de revenu.

Science et innovation : Ce volet vise à fournir un soutien scientifique et technique pour l'élaboration de stratégies innovatrices de diversification de l'industrie agroalimentaire.

L'Accord prévoit l'octroi de contributions annuelles totalisant 435 000 \$ à l'industrie agroalimentaire des T.N.-O., selon la formule de partage 60/40 (Canada/T.N.-O.). L'Accord est en vigueur jusqu'au 31 mars 2008, ce qui portera les contributions à une valeur cumulative de 2,175 millions de dollars.

R(15)090605145

Geographic Information System portion of ATLAS complete

YELLOWKNIFE (June 9, 2005) – The Geographic Information System (GIS) portion of the Administration of the Territorial Land Acts System (ATLAS) is complete, announced Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA).

ATLAS is a land information system that uses GIS technology. It was developed through consultation with Northwest Territories (NWT) communities, community governments, aboriginal governments, as well as other stakeholders. It has been designed to meet the needs of these users and fills an identified gap in the area of land administration.

“The completion of this portion of the ATLAS initiative gives community governments access to an important new tool that will support the administration of local land,” said Minister McLeod. “As MACA moves forward with the New Deal for NWT Community Governments and authority over land administration continues to be transferred to the community level, the GIS system will provide tremendous support to communities in carrying out their responsibilities.”

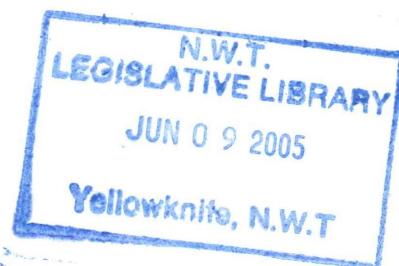
ATLAS and the GIS system provide users with accurate and reliable maps, and written information on every parcel of land within community. It is accessible from anywhere, anytime and is easy to understand and very user-friendly.

View the ATLAS website at: <http://gis.maca.gov.nt.ca/Website/index.asp>

For more information on ATLAS, please contact:

Bradley York
Land Management Information Systems
Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone: (867) 873-7586

Amy Hacala
Communications and Policy Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone: (867) 920-3092



R(15)100605146

June 10, 2005

Continued commitment to partnership and change spell accomplishment for Alberta and the Northwest Territories

Edmonton... The Co-chairs for the Alberta-Northwest Territories Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation and Development met yesterday in Edmonton. Minister Pearl Calahasen, representing the Government of Alberta, and Minister Michael Miltenberger, representing the Government of the Northwest Territories, were very pleased with the outcome of the meeting.

The collaborative working arrangement between the Governments of Alberta and the Northwest Territories has been in place for seven years now and has seen results in a number of areas including tourism, transportation, and regional economic development. Going forward, the Co-chairs have agreed to focus efforts in areas of mutual concern and interest including the benefits and impacts of resource development, maintenance and required upgrades of northern transportation infrastructure and the management of common water resources.

Specific areas discussed include:

- A wide-ranging discussion on the Mackenzie Gas Project and the potential impacts on communities and northern transportation infrastructure;
- The need to work cooperatively on further reducing the risks to northern communities from forest fires; and
- The need to work towards a tri-lateral agreement between the governments of Alberta, the Northwest Territories and the government of Canada on the management of water resources in the Mackenzie River Basin.

Minister Miltenberger said, "The value of ongoing dialogue and continued collaboration with the Government of Alberta on specific projects cannot be over-stated. We have had good success in the past on common issues such as tourism and we will continue to work together in other areas such as the management of our common water resources."

Minister Calahasen noted, "I will continue to advance issues important to our northern communities at the Alberta Cabinet table and build the relationships necessary to achieve results related to our joint projects and initiatives."

Also participating in the meeting was Ray Danyluk, the Chair of the Northern Alberta Development Council and the MLA for Lac La Biche-St.Paul. Mr. Danyluk said "We will continue to pursue the enhancement of northern highways, rail and scheduled air connections between the regions."

The Alberta-Northwest Territories *Memorandum of Understanding* for Co-operation and Development between Alberta and the Northwest Territories was originally signed by the Premiers of the Northwest Territories and Alberta in 1998 and then extended in 2003 for another five years. The next meeting will be held in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories.

-30-

For further information contact:

Jason Gariepy
Communications
Alberta Aboriginal Affairs and Northern
Development (780) 415-0876

Julia Mott,
Communications
Government of the Northwest Territories
(867) 669-2304

Allen Geary
Northern Alberta Development Council
(780) 624-6274

News Release

R(15)140605147

NWT Students Recognized With Aviation Bursaries

YELLOWKNIFE (June 14, 2005) – Bursaries worth a total of \$40,000 were awarded today to help eight students from the Northwest Territories get their aviation careers off the ground.

The students received \$5,000 each through the Aviation Career Development Program. This partnership bursary is co-funded by the Department of Transportation and Canadian North and supported by Northern Air Transport Association (NATA), the organization that represents northern air carriers.

In five years, the Aviation Career Development Program has awarded \$200,000 in bursaries to northern students who want careers in the aviation industry. This year's recipients were chosen from a field of 31 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.

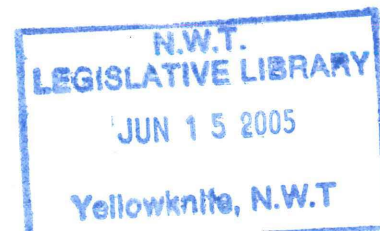
Upon completion of their studies, all eight students' career paths will lead them back to the North so that they may put their newly acquired skills to work in the region's broad and growing aviation industry.

The 2005 recipients are: Dawn Hansen and Paul Sullivan, of Inuvik; Alisa Blake of Fort McPherson; Lanita Thrasher of Paulatuk; and Jonathan Bembridge, William Blauel, Sheldon Lundrigan and Alaina Botham, of Yellowknife.

“The Northwest Territories has limited roads and great distances between communities, so a strong aviation industry is vital to the lives of Northerners and to the continued development of our economy,” said Michael McLeod, Minister of Transportation. “This bursary program has been an outstanding example of how government and industry can work together to achieve a common goal that benefits all Northerners.”

“Canadian North has been actively involved in this bursary program since its inception,” said Tom Ruth, president of Canadian North. “We are once again pleased, in co-operation with the Department of Transportation and the Northern Air Transport Association, to provide aviation funding for northern leaders of tomorrow.”

.../2





“The aviation industry offers a diverse range of career paths to our youth and an opportunity to develop satisfying lives in the north in a field so essential to us all,” said Hugh Kitchen, NATA president. “NATA is proud to be a part of the collective efforts and rewards this program brings to the industry, communities and our youth.”

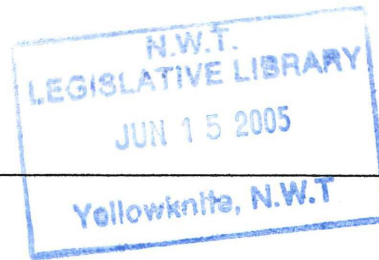
Information on the Aviation Career Development Program can be obtained from the Operations and Training Officer, Airports Division, Department of Transportation (867) 873-7161, or the department’s website at www.dot.gov.nt.ca

For more information, contact:

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



Backgrounder



NWT Council of Sport and Recreation Partners Council

The development of an NWT Council of Sport and Recreation Partners Council is intended to achieve four primary goals:

- Create a forum for all communities and sport and recreation leaders to have a voice in sport and recreation planning and decision-making.
- Streamline decision-making, and improve coordination in program delivery.
- Provide opportunities for all Northwest Territories (NWT) residents to access sport, recreation and physical activity programs by improving integration and more effective use of resources.
- Establish a mechanism to allocate available resources equitably to address program and community needs.

The Council will provide the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) an official point of contact to discuss sport, recreation and physical activity policy and programming issues.

Why a Council?

In April 2003, the Minister of MACA approved the "Northwest Territories Recreation and Sport Board: Final Recommendations Report", which was submitted by all partners as a joint recommendation on the creation of an NWT Council of Sport and Recreation Partners. An Interim Coordinating Team was established with representation from all partners and were tasked with moving the proposal forward.

On October 1, 2004, the partners submitted a "Response to the Draft Proposal for the establishment of the Northwest Territories Council of Sport and Recreation Partners". Input was also received from the Beaufort Delta Sahtu Recreation Association and the NWT Curling Association.

Based on this consultation process and recommendations made by stakeholders, the Minister of MACA announced the intent to proceed with implementation of the NWT Council of Sport and Recreation Partners effective April 2005.

What's Next?

1. After the establishment of the Council, it will begin work with partners and regions through its committee structure on its primary areas of responsibility. Initially these will include development of the following:
 - a. resource management plan including:
 - support to the Lottery Authority to maximize revenue flow;
 - streamlining administrative expenses; and
 - volunteer and staff support initiatives.
 - b. communications and marketing plan;
 - c. plan to consolidate partner offices; and
 - d. plan to establish system wide priorities and operating principles.
2. The Council will provide quarterly progress updates to partners and the Minister on progress. Periodic updates will also be developed for Northwest Territories communities and other interested parties.
3. In October 2005, partners are anticipated to submit draft 2006-2007 business plans and budgets to the Council for review.
4. The Council is intended to finalize its reviews and makes final recommendations on budget approvals for 2006-2007 in November/December 2005 and forward to the Minister of MACA.
5. A final Ministerial decision on budget requests is anticipated in June 2006.
6. The partners will begin the first full year of operation in April 2006. During this time, the Council will continue with implementation of its primary duties.

R(15)140605148

NWT Council of Sport and Recreation Partners Announce Members

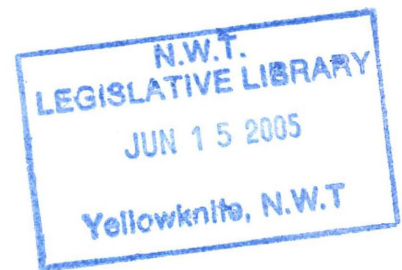
YELLOWKNIFE (June 15, 2005) – The names of individuals selected to form the Northwest Territories (NWT) Council of Sport and Recreation Partners were announced by Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. The 13 member Council will gather for their inaugural meeting June 27 and 28 in Yellowknife.

The establishment of the NWT Council of Sport and Recreation Partners is an important step in the development of a collaborative, inclusive approach to sport and recreation in the Northwest Territories. The new Council will play an integral role in streamlining decision-making, improving program coordination and identifying new ways to access resources.

"The NWT Council of Sport and Recreation Partners will provide the coordination necessary to develop a stronger and more efficient sport and recreation system - one that will consider the needs of all communities, regions and partners," said Minister McLeod.

The Council consists of 13 members, including seven regional representatives and six members at large from the sport and recreation fields. All representatives have experience in sport, recreation and/or active living. The Council members are:

Mr. Taig Connell, Fort McPherson
Ms. Gloria Gaudet, Deline
Mr. Gary Hoffman, Hay River
Mr. Ron Cook, Hay River
Mr. Roger Vail, Fort Smith
Ms. Janie Hobart, Fort Smith
Mr. Michael Botermans, Rae Edzo
Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts, Yellowknife
Mr. Abe Theil, Yellowknife
Ms. Janna Bulmer, Tuktoyaktuk
Ms. Denise Ritias-Voudrach, Inuvik
Ms. Denise Kurzewski, Inuvik
Mr. Julian Tomlinson, Inuvik



"I am confident that the individuals selected to sit on the NWT Council of Sport and Recreation Partners will provide excellent representation on behalf their regions and communities," said Minister McLeod. "All regions have well qualified and experienced people at the table, providing a balanced and knowledgeable view of the sport and recreation system in the Northwest Territories."

For more information, please contact:

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

R(15)150605149

Premier's Award for Excellence Recipients Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (June 15, 2005) – The recipients of the Premier's Award for Excellence were announced today by Premier Joseph Handley.

The awards are presented annually to public service employees in the Northwest Territories who have demonstrated excellence, innovation and dedication in their work.

Winning Criteria includes finding unique and creative solutions that improve government-wide systems or process, exceptional performance on a continuing basis and outstanding commitment to complex projects or ongoing activities.

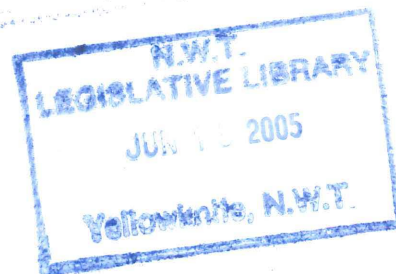
This year's individual award winners are: Helen Sullivan, Regional Superintendent - Department of Education, Culture and Employment in Inuvik; Brian Austin, Director of Lands Administration – Department of Municipal and Community Affairs in Yellowknife; Effie MacLeod, Supervisor of Schools with the Beaufort-Delta Education Council in Inuvik; and Rick Lanoville, former Manager of Fire Science and Planning with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The Premiers' awards also recognize the exceptional team efforts of the Diabetes Education Program Team – Stanton Territorial Health Authority; the Information Systems Team - Department of Education, Culture and Employment; the Strategy to Reduce Impaired Driving Team - Department of Transportation, as well, as the Midwifery Implementation Team comprised of individuals from varying departments, board and authorities.

A ceremony recognizing all 2005 Premier's award winners will be held Friday, June 17, 2005 at 11:00 am in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly.

For more information, contact:

Shauna Yeomans
Director,
Corporate Human Resources
Financial Management Board Secretariat
Phone: (867) 920-8690





R(15)200605150

School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP) Results Released

YELLOWKNIFE (June 20, 2005) – The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) has released the 2004 School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP) Science III results, which included the Northwest Territories as a jurisdiction.

The assessment, which was administered in the spring of 2004, is designed to evaluate the overall level of knowledge and concept understanding of science over time amongst English and French-speaking students aged 13 and 16. This is the third time that the assessment has been administered since it was created in 1996.

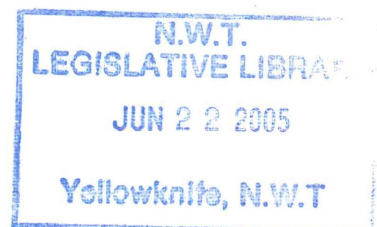
Achievement criteria are assessed on a five-level scale. Most 13-year-olds were expected to achieve or exceed level 2, while 16-year-olds were expected to achieve or exceed level 3. In the NWT, almost half of 13-year-olds achieved level 2 or higher, compared to 71% nationally. 49% of NWT 16-year-olds achieved level 3 or higher compared to 64% nationally.

It is not possible to compare NWT results from previous years, as this is the first time the NWT has been assessed in science as a separate jurisdiction from Nunavut. Additionally, in most jurisdictions, a random sample of students participate in the assessment, but because of the small size of our population in the NWT, the test was administered to all students aged 13 and 16. As a result, unlike other jurisdictions, NWT students participate regardless of their grade level at the time of the test, which may skew our comparative results.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has already taken steps to improve the level of science achievement for NWT students, with the implementation of the new Western and Northern Canadian Protocol (WNCP) science curriculum in the fall of 2005. It is anticipated that this curriculum will have a positive result on SAIP science results when they are next administered.

For more information, please contact:

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R(15)220605151

NWT Flags at Half-mast to Honour Air India Anniversary

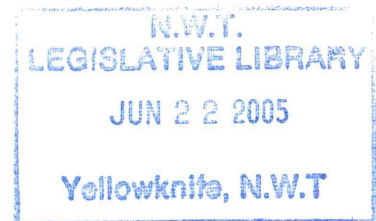
YELLOWKNIFE (June 22, 2005) – Flags on all Northwest Territories government buildings will be flown at half-mast from sunrise to sunset tomorrow, June 23, 2005, marking the twentieth anniversary of the Air India disaster.

“Whenever a tragedy such as the Air India disaster happens, it doesn’t matter where in the world we live - we are all connected. Our thoughts go out to the families and those whose lives were forever changed on this day twenty years ago,” said Premier Handley. “On behalf of all residents of the Northwest Territories, I wish to join Canadians across the country in honouring those who died and expressing our condolences to their families.”

On this date in 1985, three hundred and twenty-nine people, most of them Canadians, died when a bomb exploded on Air India flight 182 over Ireland’s southern coast. Flight 182 had departed from Pearson International Airport enroute to India.

