

R(15)-004	Jan 05	Yukon & NWT Premiers call to suspend the Federal Gun Control Program.
R(15)160105217	Jan 16	Leaders respond to Northern Premiers' letter.
R(15)230106218	Jan 23	Moose Kerr Principal is outstanding.
R(15)240106219	Jan 24	Premier Handley congratulates Stephen Harper.
R(15)250106220	Jan 25	Report of the 2005 Liquor Act Review released.
R(15)310106222	Jan 31	Minister dissolves the Fort Simpson Village Council.
R(15)010206221	Feb 01	2006 outstanding volunteer awards nominations now available.
R(15)020206223	Feb 02	Northwest Territories poised to become a key economic driver in Canada/Backgrounder.
R(15)030206224	Feb 03	GNWT general submission filed to Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project/Backgrounder/Summary of Recommendations.
R(15)030206225	Feb 03	Place name changes for Holman, Victoria Island and Coronation Gulf Region.
R(15)030206226	Feb 03	Municipal administrator appointed for Fort Simpson.
R(15)070206227	Feb 07	Minister announces land transfers in Yellowknife.
R(15)200206230	Feb 20	GNWT barren-ground Caribou management strategy and interim measures.
R(15)200206231	Feb 20	Get smart about energy during Education Week
R(15)220206232	Feb 22	NWT historical timeline launch.
R(15)220206233	Feb 22	Changes in Deputy Minister assignments.
R(15)230206234	Feb 23	GNWT support for traditional economy.
R(15)270206235	Feb 27	Up to \$15million more for tourism in the Northwest Territories - ITI Minister unveils Tourism 2010.
R(15)070306236	Mar 07	2006 Arctic Winter Games "Snowshoeing : a training and resource manual".
R(15)140306237	Mar 14	Sod turning ceremony eight-plex designed for persons with disabilities.
R(15)270306238	Mar 27	Drop the pop NWT.
R(15)110406248	Apr 12	Winners of Drop the Pop NWT Challenge announced.
R(15)130406250	Apr 13	Aviation career development program bursaries available.
R(15)130406251	Apr 13	72-Hour closure notice for winter roads.



R(15)200406255	Apr 20	Northwest Territories residents ready to “Get Active”.
R(15)210406256	Apr 21	Liard River ice crossing extended to April 24.
R(15)240406257	Apr 24	24-hour extension for Liard River ice crossing.
R(15)260406258	Apr 26	Ribbon cutting ceremony seniors public housing duplexes in Hay River.
R(15)270406259	Apr 27	Create the smoke-free future contest begins NWT tour.
R(15)280406260	Apr 28	NWT outstanding volunteer award winners announced.
R(15)280406261	Apr 28	NWT fire crews to assist in Alberta.
R(15)110906308	Sep 11	GNWT invests in training and HR development for the tourism industry.
R(15)130906309	Sep 14	Renovated Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Re-opens.
R(15)130906310	Sep 14	Tlicho Community Services Agency – wins silver IPAC award.
R(15)190906311	Sep 19	Bathurst caribou survey completed.
R(15)250906312	Sep 25	NWT hosts Northwest FASD Minister’s meeting.
R(15)280906313	Sep 28	Northwest Territories proposes higher dividend tax credit.
R(15)280906314	Sep 28	Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre exhibit opening – We Live Securely by the Land.
R(15)290906317	Sep 29	Premier issues apology.
R(15)061206351	Dec 06	2006-2007 Recipients of the High Performance Athlete Grant.





R(15)160105217

ATTENTION NEWSROOMS

**LEADERS RESPOND TO NORTHERN PREMIERS' LETTER**

**January 16, 2006** –Federal party leaders have responded to the letter, written in December by Premiers Dennis Fentie (Yukon), Joseph Handley (Northwest Territories) and Paul Okalik (Nunavut), to the four federal leaders.

The northern premiers were seeking the views of the leaders on key issues of importance for Northerners.

Party leaders responses, as well as a copy of the original letter, are attached.

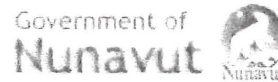
**Contact:**

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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.