For more information, contact:

Laura Seddon
Deputy Secretary
Corporate Communications and Protocol
Phone: (867) 920-8813





R(15)290605153

Ingraham Trail Will be Monitored

YELLOWKNIFE (June 29, 2005) – A new group has been created to monitor the area along the Ingraham Trail. The group is comprised of officials from Environment and Natural Resources, Industry, Tourism and Investment, Municipal and Community Affairs, Department of Transportation, RCMP and the Yellowknives Dene.

The Ingraham Trail and Cameron River are important areas for people living in the Yellowknife area and for tourists. The areas are popular for camping and picnicking. Human activity has the potential to cause environmental damage and interfere with the enjoyment of others. The Ingraham Trail Working Group plans to monitor the area to help to reduce or minimize the effects that people may have on the area and to ensure compliance with NWT laws and regulations. Check-stops are planned for the Ingraham Trail throughout the summer.

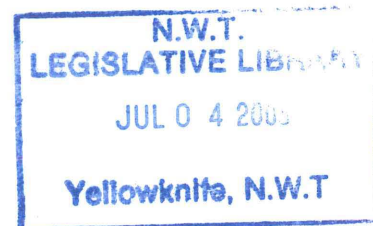
People using the area are reminded that they have a responsibility to act in a respectful manner towards other people and to protect the environment. Drive carefully, do not litter and do not cut down green trees.

The intent of this initiative by the Ingraham Trail Working Group is to preserve the ecological integrity of the Ingraham Trail and to ensure the safety of people using the area.

The public is reminded to use the garbage bins where provided. People are also encouraged to report unlawful activities to the RCMP at 669-1111.

For more information, contact:

Lance Schmidt,
Manager, Forests, North Slave Region
Environment and Natural Resources
Phone: (867) 920-6114



R(15)070705154

Northwest Territories Summer Games Begin

YELLOWKNIFE (July 7, 2005) – Tomorrow will mark the beginning of the 2005 Northwest Territories (NWT) Summer Games in Inuvik. The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, is pleased to attend the event, being held from July 8 – 11, 2005.

“It is through a collaborative relationship with our NWT sport partners and a number of Government of the Northwest Territories departments that this event is made possible,” said Minister McLeod. “We expect these Games to be as successful as the NWT Winter Games held earlier this year in Fort Smith.”

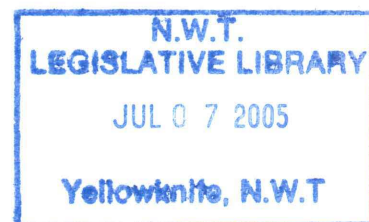
A wide range of organizations and individuals in Inuvik have come together to host the NWT Summer Games. The Games will be attended by almost 350 youth aged 10 – 14 from all NWT communities. There will be opportunities for youth to participate in a number of sport programs and other events over the Games weekend.

“It is my hope that the youth who participate in the NWT Games will be motivated to make sport and physical activities a permanent part of their lives” said Minister McLeod. “It is critical that government and others continue to support opportunities for NWT youth to make healthy choices like participating in sport and other physical activity events.”

Partners in the NWT Games program include the Sport North Federation, the Aboriginal Sport Circle of the Western Arctic and the Mackenzie and Beaufort Delta Sahtu Recreation Associations. Sport North will partner with the host committee in Inuvik to coordinate and oversee the Games.

For further information please contact:

Gary Schauerte
Manager, Sport and Recreation Programs
Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone: (867) 444-5650





R(15)070705155

Engaging Workshop Planned for Aboriginal Language Instructors

YELLOWKNIFE (July 7, 2005) – Staff involved in providing aboriginal language programming for children will be participating in a training workshop on the Hay River Reserve, hosted by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), from July 18th to 22nd. The workshop will be delivered by Dr. Stephen Greymorning and based on the “Accelerated Second Language Acquisition” model.

The training is designed for those delivering second language instruction to students of different ages and languages. It has received high praise from many individuals and Canadian Aboriginal organizations. The objective of the training is to bring students to a level of language proficiency, while accommodating instructors who may be working with limited time and resources.

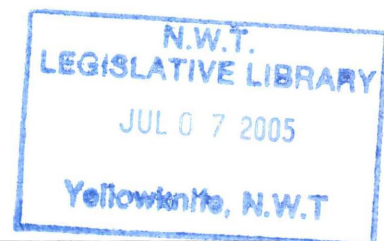
Dr. Greymorning is a professor in both the Anthropology and Native American Studies programs at the University of Montana. He has conducted research among indigenous peoples in Australia, New Zealand, Timor, the United States and Canada, and continues working to develop strategies for native language restoration.

Dr. Greymorning’s presentation is anticipated to be of particular interest to Language Nest Coordinators. Language Nests are aboriginal language immersion programs for preschool children and their parents. There are currently 18 Language Nests funded by ECE in the Northwest Territories (NWT), with at least one program being offered in each official aboriginal language.

Aboriginal language specialists and instructors who currently work in the education system in the NWT have also been invited to participate in the workshop.

For more information, please contact:

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Shawn_mccann@gov.nt.ca





News Release

R(15)130705156

NWT Liquor Act Review Seeks Public Input

YELLOWKNIFE (July 13, 2005) – A review of the Northwest Territories *Liquor Act* is being undertaken by the Government of the Northwest Territories. The review will identify methods to improve liquor legislation by making it more flexible and adaptable to the needs and priorities of Northwest Territories residents.

Finance Minister Floyd Roland announced the review today saying, “A lot of work has been done to prepare for a thorough review of the NWT *Liquor Act*. It is important to me that the public has an opportunity to provide their thoughts and suggestions during this process. Changes occurring as a result of this review will enable the government to better serve all northerners.”

Members of the community will be able to provide their input through a series of public meetings across the territory in September and October of this year. In the meantime, the public is encouraged to visit the *Liquor Act* Review website for more information and a copy of the Discussion Guide at www.fin.gov.nt.ca/liquor_act_review.

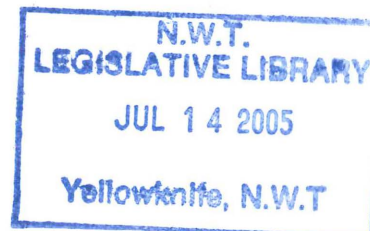
The *Liquor Act* Review report is scheduled for delivery to Minister Roland in early December and will be released to the public. It is hoped recommendations springing from the report and associated research will be presented to Members of the Legislative Assembly for their consideration early in 2006.

For more information, contact:

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

or email:

liquoractreview@gov.nt.ca





Sponsors Support Northwest Territories Participation at Expo

YELLOWKNIFE (July 20, 2005) – Private sector support for the Northwest Territories (NWT) participation at Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan has exceeded expectations. More than \$300,000 in cash and in-kind services has been committed by businesses to support theme days planned for NWT Week July 25-29 in the Canada Pavilion.

“I am delighted with the level of participation of the private sector in Expo. The commitment businesses have demonstrated to our success in Japan shows me, yet again, how motivated and entrepreneurial industry is in working to develop our Northern markets,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) Brendan Bell.

NWT Week at Expo 2005 will feature Premier Handley’s opening reception, two evening events highlighting tourism, particularly aurora tourism, a fashion show of qiviuk garments and an event spotlighting the story of Canadian diamonds. International media have been invited to all events. “These events target Japanese leaders with specific interests in the NWT - increasing their awareness of our territory and building relationships that will generate future business,” said Minister Bell.

Sponsors of NWT Week at Expo 2005 include Air Canada, First Air, Canadian North, Northern News Services Ltd., Jacques Cartier Clothiers, Aurora World Corporation, Diavik Diamond Mines Inc., Canadian Heritage, NWT Tourism, Birchwood Gallery, Artisan Press Ltd., Yellowknife Inn, Super 8 Motel, Milligan Mediaworks, Canadian Rockies Video, Great Slave Helicopters, Braden Burry Expediting, Dawn Oman, Acho Dene Crafts/ Dene Fur Clouds Ltd., Aurora College, Canadian EX Aurora Tours and Enodah Wilderness Travel Ltd.

Premier Joe Handley and Minister Bell will lead the delegation comprised of representatives of the NWT’s business and cultural community and some government support staff.

For more information, visit the NWT Expo website at www.expo2005.nt.ca or contact:

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



Backgrounder

NWT Week at Expo 2005, Aichi Japan

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and industry partners will be hosting a series of events throughout the week of July 25 – 29. The following information provides background on who is attending from the GNWT and the various events.

Premier Handley and Minister Bell will be joined by three (3) Members of the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development:

Robert Villeneuve, Deputy Chair
Dave Ramsay
Kevin Menicoche

As well, five (5) staff from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) will be in attendance to be responsible for logistics, communications, program and sponsor support.

Program:

- Monday July 25th - Premier's Reception
- Tuesday July 26th - NWT Tourism reception
Jacques Cartier IRC Qiviut fashion show
- Wednesday July 27th - Afternoon and evening reception hosted by Aurora World Corporation
- Thursday July 28th - Harry Winston Canadian Diamonds event
- Friday July 29th - NWT cultural afternoon

Additional Information:

Provinces and territories have been invited to participate in the Canadian Pavilion at Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan. Hosting a Northwest Territories (NWT) event in the Canadian Pavilion at Expo is an ideal opportunity to market the NWT and its products.

The Japanese tourism market is extremely important to the NWT. Annually, this market is valued at upwards of \$12.5 million. The Aurora market suffered a downturn of 50 percent arising from the September 11 tragedy in the United States. The NWT is also facing increased competition for this market, which is being targeted by several other Northern jurisdictions.

As the Japanese market is a “winter-spring” market, a time of low visitation, it maximizes usage of our tourism infrastructure.

The NWT event targets VIP Japanese leaders who have specific interests in the NWT, increasing their awareness of our Territory and building relationships that may lead to future business opportunities.

NWT arts and traditional fine crafts reflect and define our cultural heritage. Five artists from the Northwest Territories have been chosen to showcase the NWT’s wealth of art, crafts, culture, talent and natural resources as part of NWT week. Further information about the NWT artists attending can be found in the GNWT press release included in this package.

For further information on the Canadian Pavilion please visit www.expo2005canada.gc.ca

For further information about Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan please visit www.expo2005.com

Expo 2005 - Business Case

The participation of the NWT in Expo 2005 in Japan has the potential to generate benefits to the territory in the following areas:

- Increased awareness of NWT Aurora Tourism and other diverse tourism products
- Increased purchase of NWT diamonds
- New investment in the NWT
- New visitors to the NWT

In 1989, less than 100 Japanese visitors came to the Northwest Territories. This visitation has grown substantially and Aurora viewing companies are expecting approximately 11,000 visitors next season. In future years Aurora traffic is expected to grow between 5-7% annually.

Surveys by ITI indicate each Japanese visitor contributes on average \$747 to the NWT’s economy.

The total private and public investment at Expo 2005 will be around \$800,000, \$500,000 will be GNWT funding and the balance reflects strong partnership participation by our

private sector sponsors. Further information on the sponsor involvement in NWT Week please refer to the enclosed press release.

Based on ITI results from the marketing investment after the downturn attributed to SARS, we expect Japanese visitation levels to increase by almost one thousand people in the year following Expo 2005, leaving close to \$750,000 behind in the local economy per year for the next several years. This spending will result in an estimated \$150,000 in tax revenues for the GNWT.

ITI expects the initial increase in visitation to maintain momentum over a number of years. As more people visit the NWT and ongoing marketing by ITI, NWT Tourism and private operators take effect we can expect a significant increase in Japanese visitation to the NWT.

R(15)200705159

Artists to Represent Northwest Territories at Expo

YELLOWKNIFE (July 20, 2005) – five artists from the Northwest Territories (NWT) have been chosen to showcase our wealth of art, crafts, culture talent and natural resources to the world as part of NWT week at Expo 2005.

Michael Cazon, Lee Mandeville, Antoine Mountain, Brendalynn “Inuk” Trennert and Karen Wright-Fraser will travel as part of the NWT delegation to Aichi, Japan, from July 25-29, to perform and demonstrate their art in the VIP lounge of the Canada Pavilion.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) Brendan Bell says our artistic ambassadors will play a key role in stimulating interest in the Northwest Territories. “Their participation provides an added dimension that cannot be achieved from a brochure, video or poster,” notes Minister Bell. “Their on-site presence and creative demonstrations will connect, on a personal level, with the interests of a high-profile Japanese audience.”

The five artists were chosen in consultation with the NWT Arts Council and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to represent a broad spectrum of NWT art, culture and regions.

“The promotion of NWT arts and traditional fine crafts as an important part of our Expo presence in Japan reflects the GNWT’s commitment to expand all facets of tourism through international exposure and will contribute to the diversification of the NWT economy,” said Minister Bell.

For more information, contact:

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



Backgrounder

NWT Artists Chosen to Represent NWT

BIOGRAPHIES OF ARTISTS

Michael Cazon – Dene Drummer

Michael is a traditional Dene drummer. He finds drumming to be empowering and belongs to a drumming group in his community. Michael and his fellow drummers have made it their responsibility to pass on the art of traditional drumming, hand games and dancing to the youth. They hope that by doing so they will contribute to the health and well being of the people in their community and region. Michael believes that teaching is one way of preserving the culture and building a better future for his people. Michael, hopes that his performances will help achieve these goals. He lives in Fort Simpson with his wife Tonya and beautiful daughters Golia and Meegwun.

Lee Mandeville - Fiddler

Lee is well known in the North for his ability to entertain the crowds. He has been fiddling since the age of 9. His musical talents have offered him the opportunity to travel to many destinations around the world. Lee currently holds the title of Canadian Métis Fiddle Champion and is working on his 3rd album - a traditional Métis compilation that reflects the North's finest dance music, and dates back to the earliest days of the Métis.

Antoine Mountain - Painter

Antoine was born in Fort Good Hope, Northwest Territories. He comes from a family of very talented northern artists. Antoine became an artist to inspire the youth and continue the Dene traditions. Recent accomplishments include receiving the 50th Anniversary Queen's Memorial Award. His work can be viewed in many institutions, businesses and homes across the Northwest Territories.

Brendalynn "Inuk" Trennert – Traditional Artist

Inuk was born in Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories and is of Inuvialuit decent. Her artwork reflects her true love and passion for Mother Nature and her commitment to preserving the traditions of her people. Inuk has been creating beautiful moose hair tuftings for over 15 years. Her many accomplishments are highlighted by the opportunity to present one of her tuftings to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness Prince Philip on their royal visit to Yellowknife in 1994. Inuk loves to teach others how to tuft and hopes that she can help keep the traditional art of Moose hair tufting alive for many years to come.

Karen Wright-Fraser – Traditional Artist

Karen was born in Inuvik, Northwest Territories and has remained in the North all of her life. Primarily a self-taught artist, Karen carries on her Gwich'in tradition by working with hides, furs, beads and feathers, combining contemporary and traditional styles, to create unique clothing. Karen renowned in the North for her unique traditional hide wedding dresses. She feels a real sense of accomplishment when she finishes a piece and other people are happy with what she has made. Karen lives in Yellowknife with her husband Roger and four children.

R(15)260705160

Funding Announced for New Community Recreation Trails in the Northwest Territories

YELLOWKNIFE (July 26, 2005) – An agreement that will inject a total of \$660,000 into new community recreational trails in the Northwest Territories (NWT) was announced today by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and the NWT Recreation and Parks Association (NWTRPA).

The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of MACA and Ruth Rolfe, President of the NWTRPA jointly announced that \$500,000 in new funding will be provided by the Government of the Northwest Territories to support trail development. This investment, combined with Trans Canada Trail development funding and the NWTRPA trail building fund, creates a \$660,000 fund to support all NWT communities with the construction of new recreation trails.

The NWTRPA has been helping communities get active since 1989 and is the lead organization for the Trans Canada Trail in the NWT.

“I am very pleased to join with our partners at the NWTRPA on this initiative,” said Minister McLeod. “The construction of recreation trails will enhance the quality of life for our residents and provide the much needed recreational infrastructure that communities have identified as a priority.”

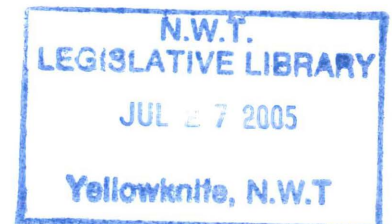
Community trails provide Northerners with the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of the land. Everyone in the community can use trails – individually, in groups or for community-wide celebrations and events. Trails also provide valuable opportunities to learn about the history, traditions and natural environment of communities and regions in the NWT.

“We are very excited to support opportunities for communities to get active,” said Ruth Rolfe, President of the NWTRPA. “Trails can easily be used for a variety of physical fitness activities for people of all ages and provide a safe environment to enjoy the outdoors.”

For more information, contact:

Ian Legaree
Director – Sport, Recreation and Youth Division
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone: (873) 873-7245

Geoff Ray
Executive Director
NWT Recreation and Parks Association
Phone: (867) 873-5340



R(15)290705161

Expo Premier's Reception a Resounding Success

Aichi, Japan (July 29, 2005) – The Premier's Reception, attended by Canada's Commissioner General, Norman Moyer, was held this week in the Canada Pavilion. The evening event began Northwest Territories (NWT) Week at Expo 2005. The theme of this year's Expo is "Nature's Wisdom", one upon which the NWT has capitalized to promote our Aurora Borealis tourism and other important aspects of our territory. Over seventy Japanese dignitaries, business people and politicians were in attendance and were treated to a rich sample of Northern landscape, culture, art, music and economic diversity.

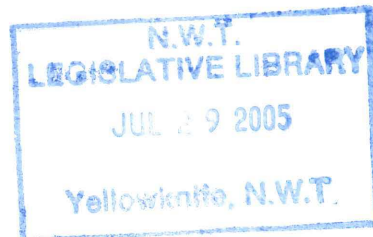
Premier Joe Handley, who hosted the evening, said, "Everyone I spoke to confirmed the Japanese fascination for the North. The Aurora Borealis, in particular, was high on all our guests' lists of things to experience. Everything I heard was a tremendous indication that Japanese tourism will continue to grow and will remain an important part of our tourism economy. I also heard a lot of interest in Northern diamonds and am hoping it translates into an opportunity to sell our diamonds in Japan."

Mr. Moyer said, "The importance of NWT's participation at Expo 2005 is significant to Canada's overall objectives at this World's Fair, particularly as it relates to strengthening our economic ties with Japan. The events at the Canada Pavilion this week will serve to enhance NWT's economic development in the tourism, diamond and other key industries".

NWT Week is from July 25 – 29.

For more information, contact:

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



R(15)040805162

CEO Appointed for NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation

YELLOWKNIFE (August 4, 2005) – Pawan Chugh of Yellowknife has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer for the Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation (BDIC). The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Brendan Bell and, Chair of the BDIC Board of Directors, Darrell Beaulieu announced today. The appointment follows the recommendation of the selection committee, established by the Board of Directors, who interviewed several candidates for the position.

“Mr. Chugh has extensive experience in senior levels of financial management, planning and administration,” said Minister Bell. “I am confident his knowledge and experience in business and financial policy and management will enable him to make a positive and valuable contribution to the BDIC.”

“On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to welcome Mr. Chugh to the management team of this new corporation,” said Mr. Beaulieu. “We look forward to working with him as we develop new and necessary programs to ensure the NWT business community is able to take advantage of opportunities in our rapidly expanding economy.”

Mr. Chugh has a Masters degree in Business Administration, Masters and Bachelor degrees in Law and a Bachelor of Commerce degree. He is a Certified General Accountant, a Chartered Accountant and a Certified Internal Auditor. He has served in a number of capacities with the Government of the NWT including Assistant Director, Financial Planning and Control for Health and Social Services and the Manager of Tax Policy for the Department of Finance. He is also a former Chief Financial and Administrative Officer for the Canada Ports Corporation. For the past several years, he has acted as a part-time instructor in the Athabasca University Management Degree Program, teaching courses in Business Policy and Industrial and Customer Relations.

Mr. Chugh’s appointment as Chief Executive Officer will take effect on August 8, 2005.

For more information, contact:

Julia Mott
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications
Office of the Premier
Tel: (867) 669-2304

Darrell Beaulieu
Chair, Board of Directors
NWT Business Development and
Investment Corporation
Phone: (867) 873-2201



Backgrounder

NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation

YELLOWKNIFE (August 4, 2005)

- NWT Business Development Corporation was established on April 1, 2005.
- It is the single GNWT organization responsible for coordinating business development in the NWT.
- It replaced the NWT Business Development Corporation and the NWT Business Credit Corporation.
- The BDIC provides a range of programs and services that promote economic diversification in NWT communities.
- Business assistance offered includes the provision of information, facilitation of partnerships with private sector financial institutions and other government agencies.
- The BDIC also provides direct financial assistance through its programs and operation of subsidiary businesses for employment creation.
- The BDIC Board has nine directors, representing all regions of the NWT.



News Release

R(15)080805163

\$40 Million To Benefit All Northwest Territories Communities

YELLOWKNIFE (August 8, 2005) – Premier Handley revealed today how the Government of the Northwest Territories proposes to spend the \$40 million in the Northwest Territories. A \$40 million dollar trust fund was announced by the federal government on December 14th 2004, to help achieve some of the objectives of the Northern Strategy in the short term.

“Based on what we heard from Northern Leaders through various consultations and at the Circle of Northern Leaders meeting in Inuvik, communities want to utilize this funding to advance urgent priorities at the community level. That is why the Government of the Northwest Territories proposes to establish a \$35 million Community Capacity Building Fund to provide communities with financial support to address their priorities”, said Premier Handley. “We know all too well, that per capita funding alone is not an appropriate distribution mechanism in places with comparatively small populations. That is why the Government of the Northwest Territories has taken the position that the per capita formula needs to be supplemented with a base allocation when dividing federal program dollars amongst provinces and territories”, said Premier Handley.

Of the remaining \$5 million, \$4 million will be used by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to help address serious housing needs in communities most in need. The remaining \$1 million will be spent on youth and healthy living initiatives. Provided the Legislative Assembly approves the appropriation, Communities could access the fund as early as November 1st, 2005 for a period of three years. “The Government of the Northwest Territories decided the distribution of the Community Capacity Building Fund will be a combination of base and per capita funding. This means all communities are eligible to receive meaningful levels of funding to help them address their capacity building priorities. All NWT residents could benefit from this important one-time funding, provided there is agreement at the community level on how that money is to be used”, said Premier Handley.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) will administer the fund on behalf of the GNWT. For further information on the Community Capacity Building Fund please visit the Premier’s website at www.premier.gov.nt.ca or the MACA website at www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

Julia Mott
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications
Phone: (867) 669-2302

Debbie Delancey
Deputy Minister,
Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone: (867) 873-7118



Background

\$40 Million Dollar Northern Strategy Funding Allocations

At the launch of the Northern Strategy Framework in December 2004, the federal government announced a one-time investment of \$120 million to help achieve some of the objectives of the Northern Strategy in the short term. The money was to be divided equally among the three territories. The Government of the Northwest Territories has indicated that its share of the money will be invested in communities.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is proposing to set up a \$35 million dollar Community Capacity Building Fund that would provide communities with financial support to address their priorities. The Government of the Northwest Territories is also proposing to invest \$4 million dollars to address the serious housing needs in the NWT, \$500,000 for youth programs and \$500,000 to support Healthy Choices Initiatives.

The proposed allocation formula for the Community Capacity Building Fund strives to achieve a balance between an equitable allocation to all 33 communities and consideration of population/per capita pressures. As well, eligibility criteria are designed to create an incentive for all local governments within a community to collaborate in developing and subsequently endorsing a community plan that benefits the community at large.

Each community in the NWT is eligible to receive a base amount in addition to an amount based on per capita using the most current census data.

The proposed Community Capacity Building fund, as well as proposed investments in housing, youth programs and healthy living initiatives are one-time only allocations. Once the community has agreed on how the funds available through the proposed Community Capacity Building Fund would be used, the money could be drawn down anytime over the next three years, beginning November 1, 2005.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will administer the Community Capacity Building fund on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Over the next few months they will be contacting communities with more specific details respecting the criteria and allocation of the fund. Further information is also available on the following locations: www.premier.gov.nt.ca, or www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

**PROPOSED COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING FUND
\$20 MM CORE OR BASE FUNDING/\$15 MM PER CAPITA**

Community	Population	Core/Base Funding	Per Capita Fund	Total
Aklavik	631	\$606,000	\$221,100	\$827,100
Colville Lake	135	\$606,000	\$47,300	\$653,300
Deline	570	\$606,000	\$199,700	\$805,700
Detah/N'Dilo*	475	\$606,000	\$166,400	\$772,400
Enterprise	80	\$606,000	\$28,000	\$634,000
Fort Good Hope	551	\$606,000	\$193,100	\$799,100
Fort Liard	596	\$606,000	\$208,800	\$814,800
Fort McPherson	823	\$606,000	\$288,400	\$894,400
Fort Providence	835	\$606,000	\$292,600	\$898,600
Fort Resolution	528	\$606,000	\$185,000	\$791,000
Fort Simpson	1,269	\$606,000	\$444,600	\$1,050,600
Fort Smith	2,514	\$606,000	\$880,900	\$1,486,900
Gameti	297	\$606,000	\$104,100	\$710,100
Hay River	3,876	\$606,000	\$1,358,100	\$1,964,100
Hay River Reserve	298	\$606,000	\$104,400	\$710,400
Holman	421	\$606,000	\$147,500	\$753,500
Inuvik	3,586	\$606,000	\$1,256,500	\$1,862,500
Jean Marie River	70	\$606,000	\$24,500	\$630,500
Kakisa	40	\$606,000	\$14,000	\$620,000
Lutselk'e	407	\$606,000	\$142,600	\$748,600
Nahanni Butte	114	\$606,000	\$39,900	\$645,900
Norman Wells	848	\$606,000	\$297,100	\$903,100
Paulatuk	312	\$606,000	\$109,300	\$715,300
Rae-Edzo	1,895	\$606,000	\$664,000	\$1,270,000
Sachs Harbour	120	\$606,000	\$42,000	\$648,000
Trout Lake	80	\$606,000	\$28,000	\$634,000
Tsiigehtchic	185	\$606,000	\$64,800	\$670,800
Tuktoyaktuk	1,010	\$606,000	\$353,900	\$959,900
Tulita	487	\$606,000	\$170,600	\$776,600
Wekweti	136	\$606,000	\$47,700	\$653,700
Wha Ti	483	\$606,000	\$169,200	\$775,200
Wrigley	176	\$606,000	\$61,700	\$667,700
Yellowknife *	18,962	\$606,000	\$6,644,200	\$7,250,200
TOTAL		\$20,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$35,000,000

NOTES: * Populations are the 2004 community population estimates. N'dilo population was estimated based on 2001 census.

** Yellowknife population figures include persons living on the Ingraham Trail

*** the \$20,000,000 core funding amount has been rounded to the nearest 100



R(15)080805164

Northwest Territories Arts Council Announces Contributions to Artistic Projects 2005-2006

YELLOWKNIFE (August 8, 2005) – The NWT Arts Council has announced the recipients of contributions for 2005-2006.

Each year, the Government of Northwest Territories Department of Education, Culture and Employment provides funding through the NWT Arts Council to Northern artists, arts organizations and festivals as they pursue projects designed to support artistic growth. This year, the government increased the amount of funding available for NWT artists from \$280,000 to \$355,000.

“This increase in funding is part of the Government of the Northwest Territories commitment to the NWT Arts Strategy. Arts are important to our culture, our heritage, and our communities,” said Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. “We are very pleased to support emerging and established northern artists”.

The Council considered 124 applications for financial assistance including activities associated with performing arts, film, writing, musical arts, visual arts, as well as proposals for workshops for various art forms and special artistic projects.

Eighty-four artists and groups from across the NWT were awarded funding.

The 2005-2006 contributions will be distributed as per the attached list.

For more information:

Shawn McCann
Manager of Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
(867) 920-6222

NWT Arts Council Grant Recipients 2005-06

VISUAL

1. Beaver, Mike Ft. Smith
Carving in soapstone, wood and moose antler.
2. Blyth, Michael Fort Simpson
Watercolour paintings as individual contribution to Nah a Dehe group project.
3. Cardinal, Elizabeth Tsiigehtchic
Carving project to develop portfolio.
4. Cockney, Steve Sr. Tuktoyaktuk
Carvings from driftwood.
5. Croft, Helene Fort Smith
Paintings of regional historic events.
6. Darkes, James Fort Smith
Ceramics using Slave River clay.
7. Gelderman, Karen Hay River
Mixed media sculptures and watercolour paintings.
8. Harrison, Myrtle Norman Wells
Learning traditional hide tanning as a part of personal artistic development.
9. Hval, Jessica Fort Smith
Acrylic painting series on canvas.
10. Leong, Leslie Fort Smith
Photographs and writing as individual contribution to Nah a Dehe group project.
11. McNicol, Judith Yellowknife
Mixed media wall of images and sound.
12. Nuttall, Raquel Yellowknife
Carving series to develop portfolio.
13. Pamplin, Terry Yellowknife
Large scale acrylic paintings and collage documenting cultural artifacts.
14. Selzler, Heidi Fort Smith
Photographic display, slideshow and website.
15. Shingatok, Michael Yellowknife
Paintings on canvas with an autobiographical theme.

16. Wright, Lillian Inuvik
Creating traditional caribou skin bags.
MUSIC
17. Bader, Leslie Yellowknife
Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of original songs.
18. Beaulieu, Herbie Ft. Resolution
Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of original songs.
19. Chicot, Patrick Kakisa Lake
Recording studio time to develop a demo CD.
20. Duong, Lyndon Yellowknife
Recording classical guitar music (traditional and Vietnamese pieces).
21. Fletcher, Jason Yellowknife
Recording studio time to develop a solo demo CD.
22. Goose, Leanne Inuvik
Recording studio time to develop a demo CD to showcase vocal talents.
23. Grossetete, Cody Fort Simpson
Voice lessons (singing).
24. Hernandez, Aaron Yellowknife
Recording a dance mix with throat singing and voice.
25. Laurent, Annya Yellowknife
Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of rhythm and blues songs.
26. Paziuk, Grant Fort Smith
Recording drumming groups and creating a symphonic arrangement.
27. Sibbeston, Randy Fort Simpson
Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of original songs.
28. Sisters of the Drum Yellowknife
Recording studio time and participation in theatre workshops.
29. Smith, Steve Yellowknife
Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of original songs.
30. Straker, Jordan (Adam) Yellowknife
Recording studio time to develop a demo CD of original songs.

WRITING

31. Dolan, Sandra Fort Smith
An adventure book for young teenagers based on early years of Archie Larocque.

32. Erasmus, Lila (Fraser) Yellowknife

Edit manuscript of Peter C. Fraser's stories and memories.

33. Heath, Brad Yellowknife
Poems of people, places, events and legends of the NWT.

34. Morin, Carol Yellowknife
A three act stage play about relationships and the things our moms never told us.

35. Pool, Annelies Yellowknife
Complete a draft novel, "Rat-a-tat-Kat and The Wolverine".

36. Saravanja, German Yellowknife
Screenplay based on the stage play, "Big River Essence".

37. Sawyer, Terese Tsiigehtchic
Book "Silent Tears, Silent Cries".

38. Sheesley, Linda Fort Smith

Editing of children's book, "Charlene Goes North" about a dachshund's adventures.

FILM/VIDEO

39. Fabre-Dimsdale, Anyes Wrigley
Documentary video: Mackenzie Gas Project.

40. Foliot, Anthony (Snow King) Yellowknife
Snow King DVD featuring a puppet show.

41. Kovalench, Tracy Fort Simpson
Video documentary and photo exhibit of the Nah a Dehe group project.

42. VideoLinks Club (St. Pats High Yellowknife
School)
Video materials and website development.

43. Western Arctic Moving Pictures Yellowknife
Pre-production and production workshops in NWT communities.

PERFORMING

44. Association francophone de Fort Fort Smith
Smith
Theatre production "La Tournee Artistique de nos idoles".
45. Sylvie Boisclair Yellowknife
Radio program series that allows listeners to travel across 52 countries.
46. Crazy Legs Contemporary Dance Yellowknife
Company
Two week intensive modern dance workshop for NWT dancers.
47. Ecology North EcoTheatre Yellowknife
Workshop on physical theatre and mime.
48. Ef Pee Dee Players Yellowknife
Development of a new play "Excalibur Unplugged".
49. Holman Community Corp. Holman
Teaching drum dance songs to community youth.
50. JBT Dancers and Jiggers Fort Smith
Traditional jigging workshops for elementary students.
-
51. Kole Crook Fiddle Association Fort Smith

A five-day Fiddle Camp for aspiring Deh Cho/South Slave fiddlers.
52. La Garderie Plein Soleil Yellowknife
Mixed-media slides and dramatic presentation "Seeing Beyond Our World".
53. Lunch Pail Theatre Yellowknife
Theatre workshops for "Dracula" and "Don't Dress for Dinner".
54. Northern Arts & Cultural Centre Yellowknife
Performing arts community workshop series in North Slave Region.
55. Northern games Society Inuvik
Traditional Circumpolar Northern Games and Drum Dance Festival.
56. NWT Highland Dance Assoc. Yellowknife

Conduct a medal-testing workshop for Highland Dancers.
57. NWT Pipe Band Yellowknife
Recording a CD of traditional Scottish Highland music as a teaching tool.