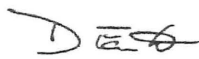
**3) Devolution and land claims:** As you know, the three territories are at different stages of development in terms of devolution of responsibilities, completion of land claims and implementation of self-government agreements. We have been supportive of each others' efforts in all of these areas including 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.

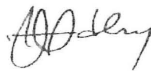
These issues are as complex as they are important to the North. We look forward to your reply and, in the interest of providing northern voters with as much information as possible, we are pleased to make public your responses.

With respect, we await your earliest reply.

Sincerely,



Hon. Dennis Fentie  
Premier  
Yukon



Hon. Joe Handley  
Premier  
Northwest Territories



Hon. Paul Okalik  
Premier  
Nunavut

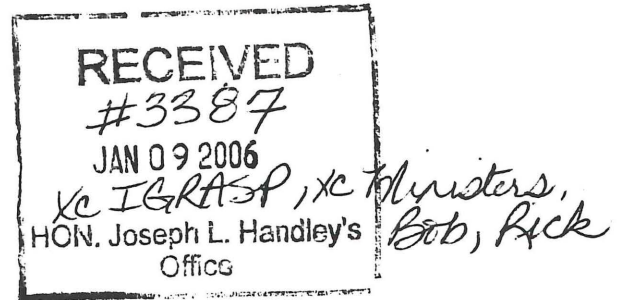




The Honourable Denis Fentie  
Premier of Yukon  
Legislative Assembly  
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The Honourable Joseph L. Handley  
Premier of the Northwest Territories  
Legislative Assembly  
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The Honourable Paul Okalik  
Premier of Nunavut  
Legislative Assembly  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0  
Fax: (867) 975-5190



January 6, 2006

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your letter of December 14, 2005. We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the important issues facing the people of Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut and to reaffirm the Conservative party's commitment to Canada's northerners.

Please find our responses below.

1. Adequacy of funding for programs in the North.

The Conservative Party of Canada supports in general terms the negotiation of "base-plus funding arrangements" with the northern territories. We recognize the unique circumstances faced in the North regarding the delivery of programs and services to residents and we are prepared to discuss the challenges regarding the costs and circumstances for the delivery of those services.

The Conservative Party of Canada also agrees that the Territorial Formula Financing arrangements need to be reviewed. We are prepared to discuss future arrangements with the territories in order to take into account the difference between the expenditure needs and the revenue means of the territorial governments.





We also recognize that the North faces unique circumstances in terms of the developmental needs of its youth. We will work with your government to address these issues in a meaningful fashion.

## **2. Strategy for northern development.**

The Conservative Party of Canada agrees that a comprehensive strategy is needed to advance the common socio-economic goals of the North. We also believe it is essential to the economic development of the three northern territories that they have a resource revenue sharing agreement with the federal government.

As stated in an article in *Diplomat Magazine* in May 2005, Jim Prentice, our Party's Critic for Aboriginal Affairs, held that "the critical issues in the Canadian north focus upon five general areas:

1. the need to clarify and immediately reinforce and assert Canadian sovereignty;
2. the need for devolution of governance and revenue sharing arrangements in a manner which accords northerners control over their own futures;
3. the need to simplify the spiderweb of federal regulatory authority which threatens economic development in the north;
4. the need for an effective environmental plan which balances ecological protection with economic prosperity;
5. the need to ensure that the Canadians who live in the 96 northern communities have access to comparable standards of health, education and economic opportunity."

The Conservative Party of Canada believes these five general areas are critical for the economic development of the three northern territories.

## **3. Devolution and land claims.**

The Conservative Party of Canada believes that Northerners should control their own future and we are committed to the orderly devolution of decision making away from Ottawa to the territories. We also recognize that the three territories are at different stages of development in terms of devolution of responsibilities, completion of land claims and implementation of self-governments. We are prepared to discuss the completion of specific agreements for all three territories.