58. Pedzeh Ki First Nation Wrigley
Fiddling, drumming and dancing workshops for community youth.

59. Stuck in a Snowbank Theatre Yellowknife
Native Theatre School North 2005: aboriginal youth theatre training program.

WORKSHOPS

60. Boreal Piece makers Fort Smith
Weekend workshop to teach new quilting techniques in the community.

61. Deline Charter Community Deline
Traditional Arts & Crafts program for community residents.

62. Deline Learning Centre Deline
Fancy Traditional Dog Training Whip Project.

63. Deline Learning Centre Deline
Snowshoe making course.

64. End of the Road Music Festival Inuvik
Performing and music skills workshops for youth.

65. Ernie McDonald Land Corporation Norman Wells
Drum dancing materials and instruction.

66. Folk on the Rocks Yellowknife
Professional development workshop series for NWT performers and artists.

67. Funkfest YK (Solstice Festival) Yellowknife
Showcase of arts and cultural activities.

68. Great Northern Arts Festival Inuvik
Promotion and development workshops for artists.

69. Katlodeeche First Nation Yellowknife
TGIF traditional arts and crafts lessons.

70. Norman Wells Historical Society Norman Wells
Public carving demonstration workshops.

71. Northern Life Museum Fort Smith
Photography workshop for summer students (artistic and technical basics).

72. Open Sky Creative Society Fort Simpson
Fine arts and traditional crafts workshops.

73. The Artists of the South Slave Fort Smith Society

Summer festival arts and crafts workshop series.

74. Tulita Learning Centre Tulita
Traditional sewing classes.

75. Territorial Writers' Association Fort Smith
Annual writers' conference workshops.

76. Yellowknife Choral Society Yellowknife
Developmental workshop for singers and directors.

77. Yellowknife Guild of Arts and Yellowknife Crafts
Basketry workshops.

SPECIAL

78. Georgina Fabian Hay River
Traditional arts and crafts workshops.

79. Rene Fumoleau / Storytellers of Lutsel'ke / Toronto Canada
Recording of personal stories as part of StorySave CD project.

80. Edith Haogak Sachs Harbour
Traditional sewing workshops.

81. Lee Mandeville Yellowknife
Recording an Old Time Metis Fiddle compilation CD as a teaching tool.

82. Rick Muyres Norman Wells
Creation of a sheltered park bench in Tulita for community use.

83. NWT Literacy Council / Holman Yellowknife
Pitquhiraluqvut
Artist skills enhancement project: tool drawings with Elder

84. Yellowknife Public Library Yellowknife
Library mural project / artist-in-residence program.

R(15)090805165

2005 Get Active Community Challenge Winning Communities Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (August 8, 2005) - People in the Northwest Territories (NWT) love to get active – and the 6,546 entrants in the 2005 Get Active Community Challenge are living proof. During the three-month challenge, Northerners were able to collectively log a total of 6,384,129 minutes of physical activity.

Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Health and Social Services and Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment jointly announced the four winning communities in the 2005 NWT Get Active Community Challenge.

- Population 0-250: Enterprise
- Population 250-500: Whati
- Population 500-1000: Fort Good Hope
- Population 1000+: Behchokö (formerly Rae Edzo)

Each of the winning communities will be presented with a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to be used towards the purchase of recreational equipment for the community. The awards will be presented to communities at a celebration to be held this fall in the winning community of Behchokö.

“We are extremely pleased with the number of people in the NWT who signed up and participated in the Get Active Community Challenge,” said Minister McLeod. “We heard stories from across the Northwest Territories about how the Challenge helped people to start making healthy lifestyle choices by adding physical activity to their daily lives.”

Minister Miltenberger noted, “Active living not only prevents many chronic diseases but it also improves quality of life and contributes to a sense of well-being. Being active enhances the benefits of other healthy choices such as not smoking and eating nutritious foods. This challenge has provided an opportunity for communities to get together and have some healthy fun.”

.../2

“The schools had a huge role in the success of this program, both as participants and community role models,” added Minister Dent. “I hope that the activity levels will continue long after this challenge has ended!”

For more information, contact:

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Damien Healy,
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Health and Social Services
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Shawn McCann
Manager, Public Affairs
Education Culture and Employment
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R(15)100805166

Ministers Agree Improvement to Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Necessary

YELLOWKNIFE (August 10, 2005) - Federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for sport, physical activity and recreation have identified the need to improve sport and recreation infrastructure across Canada as their top priority and committed to working in partnership to develop a national sport and recreation infrastructure program. The ministers held their annual meeting last week in Regina, Saskatchewan, prior to the opening of the Canada Summer Games.

The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and Minister Responsible for Sport and Recreation, was pleased with the outcome of last week's meeting. "Every province and territory is searching for creative solutions to fund recreation infrastructure – whether the need is to upgrade aging facilities or put basic infrastructure in communities where none exists," said Minister McLeod.

Minister McLeod added that the Honourable Stephen Owen, Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Sport), was very supportive of provincial and territorial concerns and agreed to work in partnership with provinces and territories to develop a funding program for infrastructure.

~~Provincial and territorial ministers compared progress on their shared goal of increasing the number of physically active Canadians 10 percentage points by 2010. As well, they adopted a resolution urging the federal government to commit to multi-year bilateral agreements to support provincial and territorial programs promoting physical activity.~~

"The Northwest Territories has benefited greatly from our bilateral funding agreement with Sport Canada, which has supported numerous activities for youth and multi-sport camps in small communities," noted Minister McLeod. "It's time for Canada to step up to the plate and support programs that will encourage all our residents to become more physically active."

Ministers also set performance targets for Canada at the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, and agreed to work with the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee to ensure the Olympic and Paralympic Games are truly Canada's Games.

Minister McLeod attended the official opening of the 2005 Canada Summer Games while in Regina, and welcomed the 104 Northwest Territories athletes as they marched in the ceremony.

For more information, contact:

Debbie DeLancey
Deputy Minister
Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone: (867) 873-7118

R(15)150805167

Changes to Availability of Overproof and High Alcohol Liquor

YELLOWKNIFE (August 15, 2005) - Effective today, the sale from all NWT liquor stores of liquor products with an alcohol content of 50 per cent or more will be restricted to one bottle per person at any one time.

“Significant concerns have been raised by communities about the overuse of alcohol and the availability of overproof and high alcohol products. Restricting the sale of these high alcoholic products to one bottle per person provides a means of controlling availability and is intended to reduce the incidence of overuse of alcohol by our residents,” said Finance Minister Floyd Roland when he announced the change.

The following liquor products are affected by this change:

Overproof Alcohol

Appleton Dark Rum
Bacardi 151
Lamb’s Navy
Wray and Nephew
Bundaberg OP Rum

High Alcohol

Smirnoff Blue
Canadian Club 100
NFLD London Dock

For further information, contact

Mr. Ron Courtoreille
General Manager
Liquor Commission
Phone: (867) 874-2100

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

R(15)230805169

Department of Transportation Warns of Increased Risk of Bison Collisions

YELLOWKNIFE (August 23, 2005) – The Department of Transportation is warning highway motorists that the risk of collisions with bison that cross three NWT highways grows greater as the days grow shorter.

“Most vehicle-bison collisions occur between mid-August and mid-November when hours of daylight decrease and there is little or no snow on the ground to provide contrast and make these large, dark animals more visible to drivers,” said Art Barnes, South Slave Regional Superintendent with the Department of Transportation. “Drivers traveling through areas inhabited by bison herds must be especially careful during this time of year.”

Barnes said the highest risk areas are Highway 3 between Yellowknife and Fort Providence, from the Nyarling River to Fort Smith on Highway 5, and the section of the Liard Highway, Highway 7, from km 0-150.

In 2004, there were a total of 11 vehicle-bison collisions reported in the territory. Eight collisions happened on Highway 3, two on Highway 5 and one on Highway 7. Nine of those collisions occurred between August and November. There have been as many as 14 collisions annually and at least three collisions reported every year since 1989.

Collisions with bison resulted in injuries to two people last year, but there have been as many as six people injured in past years.

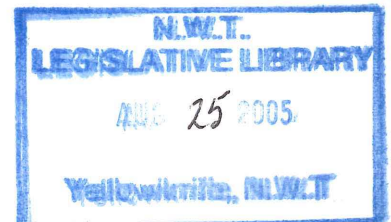
Excessive speed is the main reason for collisions with bison, which can weigh more than 1000 kilograms, Barnes said. He said a collision between a vehicle and a single bison, or a group of animals, can cause extensive damage to a vehicle and normally results in the death of the animals.

“When you travel on highways where there are bison, you have to slow down, especially at night,” he said. “Even in daylight hours, drivers must be prepared to slow down or stop when bison are near or on the highway.” He said bison are unpredictable and seem to be unafraid of vehicles.

“We all like to see bison as we drive along the highways,” Barnes said. “But you don’t want to see one as it’s coming through your windshield.”

For more information, contact:

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



R(15)240805170

New Nurse Practitioner Guidelines Approved for Northwest Territories

YELLOWKNIFE (August 24, 2005) - New guidelines that define the appropriate scope of practice for nurse practitioners have been approved for the Northwest Territories, Health and Social Services Minister Michael Miltenberger, announced today.

Minister Miltenberger noted “We are excited with the new guidelines in place, as more and more nurse practitioners are hired in the North, these guidelines will help them develop as professionals and continue to provide excellent client care.”

The *Nursing Act* allows Nurse Practitioners to:

- Diagnose diseases, disorders or conditions and communicate that diagnosis to the patient,
- Order and interpret screening and diagnostic tests,
- Select, recommend, supply, prescribe and monitor the effectiveness of drugs, and
- Perform any other procedures allowed in the guidelines.

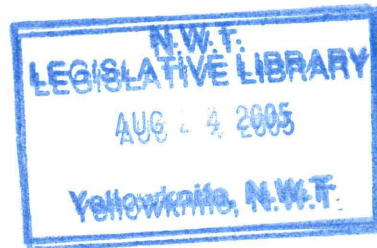
The *Practice Guidelines for Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners* were developed by the Registered Nurses Association of the NWT and Nunavut (RNANT/NU). Nurse Practitioners and the Department of Health and Social Services were involved as well. NU nurse practitioners have identical guidelines in place, since the RNANT/NU serves as the regulatory body for nurses in both Nunavut and the NWT.

The guidelines will be printed in booklet form for distribution to nurses. They will also be posted on the RNANT/NU web site (www.rnantnu.ca.)

For more information, contact

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Executive Director
RNANT/NU
(867) 873-2745

Damien Healy
Manager Communications
Health and Social Services NWT
(867) 920-8927



R(15)260805171

Department of Transportation Wins International Award

YELLOWKNIFE (August 26, 2005) – The Department of Transportation has won an international award for promotional material produced as part of a 2004 public education campaign about new laws against impaired driving in the Northwest Territories (NWT.)

Region IV of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) recently presented a Public Affairs and Consumer Education (PACE) award to the department for the “It’s Not Worth It” communication card mailed to NWT households before the new laws went into force on December 1, 2004.

The communication card was one of the elements of the public education campaign developed by the department’s Road Licensing and Safety Division with support from Genesis Group of Yellowknife. It was selected from among entries submitted from jurisdictions within the AAMVA region that covers 21 U.S. and Canadian states, provinces and territories.

AAMVA is a voluntary, nonprofit, educational organization representing state and provincial officials in the United States and Canada who administer and enforce motor vehicle laws.

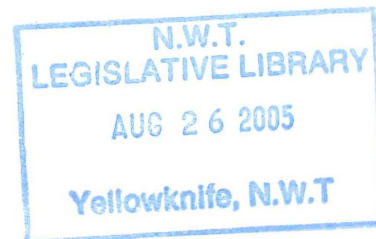
The PACE awards recognize public relations, public affairs and consumer education excellence among the motor vehicle, law enforcement and traffic safety agencies across North America. Entries are judged on “creativity, cost effectiveness and the ability to reach consumers with a well crafted, measured and executed message.”

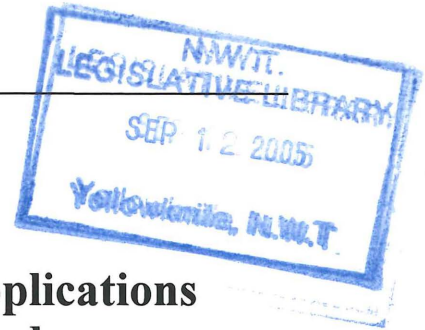
“This award recognizes the dedication and commitment of the Department of Transportation to addressing the serious issue of impaired driving in the NWT,” said Michael McLeod, Minister of Transportation. “The public education campaign and tougher laws are critical parts of the department’s broad Strategy to Reduced Impaired Driving.”

The award-winning communication card can be viewed among the “Impaired Driving Legislation” documents in the Publications section of the Department of Transportation website at www.dot.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

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





R(15)120905174

Review of Commissioner's Land Applications within Yellowknife Completed

YELLOWKNIFE (September 12, 2005) – The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, today announced his decision to transfer three parcels of land to the City of Yellowknife, and to approve a request by the Department of Transportation for access to land required for the future expansion of the Yellowknife Airport.

Minister McLeod also indicated that decisions on further land transfers in the City of Yellowknife will be deferred until January 2006, as requested by the Akaitcho Dene First Nation. This will allow time for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to complete land identification through the Akaitcho Process negotiations.

Commissioner's land transfers within the City of Yellowknife have been delayed as a result of the on-going Akaitcho Process negotiations, and consultation requirements established under the Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement and the Government's Land Lease-Only Policy.

"This land transfer eases the pressure the City of Yellowknife faces for land for industrial activity," the Minister stated. He added he is pleased with the commitment by the Akaitcho Dene First Nation to make addressing Yellowknife land issues a priority for the negotiations process.

Outstanding requests for access to land in Yellowknife include the site for a new Territorial Courthouse, and applications for industrial, commercial and residential lands from the City of Yellowknife. Under an agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the Minister can also make decisions about the future ownership of the lands on which the Con and Rycon trailer courts are located, after September 1, 2005.

"The Department needs to move forward, and it is my intention to make decisions on outstanding land issues in January, 2006," the Minister stated. "It is my sincere hope that the decisions and accommodations I have made today will create an environment allowing outstanding Yellowknife land issues to be resolved."

For more information, contact:

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Municipal and Community Affairs
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Director, Lands Administration
Municipal and Community Affairs
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R(15)130905175

Barren-ground Caribou Survey Results Released

YELLOWKNIFE (September 13, 2005) – Results from a July 2005 survey show a decline in populations of the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West and Bluenose East caribou herds. The results were presented to the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories) at meetings in Whitehorse on September 10th and 11th.

The photo census survey, completed in July, 2005 shows that the three barren-ground caribou herds, harvested mainly by hunters in the Inuvik and Sahtu regions of the Northwest Territories, have declined from peak numbers observed last decade.

- **The Cape Bathurst Herd has declined from an estimate of 17,500 in 1992 to an estimated 2,400 in 2005.**
- **The Bluenose West Herd has declined from an estimate of 98,900 in 1987 to an estimated 20,800 in 2005.**
- **The Bluenose East Herd has declined from an estimate of 104,000 in 2000 to an estimated 66,600 in 2005.**

Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Minister Michael Miltenberger stated, “The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is working closely with co-management boards to develop and implement management and action plans.”

Presentations to co-management boards and affected communities will occur throughout September and will also include the Sahtu and Gwich’in Renewable Resources Boards.

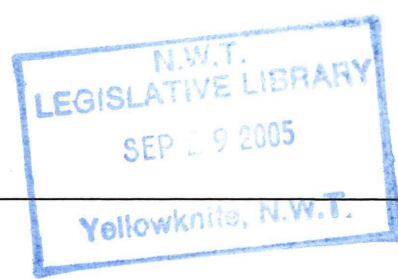
ENR Technical Support Manager Dr. Ray Case says, “The observed declines were not unexpected as declines have also been observed in the neighbouring Porcupine and Bathurst caribou herds and the caribou herds tend to increase and decrease in size together. Working with the co-management boards to identify and implement management options is the first step towards ensuring sustainability of the herds.”

Minister Miltenberger added, “The GNWT will continue to work with all our partners to ensure the herds stay healthy, viable and able to meet the needs of harvesters today and in the future.”

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Environment and Natural Resources
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Superintendent, Inuvik Region
Environment and Natural Resources
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R(15)290905179

Agreement Expands National Highway System in NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (September 29, 2005) - Transportation Minister Michael McLeod says an agreement reached at a national transportation meeting in Calgary made 847 more kilometres of Northwest Territories (NWT) highways part of the National Highway System (NHS).

"I'm extremely pleased we have been able to expand the NHS within the Northwest Territories," Minister McLeod said today after returning from a meeting of the Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety. "Besides creating the potential for funding opportunities, this agreement is also significant as our highways are now being recognized for their role in connecting people and places which helps economic and community development occur."

A total of 1,423 kilometres of highways in the NWT are now part of the National Highway System, an increase from the previous 562 kilometres.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss a number of other issues important to the NWT. Minister McLeod received a positive response from federal Transportation Minister Jean Lapierre when he raised the fact more large commercial aircraft are flying through the territory's skies on polar routes, an issue of concern to the NWT. Minister McLeod noted that as those numbers grow so does the likelihood that some larger aircraft may be forced to make emergency landings at NWT airports. Minister McLeod reported that Minister Lapierre has agreed on the need for future discussions on the issue.

Development of a National Transportation Strategy, as requested by premiers at the recent Council of the Federation meeting, was high on the list of issues Minister McLeod brought forward for discussion. The NWT, British Columbia and Nova Scotia have taken the lead on behalf of all provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive national strategy that would include all regions and all modes of transportation.

"Development of a National Transportation Strategy can be the impetus to complete connecting Canada from coast to coast to coast, while also addressing needs such as northern security and sovereignty," said Minister McLeod. "I hope this process will identify options for a long-term, sustainable national transportation infrastructure program that, not only recognizes the unique needs of our various regions but also, considers nation-building strategic objectives."

Minister McLeod said he believes construction of an all-weather highway up the Mackenzie Valley and across to Tuktoyaktuk on the Arctic coast should be considered one of Canada's priority projects.

For more information, contact:

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Department of Transportation
Tel: (867) 873-7712

R(15)300905180

Policy Forum Announced to Discuss Violence Against Aboriginal Women

YELLOWKNIFE (September 30, 2005) - A policy forum to discuss violence against aboriginal women will be held in Ottawa in early spring. Ministers responsible for the Status of Women met in Regina last week and agreed that the Policy Forum should provide clear direction on how to improve policies and programs to better address violence against Aboriginal women. Ministers said the Policy Forum will be an opportunity to hear directly from Aboriginal women about their experiences and challenges and will offer an environment to work together to provide solutions in the elimination of violence towards women.

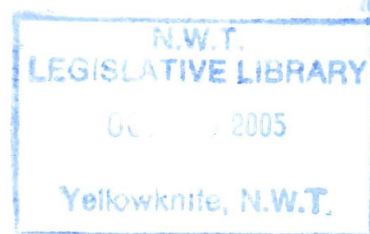
National Aboriginal women's organizations have been consulted and agreed that in order to increase awareness about this issue policy makers, researchers and Aboriginal women themselves need the opportunity for a broad ranging discussion.

"The forum is intended to bring greater awareness to this issue by providing an opportunity for Aboriginal women to share their experiences and solutions, showcasing best practices and strengthening collective capacity to address violence and to inform policy and program development," said Minister Dent.

The Policy Forum will be funded by the federal government with provinces and territories contributing delegate costs. Minister Dent met with the Status of Women Council after his return from the meetings in Regina and will be working closely with the Council and the Native Women's Association to determine who will attend the forum.

For more information, contact:

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



R(15)300905181

Ministerial Literacy Awards Announced for 2005

YELLOWKNIFE (September 30, 2005) - As a kick off to Northwest Territories (NWT) Literacy Week 2005, Minister Charles Dent has announced the 2005 recipients of the NWT Ministerial Literacy Awards. The awards are given out every year to individuals and organizations in the Northwest Territories who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving their personal level of literacy or to promoting and fostering literacy within their community.

This year, Mary Ann Vital of Deline is receiving the award for her work as a literacy educator, and the Native Women's Association of the NWT is receiving the award for its successful and ongoing contribution to literacy programming.

Mary Ann Vital has been working in early childhood and family literacy both in Aboriginal and English literacy programs in Deline for the past ten years. She has become a foremost literacy leader in her community and in the NWT. She serves on the board of the NWT Literacy Council and the Deline District Educational Authority. As well, she is an active contributor to the *NWT Network of Family Literacy Facilitators*.

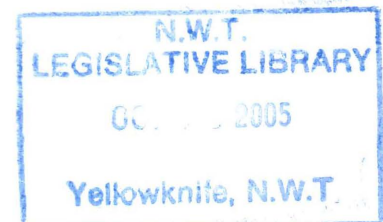
The Native Women's Association of the NWT has been involved in literacy training for 25 years. Its accessibility and supportive learning environment provide educational opportunities to male and female learners, who have faced barriers to learning throughout their lives. The Native Women's literacy program enrolls about 40 students a year and has an unusually high retention rate. The key to the success of the Native Women's training program is a holistic approach, combining academic instruction with work placements, on-the-land cultural programs, aboriginal language training, a health and fitness program and nonacademic outcomes, such as improved self-esteem and citizenship values.

"This year's recipients are great examples of what can be done to improve and promote the literacy of Northerners. Both Mary Ann Vital and the Native Women's Association are successful because they maintain and support the link between culture, community, and learning success," said Minister Dent.

The recipients, along with Nora Wedzin-Quitte, who has been awarded the Council of the Federation Award for Literacy for the NWT, will be honoured at a ceremony in Yellowknife on Saturday, October 1st.

For more information, contact:

Shawn McCann
Manager of Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
(867) 920-6222



R(15)061005182

New Website and Database to Promote and Support the NWT Arts Community

YELLOWKNIFE (October 6, 2005) - A new website and database will provide members of the Northwest Territories' (NWT) arts community with the capability and opportunity to better showcase their products to national and international markets. Minister of Industry Tourism and Investment, Brendan Bell, introduced the NWT Arts and Fine Crafts Database today.

“A strong and robust arts sector results in economic opportunities for other sectors such as tourism and the traditional economies,” said Minister Bell.

The database and corresponding web pages will also serve to connect members of the NWT arts community with each other. The database includes online listings, services and programs available to artists, organizations, societies, retailers, wholesalers, and suppliers with interests in the NWT's arts sector.

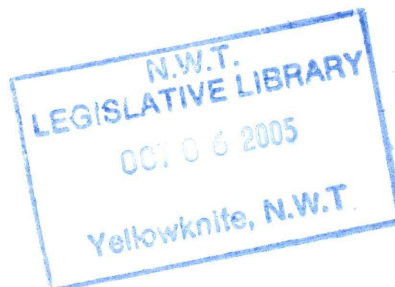
The need for an interactive online system promoting e-commerce for NWT produced arts and fine crafts and a community-networking database for artists and the arts industry in the NWT were both identified in the NWT Arts Strategy, released in 2004.

“The timely completion of this project reflects our commitment to initiatives that support diversity in the NWT economy and promote sustainability and growth in communities and regions,” added Minister Bell. “Strengthening and supporting the NWT's artistic traditions will also serve to enhance our region's rich cultural heritage and identity,”

The new database can be viewed at www.nwtartistsdatabase.com

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Manager, Public Affairs and Communications
Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
Phone: (867) 920-8696



R(15)111005183

National Fire Prevention Week

YELLOWKNIFE (October 11, 2005) - In an effort to battle home fires before they start, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is taking a lead role in promoting Northwest Territories National Fire Prevention Week, October 9-15, 2005.

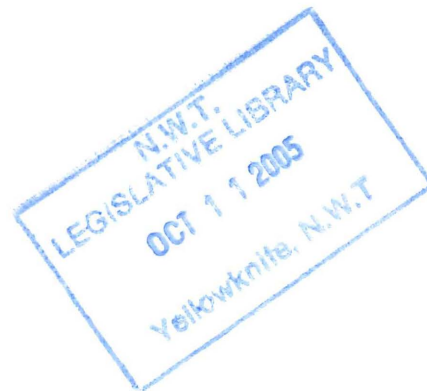
“Many people don’t realize that they are at greater danger from fire at home than anywhere else,” said Minister McLeod. “Fortunately, there are many things residents can do to make their homes safer. Fire Prevention Week is the time when local fire departments reach out to the community one-on-one, teaching people of every age how to prevent fires. This year, there will be a particular focus on candle fires, a serious and growing part of the fire problem.”

Fire Prevention Week events promoting fire safety will be held in communities across the North over the course of the week.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week, please visit the MACA website at www.maca.gov.nt.ca or contact you local fire department.

For more information, contact:

Bernie Van Tighem
Fire Marshal
Municipal and Community Affairs
(867) 873-7469



R(15)141005184

NWT Fire Service Merit Awards Recipients Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (October 14, 2005) – The 2005 recipients of the Northwest Territories (NWT) Fire Service Merit Awards were announced today by the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA).

“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 fire fighters, fire departments and their communities.”

The 2005 Awards winners:

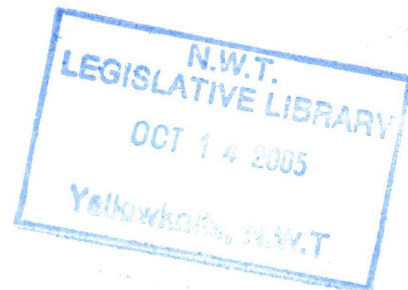
- Cyril Fyfe is being posthumously awarded the 2005 Fire Service Merit Award for the North Slave Region.
- Randy Hilworth of Hay River is being awarded the 2005 Fire Service Merit Award for the South Slave Region, as well as the 2005 Territorial Fire Service Merit Award.
- The Hay River Fire Department is being awarded the 2005 Community Fire Service Merit Award.

“These awards are made more special by the fact that the nominations come from the community at large and from the fire fighters’ colleagues,” added Minister McLeod.

For more information about the NWT Fire Service Merit Awards Program and a nomination form for the 2006 awards, please visit the MACA website at www.maca.gov.nt.ca. The deadline for 2006 nominations is June 30, 2006.

For more information, please contact

Bernie Van Tighem
Fire Marshal
Municipal and Community Affairs
(867) 873-7469



R(15)181005185

New Public Library Locations Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (October 18, 2005) – As an exciting launch to Canadian Libraries Week, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Charles Dent announced funding for six new libraries in the Northwest Territories. These new libraries are located in Aklavik, Deline, Fort Good Hope, Fort McPherson, Fort Resolution and Holman, bringing the total number of public libraries to 15. The plan for these new libraries includes a strong literacy focus, so that the new libraries will become literacy outreach centers in the communities.

“This is an exciting and important development in the provision of public library services in the NWT,” announced Minister Dent. “I am pleased to be able to make this announcement during Canadian Library Week.”

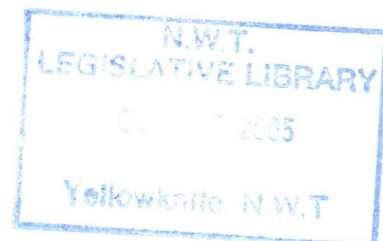
The national week runs from October 17-24, 2005. It is intended to celebrate libraries, highlighting the many roles they play in our communities. Libraries offer services that promote literacy and access to information, as well as facilitate innovation and foster productivity amongst our community members.

This year’s theme is “Lifelong Libraries – Discover Us!” the focus is on the lifelong contribution that libraries make to the everyday lives of community members. Libraries provide a broad range of information and ideas regardless of one’s age, religion, social status, ethnic background, gender or language. They also attempt to maintain the history and culture of our communities and our nation.

All NWT residents are encouraged to discover libraries during this week, by visiting their local community library or visiting the online Library catalogue and requesting materials by mail.

For more information, contact:

Shawn McCann
Manager of Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
Phone: (867) 920-6222





R(15)211005186

Small Fire at the Samuel Hearne Secondary School

INUVIK, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (October 21, 2005) – A small fire broke out last night at the Samuel Hearne Secondary School in Inuvik. The Fire Marshall will be on-site on Friday October 21st to determine the cause of the fire. The sprinkler system in the affected area activated and the Inuvik Fire Department responded to calls from the Department of Public Works and Services (PWS) staff and extinguished the fire. No one was injured. Preliminary assessments indicate there are no suspicious circumstances.

Public Works and Services Minister, the Honourable Floyd Roland, said, “This is a small fire. It has not impacted the on-going repairs being made to the school, neither will it result in a change to the date students will return to their classrooms.” Students will be able to reoccupy SHSS in January 2006 as previously announced.

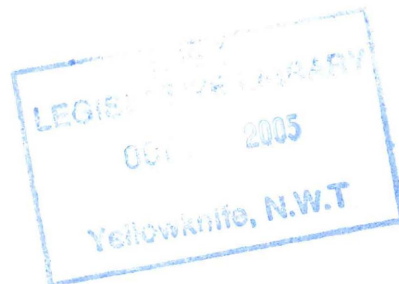
“Many people are working hard to prepare the school for students. Fortunately, the water sprinkler system and the Fire Department caught this fire in time. While it is a small setback we are all determined to meet the deadlines we have established,” said Dennis Parsons, Superintendent of the Beaufort-Delta Education Council.

The extent of smoke and water damage is being determined by PWS. Repairs will not affect the timing of the re-opening of the school.

For more information, contact:

Dennis Parsons
Superintendent
Beaufort-Delta Education Council
(867) 777-7136

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



R(15)011105189

Ten-Year Plan for Yellowknife Educational Facilities Released

Yellowknife (November 1, 2005) – A ten-year plan for educational facilities in Yellowknife has been released. The plan, developed by FSC Architects and Engineers and Matrix Planning Associates, outlines the condition of existing facilities and priorities for construction and renovations of schools and Aurora College programming in the community. The plan was delivered to Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Charles Dent, on October 27, 2005.

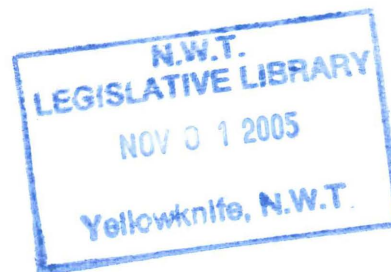
The plan, titled *Ten-year Education Facility Plan –Yellowknife 2005 –2015* was prepared under the guidance of a steering committee composed of representatives of Aurora College, the Commission Scolaire francophone de division, Yellowknife Catholic Schools, Yellowknife District Number One, K’alemi School in N’dilo and the Government of the Northwest Territories is now being circulated widely for comment.

“Establishing a plan based on accurate information is critical to ensuring that appropriate facilities are available for community residents,” said Minister Dent. “I am looking forward to receiving comments from educational authorities and the public regarding the suggested priorities”.

The plan is available for viewing on the Department of Education, Culture and Employment website at www.ece.gov.nt.ca.

For more information please contact:

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Manager, Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
Phone: (867) 920-6222
shawn_mccann@gov.nt.ca



R(15)021105190

Community Capacity Building Fund Immediately Available

Yellowknife (November 2, 2005) – Funding associated with the Community Capacity Building Fund is in place and available to all Northwest Territories communities, announced Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

“This one-time funding of \$35 million is intended to assist communities in their efforts to advance their unique priorities respecting community capacity building,” said Minister McLeod. “The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will be working with communities over the coming months to provide support to communities to access funding.”

All 33 communities are eligible for funding from the Community Capacity Building Fund and will receive a base amount of \$606,000 (for \$20 million in total) and a per capita allocation (for \$15 million in total).

Application forms for proposals are now available. Once community proposals have received funding approval from Municipal and Community Affairs, the Department will enter into a contribution agreement with the community government that will allow one-time funding allocations to be drawn down at any time over the next three fiscal years (2005-2006 through 2007-2008). The deadline for applications is November 1, 2006.