## **4. Outcomes of the recent First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal Issues.**

The Conservative Party of Canada agrees with the targets that were established to reduce aboriginal poverty on the basis of 5 to 10 year plans, as discussed at the First Ministers Meeting in Kelowna. We also believe that any effort to fight poverty requires a joint commitment by federal, provincial and territorial governments and, in order to achieve





that, new jurisdictional arrangements are required between aboriginal communities, provincial and territorial governments and the federal government.

Unfortunately, the First Ministers Meeting did not arrive at a concerted financial plan to address the 5 to 10 year objectives. In particular, no agreements have been made concerning how the proposed federal financial commitment of \$5.1 billion would be split amongst provinces, territories and aboriginal organizations (ITK, AFN, CCAP and MNC) nor how the money would be divided between Aboriginal Canadians on and off reserves. In my opinion, these are very important details that should be examined, discussed and agreed upon by all stakeholders involved. Aboriginal Canadians deserve to see tangible results and feel that the improvements in their lives are taking place quickly.

I was also concerned that no solutions were agreed upon at the First Ministers Meeting in relation to the structural problems that cause poverty amongst aboriginal children and women. As two specific examples, no solutions were discussed regarding the amendments to section 67 of the Human Rights Act, nor were the problems relating to matrimonial rights discussed.

The Conservative Party is committed to improving the living conditions of Aboriginal Canadians in terms of health, economic opportunity, community safety, infrastructure, education and social services. We also agree that Canada must recognize and acknowledge that there are unique circumstances in the North and that specific measures need to be taken in order to address the needs of northerners.

Thank you for the opportunity to open this dialogue with you on these very important matters.

*Sincerely,*

*Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.  
Leader of the Opposition  
Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada*





The Right Honourable

Le très honorable

  
**PAUL MARTIN**

Prime Minister of Canada

Premier ministre du Canada

Leader, Liberal Party of Canada

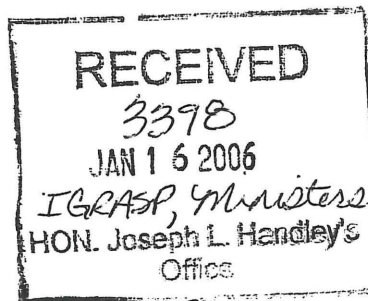
Chef, Parti libéral du Canada

January 13, 2006

The Honourable Dennis Fentie  
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Legislative Assembly  
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The Honourable Paul Okalik  
Premier of Nunavut  
Legislative Assembly  
Iqaluit, Nunavut  
X0A 0H0  
Fax: (867) 975-5190



*Bob + Rick*

Dear Premiers,

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence. I appreciate hearing your concerns and issues and I am pleased to offer this letter in response. There is no denying that the federal government's relationship with the people of the north is distinct and dealing with the very important issues that face our northern communities is crucial to the future success of our country as a whole.

The Liberal Party recognizes the unique costs, conditions and circumstances faced by communities in the north and that providing services is complex. To this end, the Liberal government has been successful in signing a number of base-plus funding agreements including the northern health care accord, municipal and rural infrastructure funding programs and the gas tax sharing arrangements. The federal government will continue to work with the territorial governments to find the most flexible and efficient solutions to meeting the evolving needs of northerners in this regard.

A Liberal government will also continue to work with you – our northern partners – to reach agreement on Early Learning and Childcare to ensure a healthy and sustainable environment for families and a prosperous future for our children.



In terms of our strategy on northern development, in December 2004 the federal government was proud to jointly announce with the territorial governments our *Northern Strategy*. This comprehensive Strategy included elements such as:

- **Supporting foundations for economic growth.** In March 2004, the federal government announced an investment of \$90 million over five years for northern economic development in the three territories. We have also made significant investments in major resource developments like the proposed MacKenzie Valley gas pipeline and towards increasing the education and skills training of Aboriginal people in resource development;
- **Protecting the Arctic environment.** The federal government allocated \$4 billion to clean up contaminated sites, many of which are former federal facilities in the North. Furthermore, our government has continued to make representations to Washington as part of a concerted campaign to prevent drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;
- **Increased investment in northern science and research.** The federal government has pledged \$150 million to increase Canadian participation in the International Polar Year including a targeted research program on climate change impacts and adaptation;
- **Asserting Canada's Arctic sovereignty.** The impact of climate change is already far more pronounced in polar-regions than elsewhere. As shrinking ice cover leads gradually to a commercially viable North-West passage, our government is committed to establishing a stronger presence in the North through means of increased economic development, an enhanced defence presence and increased surveillance of our northern frontier. To this end, a Liberal Government will base four of our soon-to-be-acquired new search and rescue aircraft directly in the north – two in Yellowknife and two in Iqaluit. We will also create Arctic Search and Rescue Patrols made up of specially trained Canadian Rangers (members of the Canadian Forces reserves, many Aboriginal, who live and patrol in remote areas of Canada).