For more information on the Community Capacity Building Fund, please visit the Municipal and Community Affairs’ website at www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

Sheila Bassi-Kellett
Acting Deputy Minister
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone: (867) 873-7118



News Release

R(15)011105190

Beverage Container Program Offers Cash for Your Trash

Yellowknife (November 1, 2005) – As of today residents of the Northwest Territories (NWT) will be able to return their empty beverage containers to the nearest community depot for recycling.

Eleven community depots have been licensed to accept beverage containers beginning in November. The community depots are located in Behchokō, Fort Resolution, Nahanni Butte, Gamèti, Trout Lake, Lutselk'e, Yellowknife, Hay River, Inuvik, Fort Smith and Fort Simpson. Three regional processing centres (located in Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik) will also be operating in November.

Environment and Natural Resources Minister, Michael Miltenberger, said today, "Together, these depots will serve over 80 percent of the population. Our work to license additional depots continues. I have made a commitment that every resident in the Northwest Territories will have the opportunity to return their empty beverage containers for a refund in the community in which they live."

Ready-to-serve beverage containers such as glass, plastics, aluminum, metals, waxed cardboard, and mixed materials such as juice boxes are all included in the Beverage Container Program, including juice, pop, bottled water, beer, wine, liquor and other alcoholic beverages.

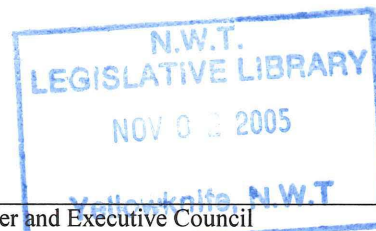
Milk, milk substitute, flavoured milk, yogurt drinks, infant formula, rice milk, and soy milk containers **are not** included in the program.

Consumers will receive their deposit of either \$.10 or \$.25 for each container they return to the nearest depot.

The Beverage Container Program was developed to deal with the 25 million containers that end up in community landfills or as litter along our streets and highways each year. "That is over 500 beverage containers for every man, woman and child in the NWT," commented Minister Miltenberger. "Not only will this program increase the lifespan of our community landfill sites, it will also reduce litter and help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions because it takes less energy to produce things from recycled materials than from raw materials. The Government of the Northwest Territories has made the commitment to reduce greenhouse gasses and this is another step in that direction."

For more information, contact:

Emery Paquin
Director, Environmental Protection
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Phone: (867) 873 7654



News Release

R(15)041105192

GNWT Public Works and Services Hosts Project Management Conference

Yellowknife (November 4, 2005) – A Project Management Conference, hosted by the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Public Works and Services, will be held from November 22 to 24, in Yellowknife.

The theme of the conference is *Latest Trends and Innovative Approaches* in project management. It is designed to promote closer ties within the northern construction industry and prepare it to better meet economic, legal and technical challenges, while maximizing economic benefits for the industry.

Over 250 representatives from all levels of government, including officials from crown corporations, communities, school and health boards, consulting and contracting companies, associations, and manufacturers and suppliers, are expected to attend.

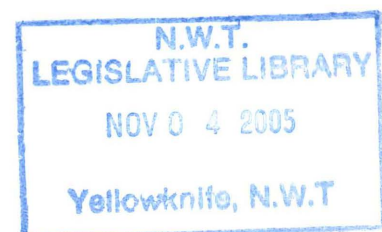
“The Department holds this professional development conference once every two years to help people in the Northern construction industry keep up to date with best project management practices, as well as the latest trends and innovations in the industry,” said Public Works and Services Minister Floyd Roland.

Although the Northwest Territories (NWT) has a booming private sector fuelled by diamonds, oil, gas and mining activities, both the public and private sectors face major challenges. These include the shortage of skilled labour, the acquisition and transportation of materials, and high energy costs. Providing and maintaining infrastructure requires obtaining the most value out of limited resources. This means finding unique, innovative and cost-effective project management solutions which can only be achieved when all parts of the construction industry work closely together, sharing their expertise and skills.

At the same time as the conference, the NWT Construction Association will be hosting a Trade Fair to provide a venue for northern manufacturers, suppliers and service providers to promote their products, supplies and services. The National Research Council will also host a one-day seminar on November 25, 2005 on *Building Science Insight – Roofing*.

For further information and conference registration, contact:

Sukhi Cheema, P.Eng.
Manager, Technical Support Services,
Public Works and Services
Phone: (867) 920-8088



News Release *Communiqué*

R(15)081105193

No. H221/05

For release
November 8, 2005

GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES TO FUND INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

YELLOWKNIFE — The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Member of Parliament for Western Arctic and Minister of State (Northern Development), on behalf of Transport Minister Jean-C. Lapierre and Michael McLeod, Minister of Transportation for the Northwest Territories, today announced the signing of two contribution agreements to develop and deploy intelligent transportation systems in the Northwest Territories. Combined funding for the agreements totals \$700,000.

“This funding will help address the transportation needs of local residents and travellers to our region,” said Ms. Blondin-Andrew. “The selected projects will provide better access to travel-related information and make travel across the Deh Cho Bridge more accommodating for commercial traffic.”

The first agreement is for intelligent transportation systems research and development projects. The two governments will each contribute up to \$250,000. One of the projects is to develop and design an electronic tolling system at the Deh Cho Bridge located over the Mackenzie River, near Fort Providence. The remaining funds will be used to design and develop a new website for the Department of Transportation that incorporates intelligent transportation systems such as interactive traveller information.

Under the second agreement, the governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories will each contribute up to \$100,000 to deploy intelligent transportation systems in the territory. One project will see an automated traveller information system and baggage information display signs deployed at Yellowknife Airport at a total cost of \$115,428. The governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories will each contribute \$57,714. The system will provide automated real-time flight information within the terminal building and over the Internet. ~~The remaining joint funding will be applied towards similar intelligent transportation systems in the territory.~~ Intelligent transportation systems consist of a broad range of technologies designed to make transportation safer, more efficient and environmentally friendly.

“These projects demonstrate the government’s commitment to making sure Canadians benefit equally from new technologies,” said Mr. Lapierre. “By supporting innovation in every province and territory, we are helping to build a better transportation system for all of Canada.”

“Modern technology offers new and exciting ways to expand and improve upon the way we communicate with and serve the public, industry and others that rely upon the transportation system in the Northwest Territories,” said Mr. McLeod. “These projects will provide convenient access to useful information and transactions that relate directly to improved safety and efficiency.”

Federal funding will be provided under the Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program, a \$600-million program to improve highway infrastructure across Canada. Part of this funding, \$100 million, is earmarked for initiatives that better integrate the country’s transportation system. One of these is the intelligent transportation systems initiative, which includes applications such as advanced systems for traveller information, traffic management, public transport, commercial vehicle operations, emergency response management and vehicle safety.

Funding for this program is provided for in the existing financial framework.

A backgrounder with further information on intelligent transportation systems is attached.

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Transport
Canada

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Backgrounder

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Intelligent transportation systems are a broad range of diverse technologies used to make transportation systems safer, more efficient, more reliable and more environmentally friendly, without necessarily having to physically alter existing infrastructure. Since 1999, Transport Canada has been promoting them aggressively and has provided more than \$23 million in support of intelligent transportation systems projects and research in Canada.

Intelligent transportation systems encompass new products and information and communications technologies for the development, operation and management of the transportation system. They include applications such as advanced systems for traveller information, traffic management, public transport, commercial vehicle operations, emergency response management and vehicle safety. They all have in common the integrated application of advanced technologies including information processing, communications, and sensing and control.

The Government of Canada's *Intelligent Transportation Systems Plan for Canada: En Route to Intelligent Mobility (1999)* sets out the strategy for stimulating the development and deployment of intelligent transportation systems across urban and rural Canada. The goals are to maximize the use and efficiency of existing infrastructure and meet future mobility needs more responsibly. The *Intelligent Transportation Systems Plan* provides leadership and support to advance the application and compatibility of intelligent transportation systems technologies and to increase the safety, integration, efficiency and sustainability of Canada's transportation system.

Federal funding is provided under the Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program, a \$600-million program to improve highway infrastructure across Canada. Announced in April 2001, the program has two components, a \$500-million highway construction component and a \$100-million national system integration component, of which \$30 million is designated to fund intelligent transportation system initiatives.

For further information, please visit the intelligent transportation systems website at www.its-sti.gc.ca.

November 2005

Canada

News Release

R(15)101105194

ECE Strategic Plan to 'Build on Success' of Past Work

Yellowknife (November 10, 2005) – The Department of Education, Culture and Employment's (ECE) Strategic Plan for 2005-2015 has been released. The document sets out the broad direction, goals and priorities of the department for the next decade. It focuses on five key areas of activity, including:

- Pride in our culture,
- Education of our children and youth,
- Education of adults,
- A skilled and productive work environment, and
- People participating fully in society

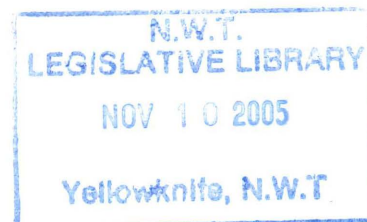
The plan is based on extensive consultation with ECE partners, stakeholders and the general public. National and territorial trends and activity were also considered. The planning process was first initiated in late fall of 2004.

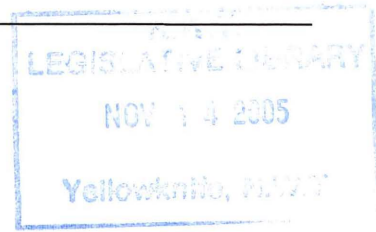
"I am confident this plan will provide good direction and focus for the next ten years" said Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "It is the result of a lot of consultation with Northerners, and a great deal of hard work by our staff."

'Building on Our Successes – the Department of Education, Culture and Employment Strategic Plan 2005-2015' is available online at www.ece.gov.nt.ca Printed copies will be available on November 21, 2005.

For more information, contact:

Shawn McCann
Manager of Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
(867) 920-6222





GNWT Applauds US House of Representatives Decision on ANWR

Yellowknife (November 10, 2005) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is welcoming a recent decision by the United States House of Representatives to drop a provision from their budget reconciliation bill that would have allowed oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

“This is very welcome news for all Canadians,” Premier Joe Handley said today. “We applaud the efforts of the Government of Canada and the Gwich’in to vigorously oppose oil and gas exploration and development in ANWR.”

ANWR is home to part of the calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd, a valued resource of the Gwich’in people.

“As Prime Minister Martin stated earlier today, a number of hurdles still remain,” added Premier Handley. “We will continue to support the Government of Canada, the Porcupine Caribou Management Board and Gwich’in representatives in their efforts to convince US politicians and bureaucrats that permanent protection for ANWR is required.”

The United States House of Representatives dropped the budget provision, which would have allowed for oil drilling in ANWR, yesterday because of a fear it could jeopardize approval of the entire budget bill.

For more information, contact:

Julia Mott
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications
Office of the Premier
Phone: (867) 669-2304

News Release **Communiqué**

R(15)151105197

INAC AND GNWT ANNOUNCE \$2 MILLION INVESTMENT IN GEOSCIENCE IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (November 15, 2005) - The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Minister of State (Northern Development) Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Honourable Brendan Bell, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Government of the Northwest Territories, are pleased to **announce a \$2 million investment in geoscience activities in the NWT this year under the \$90 million dollars for Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development announced in the 2004 Federal Budget.**

“Our government is pleased to offer funding that supports geoscience projects and scientific data collection in the NWT,” said Minister Blondin-Andrew. “This will enhance geoscience knowledge throughout the territory and stimulate interest in the North.”

The funds will be used to support a variety of projects in 2005 and early 2006 that will meet the needs of communities, industry, geologists, investors and all residents of the North. Projects, identified in consultation with the NWT’s Geoscience Advisory Committee, are designed to stimulate new exploration and associated economic activities in the North. Projects underway include: an airborne magnetic survey that will fill a gap in publicly available data; a new data management and distribution system that will provide improved web services and access to data; and a bedrock mapping project that will enhance exploration activities. Additional projects to enhance geoscience knowledge in the NWT have also been identified and are being co-ordinated.

“The commitment of this funding underpins the importance of geoscience as the foundation for resource development,” Minister Bell noted. “The information provided by scientific research attracts and focuses exploration - in turn stimulating mineral and oil and gas development - but it all begins with the prospector.”

Geoscience and economic development projects such as these are an integral part of the Government of Canada’s commitment to an evolving strategy for the North. The Government of Canada is committed to working with Northerners to ensure they can capitalize on the exciting opportunities in Canada, North of 60.

- 30 -

This release is also available in electronic format at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca

Canada



For more information please contact:

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Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, NWT Region
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John Ketchum, Senior Geologist, Northwest Territories Geoscience Office
Government of the Northwest Territories Industry, Tourism and Investment
Telephone: (867) 669-2498

Pierre Collin, Director of Communications
Office of the Minister of State (Northern Development)
Telephone: (819) 994-7626

Julia Mott, Coordinator, Cabinet Communications
Government of the Northwest Territories
Telephone: (867) 669-2304

Background

The Government of Canada and the GNWT recognize the importance of geoscience information to the Northwest Territories and are committed to enhancing the NWT's geoscience knowledge base. This funding will leverage resources from industry and Canada's academic community, and will stimulate private sector investment in the resource exploration sector.

Geoscience has historically stimulated private expenditures and supports sustainable economic growth and diversity. Geoscience is also used in planning physical infrastructure – suitable locations for roads and bridges, power transmission and communications lines, aids in the identification of areas for parks and tourism, is used by Aboriginal governments for regional and community land use planning, and helps to mitigate risks of naturally occurring metals in the environment.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's (INAC) Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development (SINED) programming set is aimed at establishing strong foundations for economic development. This initiative has a number of program elements, one of which is called the Targeted Investment Program (TIP). This program is being used to guide the investment of the \$90 million announced in Budget 2004 for northern economic development. TIP has four main investment areas: building the knowledge base; enhancing the infrastructure base; increasing northern capacity; and economic diversity.

The overall objectives of the programs under the SINED are to: strengthen the sectors driving the economy; broaden the economic base of each territory by enhancing sectors that can show strong economic returns; strengthen the ability of northerners to participate in local, national and international economic opportunities; and increase coordination amongst partners and programs

Geoscience is a priority investment area and the long-term strategy includes a variety of projects: regional bedrock mapping, airborne geophysics, till sampling and specialty research. These projects will fill in geological gaps where there is little or no research, produce integrated maps of large areas and improve accessibility to new and existing data.

The 2004 Federal Budget announced \$90 million over five years for northern economic development. In order to maintain momentum on current and emerging economic development opportunities, funds were made available in each territory during 2004-2005, while the Government of Canada continued work with key economic players to identify priorities and develop territory-specific investment plans for the longer term. A variety of projects form part of INAC's new fund for northern economic development. Work continues to build the longer term framework that will guide investments until 2009.

R(15)181105199

NWT Passenger, Air Traffic Grows Sharply in 2004

YELLOWKNIFE (November 17, 2005) – Passenger and air traffic at the six largest airports in the Northwest Territories rose sharply in 2004 on the wings of a surging economy.

The annual NWT Airport Statistics Report from the Department of Transportation says air traffic, measured by the number of arriving and departing flights, grew by seven per cent last year, while passenger traffic experienced growth of eight per cent.

The department says Yellowknife, Inuvik, Norman Wells, Fort Smith, Hay River and Fort Simpson saw a total of 93,003 aircraft arrive or depart last year, up from 86,600 in 2003 and 81,196 in 2002.

Yellowknife Airport, the busiest airport in the NWT, registered the largest increase from 40,548 to 44,065, a difference of nine per cent. However, the greatest percentage increase belonged to Norman Wells Airport, where aircraft movements went from 14,078 in 2003 to 15,754 last year, 12 per cent higher.

Fort Simpson experienced seven per cent growth. Traffic there increased from 2,853 to 3,061. The level of aircraft activity in Fort Smith Airport in 2004 was six per cent higher than the previous year, 7,751 compared with 7,322.

The 2004 total in Hay River was 6,341, three per cent higher than the 6,150 arrivals and departures in 2003. The airport in Inuvik was also busier last year. The traffic total there increased from 15,649 to 16,031, a two per cent change.

Meanwhile, the total number of passengers who either arrived or departed at the six airports is estimated at 509,900, an eight per cent increase over the 2003 figure of 473,400.

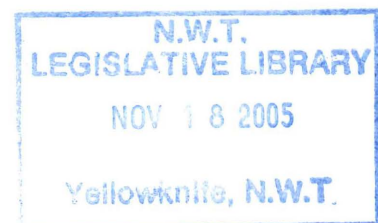
Yellowknife led the way with an estimated 348,800 passengers, up from 320,000 in 2003. Inuvik handled 57,426 passengers, 1,126 more than the year before. In Norman Wells, the total went from 42,900 to 48,048, from 20,900 to 22,154 in Fort Smith, 27,000 to 27,810 in Hay River and from 6,300 to 6,741 in Fort Simpson.

“This significant increase in the level of activity within the aviation industry is indicative of the type of traffic growth being witnessed across all sectors of transportation in the Northwest Territories,” said Transportation Minister Michael McLeod. “Strong economic growth and sustained resource exploration and development mean we can expect corresponding increases in passenger and air traffic will continue.”

The NWT Airport Statistics Report can be viewed or downloaded from the publications section of the Department of Transportation’s website at www.dot.gov.nt.ca or obtained from the Planning and Policy Division in Yellowknife.

For more information, contact:

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



R(15)211105200

Trappers Recognized

YELLOWKNIFE (November 21, 2005) – Seventeen Trappers across the Northwest Territories (NWT) were recognized for their achievements on the trap line for the 2004-05 trapping season.

The Trappers Recognition Award Initiative is a part of the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs program, administered by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, acknowledges outstanding achievements in trapping.

Trappers from five regions received awards based on four categories: Youth Trappers' Who Sold Fur At Auction; Senior Trappers' Who Sold Fur At Auction; Highest Number of Pelts and; Highest Values Sold.

Minister of ITI, Honourable Brendan Bell, says he is particularly pleased, for the first time in the program's history, to see accomplishments of youth on the trap line recognized. "The young people receiving awards through this initiative, and the many other youth actively trapping in the NWT, confirm that the fur industry continues to be a vibrant healthy sector of the economy providing youth with productive choices and alternatives."

ITI promotes and supports the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program as part of Traditional Economy. Trapping methods used and pelt-handling practices promote excellence, and, increase economic benefits for NWT residents, communities and businesses.

For more information, please contact:

Guy Erasmus
Fur Management Officer
Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories
Phone: (867) 920-6406

TRAPPER RECOGNITION PROGRAM RECIPIENTS 2004 - 2005

REGION	YOUTH TRAPPERS WHO SOLD FUR AT AUCTION	SENIOR TRAPPERS WHO SOLD FUR AT AUCTION	TRAPPER WITH HIGHEST # PELTS	TRAPPER WITH HIGHEST VALUE\$ SOLD
S. SLAVE	Keith Michel (17) (Lutselk'e)	Daniel Sonfrere (87) (Hay R.)	Paul J Smith (Fi Res)	Belinda Sabourin (Ft Providence)
N. SLAVE	Thomsen D'Hont (17) (YK)	Philip Chocolate (79) (Rae)	Francis Gon (Rae)	Archie Nitsiza (Wha Ti)
SAHTU	Phillip Rabesca (17) (Ft Good Hope)	Gabriel Horrassi (75) (Tulita)	Robert Kochon (Colville)	Robert Kochon (Colville)
DEH CHO	Andy Deneyoua Jr (21) (Ft Simpson)	Stanley Bertrand (74) (Ft Liard)	Charlie Tale (Wrigley)	Charlie Tale (Wrigley)
INUVIK	Edward KJ Mcleod (17) (Aklavik)	Victor Allen (77) (Inuvik)	Jorgan C. Elias (Tuk)	Jorgan C. Elias (Tuk)

R(15)211105201

New Deputy Minister Appointed to Aboriginal and Intergovernmental Relations

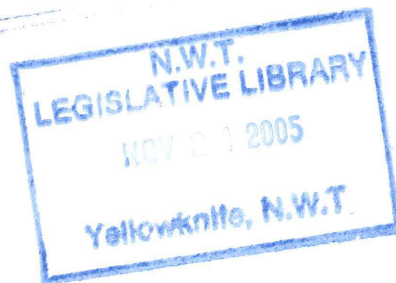
YELLOWKNIFE (November 21, 2005) – Gabriela Sparling has been appointed to the position of Deputy Minister for Aboriginal and Intergovernmental Relations, Premier Joe Handley announced today. The appointment takes place with immediate effect.

Ms. Sparling takes over the role from Robert McLeod who remains Secretary to Cabinet. “Ms. Sparling is a valued member of our senior management team and I look forward to working with her in her new role,” said Premier Handley.

Gabriela Sparling, currently Associate Deputy Minister at 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
Phone:(867) 873-7100



R(15)231105202

GNWT SUPPORTS THE MACKENZIE GAS PROJECT

YELLOWKNIFE (November 23, 2005) – Premier Joe Handley and Finance Minister Floyd Roland are offering strong encouragement to industry to proceed to the public hearings phase of the environmental assessment and regulatory process for the Mackenzie Gas Project. The Premier and Minister Roland sent a letter of support to the project proponents confirming the intentions of the Government of the Northwest Territories to develop a stable fiscal regime for the project.

“Considering the size of the investment – an estimated \$7 billion – it is understandable industry would want some level of assurance that governments are not going to change the rules substantially once the investment is made,” said Minister Roland. “This letter clearly communicates our intention to work with industry and the federal government to ensure the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) proceeds.”

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited, as the lead proponent for the development of the MGP, has stated that progress on access and benefits agreements with Aboriginal organizations, and some assurances regarding the project’s fiscal regime, are required before making the decision to proceed to the public hearings phase of the regulatory process.

The GNWT continues to call on the federal government to address the related issue of resource royalty sharing. The federal government has a responsibility to ensure the people of the Northwest Territories will benefit fairly from revenues generated from this important project. This is a fundamental principle that the Prime Minister has recognized in other agreements such as the Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia Offshore Accords.

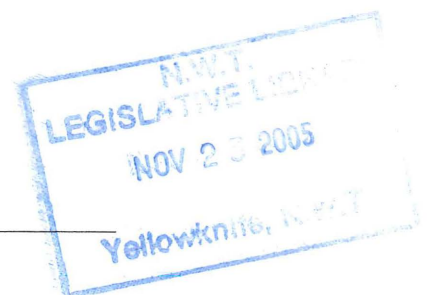
“A fair devolution and resource revenue sharing agreement with the federal government will bring Northerners the fiscal certainty required as we move ahead”, said Premier Handley, “It is critical the federal government recognize and address our situation and negotiate a fair agreement ensuring Northerners benefit from revenues generated from resource development in the Northwest Territories. In the meantime, we need to manage the areas we do control to ensure a secure economic future and an environmentally responsible project for northern people and governments.”

The federal and territorial governments exercise control over the royalty regime for the MGP, and discussions with between government and industry were initiated earlier this year. The GNWT’s letter to industry outlines the GNWT’s intention to work towards a memorandum of understanding regarding the current and post-devolution royalty regime for the project. Key to achieving this memorandum is the analysis of all potential fiscal scenarios for the MGP, including those in a post-devolution scenario.

For more information, contact:

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Coordinator, Cabinet Communications
Office of the Premier
Phone: (867) 445-5669

Megan Munro
Communications Assistant
Office of the Premier
Phone: (867) 669-2302





THE PREMIER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

NOV 22 2005

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President and CEO
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Mr. Bob Reid
President
Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal Pipeline LP
#757, 450 – 1st STREET S.W.
CALGARY AB T2P 5H1

Mr. Hal Kvisle
President and CEO
TransCanada Pipelines Ltd.
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CALGARY AB T2P 5H1

Mr. Henry Sykes
President
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401 – 9th AVENUE S.W.
CALGARY AB T2P 2H7

Dear Sirs:

Mackenzie Gas Project Fiscal Assurances

As you know, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has been meeting with your representatives to discuss ways the GNWT can increase certainty for your respective companies regarding the development of the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) in the Northwest Territories (NWT), as described in your Environmental Impact Statement filed with regulatory authorities.

The opening of the Mackenzie Delta and Valley to development has the potential to provide your companies with economic opportunities for years to come. However, the GNWT recognizes that there are additional risks associated with the initial, capital-intensive investment in a greenfield development such as the MGP.

.../2

The GNWT also recognizes that the development of the Mackenzie Gas Project will provide substantial benefits for the NWT and Canada, providing potential adverse impacts are adequately mitigated. From the outset, including the creation of the Aboriginal Pipeline Group in 2000, the GNWT has been supportive of the MGP and has always taken a cooperative approach with your companies.

In the spirit of this cooperation and in consideration of the size of the investment and the associated risks, the GNWT recognizes the need to promote a stable and secure fiscal environment for the development and ongoing operations of the MGP. It is not the intention of the GNWT to introduce or support any new, targeted tax or royalty changes (post-devolution) that would negatively impact project economics for the MGP.

For the GNWT to follow through on these intentions, there are some unique factors that need to be considered. As you know, for northerners to fully realize the benefits of development, a fair deal on devolution of authority over lands and resources, and a resource revenue sharing agreement, is required between the government of Canada, the GNWT and NWT Aboriginal governments. In the absence of such an agreement, it is important that the GNWT understand the implications of any new arrangements that might be developed between Canada and your companies regarding the fiscal environment for the MGP.

However, based on the premise that information will be shared, and in the interests of offering your companies strong encouragement to proceed to the next phase of the regulatory process for the MGP, the GNWT can confirm its intention to develop the following principles in a memorandum of understanding to be developed over the coming months:

- 1) It is the intention of the GNWT to maintain a post-devolution royalty regime for the three anchor fields of the MGP that would not exceed the royalty burden of the regime as currently defined in the *Canadian Petroleum Resources Act*.
- 2) It is not the intention of the GNWT to increase property taxes with respect to the MGP's assets disproportionately to property taxes payable on similar properties in other regions of Canada.

- 3) It is not the intention of the GNWT to impose any other tax or fiscal measure that would have the effect of directly targeting the MGP operations and facilities due to its limited scope of application.

With respect to the filing of corporate income tax, the GNWT is committed to working with you to determine fair and equitable arrangements for the allocation of these taxes by end of June 2006.

With respect to current and future property taxes, the authority may not be directly within the jurisdiction of the GNWT, but we do not believe that your companies should have any concerns. The current fiscal and royalty regime in the NWT is very competitive. It is in the interests of all northern governments to remain competitive and to provide a stable, predictable fiscal environment.

With respect to the property taxes that could be levied on the estimated 3% of the pipeline length that would fall within municipal boundaries, many of our municipalities have a long history of dealing responsibly with industry.

Also, property taxation on public lands outside municipalities has not been a matter for negotiation of Aboriginal self-government agreements and it is not the intention of this Government to change this approach. The need to maintain a coordinated, harmonized tax system across the NWT is a key principle in this Government's approach to negotiating self-government agreements. We also need to recognize that the Government of Canada is a key party to the negotiation of Aboriginal self-government agreements.

The GNWT will endeavor to ensure that future devolution agreements will honour commitments made by Canada with respect to the MGP, provided a collaborative approach that includes the GNWT is taken in arriving at those commitments.

The GNWT is confident that though our cooperative working relationship with your companies, we can provide you with assurances that the GNWT is committed to promoting a stable and predictable fiscal and royalty regime for the MGP. However, any commitments are subject to the plenary legislative authority of the NWT Legislative Assembly.

To be clear, nothing in this letter should be construed as fettering any discretionary power conferred. In addition nothing in this letter constitutes a legally binding commitment or obligation of the GNWT or confers any right on your companies.

Finally, although it is necessary for this letter to presume the MGP will receive the essential regulatory approvals, nothing in it should be construed as prejudicing the position of the GNWT or fettering the discretion of any official in any regulatory process.

Sincerely,



Joseph L. Handley
Premier



Floyd K. Roland
Minister of Finance

R(15)291105203

GNWT Releases New Proposal for Transportation Infrastructure Funding

YELLOWKNIFE (November 29, 2005) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) released two funding proposals today that seek more federal investment for projects that would both strengthen the territory's existing highway system and extend the Mackenzie Valley highway to the shores of the Arctic Ocean.

Connecting Canada: Coast to Coast to Coast and *Corridors for Canada II: Building on Our Success* were made public by Transportation Minister Michael McLeod, whose department developed the two proposals with projects worth an estimated \$862 million in total.

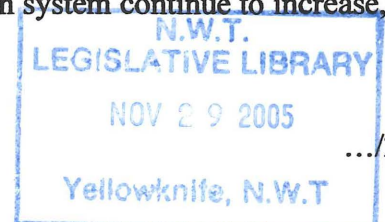
“Together, these proposals address both the current, critical needs of our struggling highway system and offer a realistic plan to make our territory and our nation stronger and more prosperous by completing the missing link in a highway system,” said Minister McLeod. “They have the combined potential to dramatically change the state and the extent of the territory's transportation infrastructure.

Corridors for Canada II addresses the urgent need to spend \$162 million on the existing highway infrastructure to meet the growing demands being placed on it by resource development and a rapidly expanding economy. It follows and updates the original *Corridors for Canada* proposal that was submitted to the federal government in 2002. The outcome was \$130 million in joint funding from the GNWT and the Government of Canada through the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund (CSIF).

The GNWT has used that money to improve the Liard, Mackenzie, Dempster, Yellowknife and Ingraham Trail highways and to carry out grade improvements and construct permanent bridges on the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road.

“We are proud of what has been accomplished, in partnership with the Government of Canada, through the first *Corridors for Canada* proposal,” said Minister McLeod. “That significant investment has increased safety, capacity and reliability of the territorial transportation system.”

“However, since the first funding proposal was developed in 2002, the extent of resource development and the corresponding pressures on the transportation system continue to increase,” he said.



.../2

He said the new proposal not only identifies the ways in which the Northwest Territories and its residents would benefit from more improvements to the transportation system, but also how all of Canada stands to gain from resource developments in the North.

“All Canadians will benefit from expanding infrastructure partnerships and improving Canada’s transportation corridors,” Minister McLeod added.

Connecting Canada is an imaginative, \$700 million proposal to complete the all-weather highway down the Mackenzie Valley from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk on the coast of the Arctic Ocean.

“It’s a project whose time has come,” Minister McLeod said.

The project would consist of a number of different pieces, including an all-weather road from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk, extension of the all-weather road from Wrigley to the Dempster Highway south of Inuvik, and improvements to the existing Mackenzie Highway.

“This highway would serve the interests of Northerners and Canadians in many ways,” the minister said. “Resource development along the Mackenzie Valley and in the Beaufort Delta, northern sovereignty, emergency response, economic and social development, and our capacity to adapt to climate change would all be positively affected.”

The proposals can be viewed in the publications section of the department of Transportation’s website at www.dot.gov.nt.ca. Copies can be obtained from the department’s Transportation Planning and Policy Division at 873-7666.

For more information, contact:

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

R(15)071205205

Safer Heating: The Office of the Fire Marshal and the City of Yellowknife Advise Caution when Using Space Heaters

YELLOWKNIFE (December 7, 2005) – Advice to use extreme caution when using space heaters to help heat your home or outbuildings this winter, was offered today by the Office of the Fire Marshal and the City of Yellowknife Fire Division. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) supplemental heating equipment, such as electrical and kerosene heaters, is the leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February and is second only to cooking equipment as the leading cause of home fires year-round.

"As heating costs rise in the Northwest Territories, residents are looking for alternative methods to heat their homes. It is important to remember a few safety precautions when using space heaters," says Bernie Van Tighem, Fire Marshal for the Northwest Territories. "Caution should always be used with space heaters, and manufacturers' directions and the National Fire Code should always be followed."

For more information on the safe use of supplemental heaters, please visit the MACA website at www.maca.gov.nt.ca or visit the City of Yellowknife website at www.yellowknife.ca.

Please see attached safety information sheet for safety tips and precautions when using space heaters.