With respect to the issue of devolution, it is the position of the Liberal Party that revenues generated from northern resources should benefit northerners. That principle was true in negotiating the Yukon Devolution Transfer Agreement which was signed between the federal Liberal Government and Government of Yukon in 2001.

Since then, the Liberal government has committed significant resources over the last few years towards negotiating devolution and resource royalty sharing with the Government of Northwest Territories. As part of this work, a framework agreement was concluded last spring with the Northwest Territories that outlined a process to conclude a final agreement which we hope to complete following the election. And we remain committed to the commencement of devolution discussions with Nunavut as soon as possible with the goal of reaching an agreement by 2008.



- 3 -

Furthermore, the Government of Canada was proud to sign the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement this past October. The Liberal government is committed to the completion of outstanding land claims and implementation of self government agreements in the north. The inherent right to self-government is guaranteed under section 35 of the Canadian Constitution and there is no denying the importance of self-government for Aboriginal Peoples as a means of achieving political, social and economic sufficiency and an improved quality of life overall.

To enhance work already underway, \$20 million was announced for the renewal of existing Land Claim and Self-Government policies at the First Ministers Meeting (FMM) held in Kelowna last November.

At this historic meeting, First Ministers and Aboriginal leaders agreed to invest \$5.1 billion over five years to close the prosperity gap that exists between Aboriginal peoples and other Canadians in the areas of education, health, housing and economic development. This overall package includes \$50 million to improve Aboriginal education in the North and \$300 million for Northern Aboriginal housing partnerships. This is a commitment that a Liberal government made and one that a Liberal government will honour.

Once again, thank you for writing. I hope that you will find this response to be helpful.

Yours sincerely,



The Right Honourable Paul Martin  
Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada





January 14, 2006

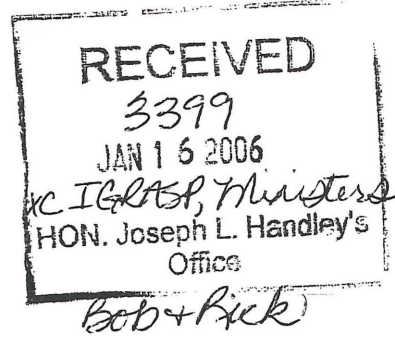
The Honourable Dennis Fentie  
Premier, Yukon

The Honourable Joseph Handley  
Premier, Northwest Territories

The Honourable Paul Okalik  
Premier, Nunavut

Dear Premiers:

Thank you for your letter to me dated December 14, 2005 in which you asked me and the leaders of the other major political parties a series of four questions. Please find below my submission in reply.



**1. Adequacy of funding for programs in the North**

The New Democratic Party supports, in principle, the negotiation of inter-governmental financing agreements for the Northwest Territories and the other territories, which include base-plus funding arrangements. We agree that base-plus funding is necessary, given the higher costs and other unique circumstances involved in providing programs and services in northern communities.

Your letter notes that there are now clear precedents for recognizing the unique circumstances of the three northern territories in federal-provincial-territorial agreements. New Democrats acknowledge the success of the territorial premiers in convincing your provincial colleagues that territorial financing agreements must incorporate a base amount along with per capita allocations.

The NDP believes that a similar formula should be used in fiscal arrangements for child care in the territories. We understand that Canada has been slow to offer

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- 2 -

anything more than per capita allocations when it comes to financing child care. It seems evident to us that the federal government must change its approach, if there is to be meaningful financial assistance for childcare in the North.