For more information, contact:

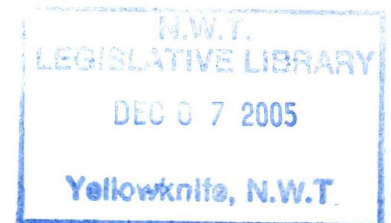
Bernie Van Tighem
Fire Marshal
Municipal and Community Affairs
Tel: (867) 873-7469

Claude Gervais
Assistant Fire Marshal, Inuvik
Municipal and Community Affairs
Tel: (867) 777-7297

Steve Moss
Assistant Fire Marshal, North Slave
Municipal and Community Affairs
Tel: (867) 920-8081

Tyrone Larkin
Assistant Fire Marshal, Dehcho
Municipal and Community Affairs
Tel: (867) 695-7230

David Wilcox
Assistant Fire Marshal, Sahtu
Municipal and Community Affairs
Tel: (867) 587-7115





Safety Information

R(15)061205105

Safety Tips and Precautions When Using Space Heaters

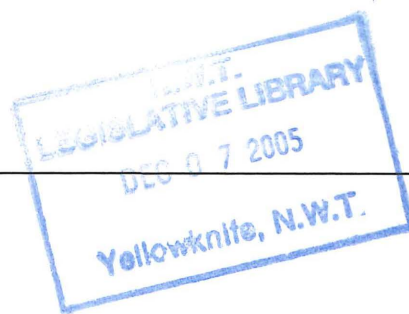
The City of Yellowknife Fire Division and the Office of the Fire Marshal offer the following safety tips and precautions when using space heaters:

- Space heaters have one function - to provide supplemental heat. They should not be used to warm bedding, cook food, thaw pipes or dry clothing. Misusing space heaters can put you and your family at risk of fire or burn injuries.
- Select heating equipment that has the Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) or the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) mark. The ULC or CSA mark on a product means that ULC or CSA technical staff members have tested or certified representative samples of the product for foreseeable safety hazards.
- Remember the safety zone. Keep things that burn away from space heaters.
- Turn off space heaters when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep.
- Supervise children and pets at all times when space heaters are in use. Even the slightest contact with a heating coil or element can cause a severe burn.
- If you have an electric space heater, check for frayed insulation, broken wires or overheating. All related problems should be repaired by a professional technician before operating.
- When buying space heaters, look for devices with automatic shut-off features and heating element guards.
- Use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer in liquid-fuelled space heater. Never use gasoline or any other substitute fuel. The wrong fuel could burn hotter than the equipment's design limits and cause a serious fire.
- When refuelling, turn off the heater and let it cool down completely before adding fuel. Wipe up any spills promptly.
- When considering buying a kerosene heater, check with the Fire Department or the Office of the Fire Marshal to find out if it is legal in your community.
- Avoid using extension cords with space heaters. If you must use one, make sure you choose an extension cord of the right wire gauge size and type for your heaters.
- Keep the air heater's power supply cord away from high-traffic areas in your home in order to avoid people walking on or tripping over the cord.

Space heaters designed for home use, while seemingly harmless, are responsible for 2600 fires and 130 deaths annually in North America. These heaters are not substitutes for central heating, and they are not all designed for extended use.

Space heaters designed for industrial use also have specific installation and use requirements.

- Be sure to follow manufacturers' instructions and the National Fire Code.
- Always have a qualified electrician install these devices.
- Ensure your heater is rated for the job it is to perform.
- If your heater over limit switch is triggered and the unit shuts down, have a qualified electrician inspect it, as this is a sign of abnormal operation.
- Ensure that the appropriate clearances are provided for the unit. Clearances are vitally important to ensure surrounding combustibles do not heat up over time making them more susceptible to ignition.



R(15)071205206

Fire Marshal's Order Regarding the Closure of the Pinecrest Hotel in Fort Smith

YELLOWKNIFE (December 7, 2005) – The Office of the Fire Marshal has deemed the Pinecrest Hotel a high-risk building that cannot be protected by the existing fire protection and response systems and on December 2, 2005, issued an Order to close the building immediately. In the event of a fire, there is little opportunity for residents to evacuate the building safely, particularly those residents with mobility issues. In addition, due to the condition of the building, it is unsafe for fire fighters to enter the building to fight a fire.

The Pinecrest Hotel is therefore extremely unsafe and presents a significant risk to the life safety of residents. The infractions discovered during an inspection of the Pinecrest Hotel by the Assistant Fire Marshal on November 30, 2005, initiated as a result of concerns raised by the Fort Smith Volunteer Fire Department, include:

- A lack of a functioning alarm system;
- Uncertainty regarding the proper functioning of the sprinkler system;
- Missing structural fire separations (walls, ceilings and floors that meet required fire resistance ratings) intended to restrict the spread of fire and smoke;
- Missing stairs and blocked exits throughout the building;
- Improper storage of combustible materials throughout the building; and
- The building was being heated by burning scrap and other inappropriate materials in a wood-burning furnace.

Social service agencies in Fort Smith, along with relevant GNWT Departments, are coordinating their efforts and are working to identify the support needed for affected residents.

The Office of the Fire Marshal has provided the owner of the building with precise instructions as to actions the building owner must take before the conditions of the order will be reconsidered. The Fire Marshal will be in Fort Smith December 7 and 8 and will be available to meet with the building owner, displaced residents and other impacted stakeholders at that time.

The Office of the Fire Marshal is charged under the *Fire Prevention Act* to enforce codes and standards related to fire and life safety. Where a demonstrated risk to life safety exists, the Fire Marshal can issue an order requiring changes or renovations to a building, building closure or building demolition.

For more information, contact:

Bernie Van Tighem
Fire Marshal
Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone: (867) 872-6528

Amy Hacala
Communications and Policy Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone: (867) 920-3092

R(15)071205207

NWT Traffic Accidents, Injuries Drop in 2004

YELLOWKNIFE (December 7, 2005) – The number of traffic accidents and injuries in the NWT dropped slightly in 2004 despite an increase in the number of vehicles and drivers.

The Department of Transportation's 2004 Traffic Collision Facts report says there were a total of 798 collisions on the territory's roads that year, 2.6 per cent fewer than the 819 recorded in 2003. The number of collisions in which people were injured decreased to 113, 13.1 per cent fewer than the 2003 total of 130. The 2004 number is the lowest in 16 years.

The number of people injured went from 172 in 2003 to 151 last year, a difference of 12.2 per cent. Collisions claimed the lives of three people both years.

The number of collisions involving alcohol also declined. In 2004, there were 50, four less than 2003. Overall, alcohol was a factor in six per cent of collisions, about the same as in 2003.

The department also says that drivers between the ages of 15 and 19 had almost twice as many collisions as other drivers. On average, nine per cent of drivers 15-19 were in a collision, compared with three per cent of drivers 35 to 44 years of age.

Statistics from last year also point to the value of wearing a seat belt. Only seven per cent of accident victims wearing seat belts were injured, but that number jumped to 20 per cent for anyone who didn't buckle up.

Year-over-year totals also showed a 3.3 per cent increase in the number of registered vehicles in the territory during 2004. The total was 33,642 in 2004 and 32,567 the previous year. The number of licensed drivers also grew by 5.4 per cent to 30,958, compared with 29,368 in 2003.

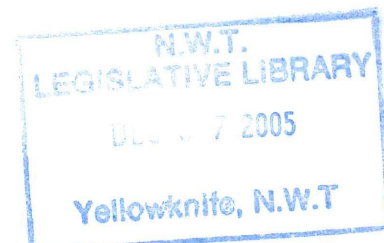
Based on a Transport Canada method for estimating economic costs related to collisions, the department says the NWT figure for 2004 amounted to \$11.6 million, down from \$11.9 million in 2003.

"It's encouraging to see positive developments in the area of highway safety," said Transportation Minister Michael McLeod. "Government, working with police, agencies and concerned individuals, will continue to look at ways by which we can make our roads as safe as possible."

The 2004 Traffic Collision Facts can be viewed in the publications section of the Department of Transportation website at www.dot.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

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



R(15)081205208

Pet Owners Warned of Traps Set At Yellowknife Airport

YELLOWKNIFE (December 8, 2005) – The Department of Transportation is warning pet owners that traps will soon be placed inside the perimeter fence at Yellowknife Airport to reduce the number of coyotes within the airport boundaries.

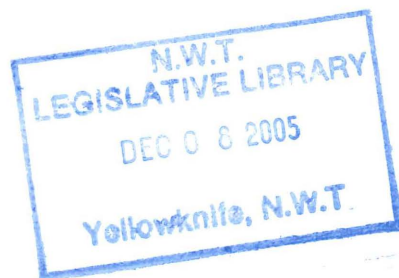
“Trapping has become a necessary last resort because other attempts to control the increasing coyote population have been unsuccessful,” Airport Manager Michel Lafrance said today. “Coyotes on the runway pose a safety risk to aircraft during takeoff and landing.”

Renewable Resource Officers with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will set traps inside the airport fence only, Mr. Lafrance said. They are expected to be in place by Monday, December 12.

He said warning signs will be posted along the fence and that anyone walking pets near the 575-hectare property should keep their animals on a leash. Any animals other than coyotes caught in the traps will be released.

For further information, contact:

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



R(15)121209209

Minister Clarifies Statement in Washington Post

YELLOWKNIFE (December 12, 2005) - The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, has clarified a statement attributed to him in a recent Washington Post article.

Michael Miltenberger discussed resource development in the Northwest Territories including mineral exploration and the potential construction of the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline during a lengthy interview with the reporter.

“The Northwest Territories has a wealth of development opportunities given our vast mineral and petroleum resources and businesses continue to express interest in exploring potential opportunities,” said Minister Miltenberger. “But any exploration or development in the Northwest Territories must comply with the strong regulatory regime that governs such activity. This regime requires compliance with land claims agreements and federal and territorial legislation including environmental assessment.”

“The Government of the Northwest Territories has a long history of working with our other partners, including Aboriginal organizations, to ensure development occurs in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive manner. The Protected Areas Strategy is one such example,” concluded Minister Miltenberger.

For more information, contact:

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

R(15)131209210

Hunters Asked to Participate in the Bathurst Caribou Herd Monitoring Program

YELLOWKNIFE (December 13, 2005): Staff at the North Slave Regional office of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) are asking for help from Northwest Territories (NWT) hunters through their participation in a monitoring program that samples harvested barren-ground caribou.

“Caribou are a way of life in the North, both traditionally and economically and by monitoring the health of animals from the Bathurst herd, we will continue to learn more about the herd and NWT caribou in general,” said ENR Minister, Michael Miltenberger.

The North Slave Regional office is providing data collection kits, which include a sample bag, ruler, marker, pencil and a data sheet for the harvesters to fill in. Hunters are asked to collect the kidney and any fat surrounding it, in addition to taking a measurement of the amount of back fat on the caribou.

“For example, we’re looking at the amount of fat on the kidney, which, when studied with other indicators, is an excellent barometer of the overall condition of the animal,” said Caribou Monitoring Programs Technician, Dave Abernethy. “We are asking harvesters to record information about the condition of harvested caribou, as well as some general observations of the caribou in the group. This information, combined with field studies, will help us to understand the overall health and condition of the caribou herd.”

Community hunts and the outfitting industry are also participating in the monitoring program. Resident hunters interested in participating in this study are asked to drop into or call the North Slave Regional Office at 873-7184.

For more information, contact:

Kathy Mercure
Communications Planning Specialist
Phone: (867) 920-3310
kathy_mercure@gov.nt.ca



R(15)131205212

Department of Transportation Assumes Operation of Fort Providence Ferry

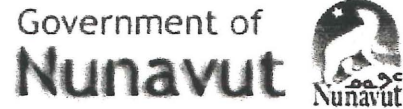
YELLOWKNIFE (December 13, 2005): The Department of Transportation and Rowe's Construction have reached agreement to terminate the contract for the Fort Providence ferry on Highway 3.

Effective Wednesday, December 14, the Department of Transportation will assume responsibility for operating the service using the current employees who have agreed to become employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

"This proactive step is in the best interest of everyone concerned," said Transportation Minister Michael McLeod.

For more information, contact:

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



R(15)211205214

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTHERN PREMIERS SEEK FEDERAL LEADERS' VIEWS ON KEY ISSUES

December 21, 2005 – Premiers of Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut have written to the four federal leaders seeking their views on key issues of importance for Northerners.

Premiers Dennis Fentie (Yukon), Joseph Handley (NWT) and Paul Okalik (Nunavut) have outlined four key issues:

- Adequacy of funding for programs in the North
- Strategy for northern development
- Devolution and land claims
- Outcomes of the recent First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal issues

Premiers said they believe these issues are important to the North and felt that Northerners should know each of the leaders' views. These are also issues that are not just significant for the people of the three territories, but have significant implications for all Canadians, they said. All of the responses received will be made public.

A copy of the letter is attached.

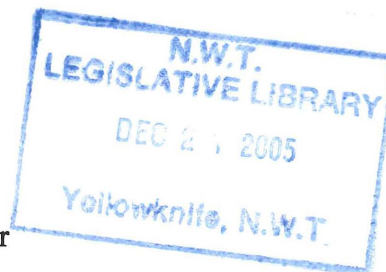
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Contact:

Andrea Buckley
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Government of Yukon
(867) 667-5270
andrea.buckley@gov.yk.ca

Megan Munro
Cabinet Communications Assistant
Government of the Northwest Territories
(867) 669-2302
megan_munro@gov.nt.ca

Bill Clay
Director of Communications, Office of the Premier
Government of Nunavut
(867) 975-5059
bclay@gov.nu.ca





Government of
Nunavut



December 14, 2005

The Right Honourable Paul Martin, P.C.
Prime Minister of Canada
Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada
81 Metcalfe Street, Suite 400
OTTAWA, Ontario K1P 6M8

The Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C.
Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada
1720-130 Albert Street
OTTAWA, Ontario K1P 5G4

The Honourable Jack Layton, P.C.
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada
300 - 279 Laurier West
OTTAWA, Ontario K1P 5J9

Mr. Gilles Duceppe
Leader of the Bloc Québécois
3750 Crémazie Est, Bureau 307
MONTREAL, QC H2A 1B6

Dear Sirs:

As Northern Premiers, we have been working hard on a number of issues we believe are not just of great importance to the people of Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut but will have significant implications for all Canadians as we work towards building a stronger Canadian Federation.

In that regard, we ask that as national party leaders you use the opportunity of the current federal election campaign to make clear to Northerners, and all Canadians, your views on the following matters:

1) Adequacy of funding for programs in the North: As you know the federal government has, as recently as the November First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal issues, recognized the unique circumstances in the North in terms of the higher cost of providing services to our residents. The need to provide a base amount plus per capita to territories is well understood and supported by all jurisdictions. The Council of the Federation, which includes all of Canada's premiers, has also taken the position that the current interim Territorial Formula

Financing arrangements no longer takes into account the difference between the expenditure needs and the revenue means of the territorial governments.

Recent failed attempts to come to an agreement on funding of the Early Learning and Child Care initiative in the North is a good example of how Northerners may be left out of a program because of Canada's insistence on a per-capita approach to funding that will not meet the unique costs and circumstances we face in meeting the developmental needs of a young and vulnerable population.

2) Strategy for northern development: Much work has been done in the North to advance our common goal of developing a comprehensive strategy for building capacity, building healthier communities and building the Northern economy so that we can fulfill our tremendous potential. We believe it is essential to the people of the North that the territories and Canada move ahead with a common vision for the North and look forward to discussing how you and your parties might proceed with the development of this vision.

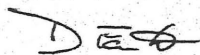
3) Devolution and land claims: As you know, the three territories are at different stages of development in terms of devolution of responsibilities, completion of land claims and implementation of self-government agreements. We have been supportive of each others' efforts in all of these areas including the completion of an Agreement in Principle on Devolution and Resource Revenue Sharing for the NWT, the commencement of Devolution talks with Nunavut by the end of the year, the completion of the three outstanding land claims and the appropriate implementation of final and self-government agreements in the Yukon.

4) Outcomes of the recent First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal issues: Significant progress was made at this meeting and we would like to know whether you intend to follow through on commitments made in Kelowna, including Canada's important recognition and acknowledgement that there are unique circumstances in the North and that measures be taken to ensure that the territories can benefit from any programs or initiatives developed as a result of the great work done at the FMM.

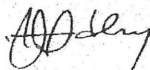
These issues are as complex as they are important to the North. We look forward to your reply and, in the interest of providing northern voters with as much information as possible, we are pleased to make public your responses.

With respect, we await your earliest reply.

Sincerely,



Hon. Dennis Fentie
Premier
Yukon



Hon. Joe Handley
Premier
Northwest Territories



Hon. Paul Okalik
Premier
Nunavut