We find this federal position on funding disturbing in light of the recent Kelowna Agreement that seeks to bridge the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians. The North has a large Aboriginal population, and federal recognition of the need for unique funding arrangements to meet the higher costs of programs in the North will go a long way towards meeting the goals set out in the Kelowna Agreement.

## **2. Strategy for northern development**

The New Democratic Party is committed to see the continuation of formal strategic planning for the North. In fact, the need for such planning in the three territories is urgent. We believe that such a plan must ultimately be worked out government to government but before this happens there needs to be the broadest possible consultation. We would encourage an inclusive process to develop the plan, one that includes Aboriginal governments and the public.

It appears that the present federal commitment to this exercise, despite promises to the contrary, has not been adequate to get the job done. In the next Parliament, the New Democratic Party will work to ensure the federal government is properly seized of the issue and gets the job done.

## **3. Devolution and Land Claims**

The New Democratic Party fully supports the desire of Canada's territories to achieve satisfactory and just agreements on resource revenue sharing and devolution, and to complete any outstanding rights settlements with the Aboriginal peoples in their jurisdictions. Our public support for land claims and devolution in the territories has been consistent and unwavering, in this election campaign and for the past three decades inside and outside of Parliament. As your letter notes, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon are each at different stages in their evolution, and we recognize that unique solutions are required to meet the challenges and opportunities that each jurisdiction faces on land claims and devolution. This party commits to work with your governments to help you find these solutions, and to thereby build stronger and lasting foundations for the three territories' future development!

The NDP is on record as supporting the inherent right of Aboriginal self-government and as wanting to see it implemented in binding agreements among



- 3 -

the Aboriginal peoples and public governments. We are proud to acknowledge and to support the precedent setting self-government and co-management arrangements that have already been achieved in each of your jurisdictions. We recognize that this has been difficult and time-consuming work, and that it is by no means complete. Further progress in these negotiations will require new and revitalized commitments from the government of Canada, and the NDP looks forward to helping you obtain them in the months to come.

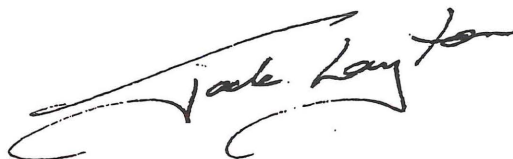
The NDP is also on record as stating that residents of the territories should be the prime beneficiaries of resource developments, and that timely and effective devolution agreements with Canada are needed to ensure this. In our view, greater control over resource revenues will substantially enhance the capacity of Aboriginal and public governments to meet the needs of northern residents for programs and services. Devolution agreements will also give northern governments a greater say over the terms and conditions of development, decisions which until now have been made by the federal government. I and my colleagues will work with you to secure a renewed commitment from Canada to get the devolution processes moving forward in Northwest Territories and Nunavut. It will also be a key priority to ensure that these negotiations proceed in tandem with the ongoing talks between Canada and the three territories on revenue sharing.

#### **4. Outcomes of the recent First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal issues**

In the next Parliament, Jack Layton and the NDP commit to funding and implementing the Aboriginal Accord reached in Kelowna at the First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal issues. We support the need for unique funding arrangements to meet the higher costs of programs in the North, which will go a long way towards meeting the goals set out in the Kelowna Agreement.

Finally, thank you for this opportunity to address these complex and important issues. We in the New Democratic Party look forward to the chance to work with you to help you achieve your governments' priorities.

Sincerely,



Jack Layton  
National Leader



R(15)160106216

## ***Butthead* Wants Students to Get Creative About Butting Out**

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 16, 2006)** – Northwest Territories youth are being invited to express themselves about the hazards of smoking for the chance to win some great prizes. As part of the ongoing *Don't Be a Butthead* campaign, The Department of Health and Social Services is launching the *Create the Smoke Free Future* creative contest. Students from grades 3 through 12 are invited to express what they think about smoking through video, music, writing, or through visual arts such as painting, drawing, carving, or even dance.

“This is a great opportunity for youth to demonstrate why they choose to ‘butt out’” said Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Health and Social Services. “By building on last year’s successful campaign, the creative contest will help keep youth engaged and committed to the smoke-free lifestyle. We want them to tell us, and others, why being a non-smoker is the smartest and healthiest choice they can make.”

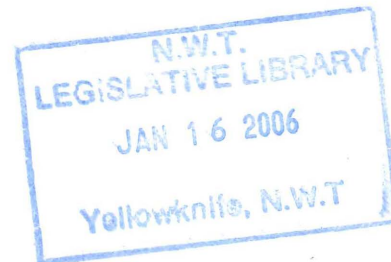
The contest will run from January 16 until April 14, 2006. Final entries from both a junior and senior class will be chosen from the video, music, writing and visual arts categories and then showcased across the North. The junior class is open to entries from grades 3 to 7, while the senior class is open to grades 8 through 12. A panel of judges will be chosen from each of the communities where the artwork is touring; these judges will award one junior and one senior class entrant in each contest category to be the territorial winners.

The junior class winner will receive a digital camera or \$250. The senior class winner will be rewarded with the opportunity to work with a professional artist to turn their artwork into a professionally produced creation that will be used to inspire and encourage other youth not to smoke.

For contest forms and to learn more about the *Create the Smoke Free Future* contest, visit [www.dontbeabutthead.ca](http://www.dontbeabutthead.ca) or call the toll free *Don't Be a Butthead* line at 1-866-353-0338.

For more information, contact:

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





R(15)230106218

## Moose Kerr Principal is Outstanding

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 23, 2006)** – Velma Illasiak, principal of Moose Kerr School in Aklavik, has been recognized as one of ‘Canada’s Outstanding Principals 2006’, by the Learning Partnership. As a result, Ms. Illasiak will be inducted into the National Academy of Principals at a ceremony in Toronto, February 2006.

Ms. Illasiak is one of 30 principals from across Canada being recognized for their unique and crucial contributions as exceptionally dedicated principals of publicly funded schools. The honour acknowledges the extraordinary contributions made by each principal to the students and local community in helping to ensure quality education for Canada’s young people.

“I am very pleased that Ms. Illasiak is being recognized for her skills and dedication,” said the Honourable Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. “Ms. Illasiak’s award demonstrates that educators across Canada recognize the talent and dedication of our northern educational leaders”.

The Learning Partnership received nominations from every province and territory. Judging was conducted by a distinguished group of Canadian education, community and private sector leaders. Each candidate was scored in the categories of characteristics of outstanding principals; evidence of partnerships with parents and community; a personal story illustrating successful change and innovation which resulted in improved student achievement, and letters of support.

The Learning Partnership is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to bringing together business, education, government, labour, policy makers and the community to develop partnerships that strengthen public education in Canada.

More information about the award can be found at: <http://www.canadasoutstandingprincipals.ca/>

For more information, contact:

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





R(15)240106219

## Premier Handley Congratulates Stephen Harper

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 24, 2006)** – Northwest Territories Premier, Joe Handley, offered his congratulations to Prime Minister-elect, Stephen Harper, today.

Premier Handley said, “The Government of the Northwest Territories looks forward to working with Stephen Harper and his team. Last evening, Stephen Harper said, “*To the people of the North – including the Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories – I say we see your potential and we look forward to helping you achieve your dreams.*” I am encouraged by his commitment and believe we have an opportunity with the new Conservative government to move quickly to advance negotiations on devolution, resource development and revenue sharing and bring this “dream” to reality in the near future.

“When I wrote to party leaders prior to the election Mr. Harper replied that, “*The Conservative Party of Canada agrees unequivocally with the principle that northerners should be the primary beneficiaries of the revenues generated by resource development in the Northwest Territories.*” I appreciate this unqualified support and after a settling in period in Ottawa for Mr. Harper and his caucus I am looking forward to rolling up our sleeves together and getting the job done. Achieving our dreams and realizing the enormous potential of the NWT will be of benefit to all Canadians”.

Premier Handley also congratulated the new Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic, Dennis Bevington and said, “As a long-time Northerner, Mr. Bevington understands our priorities. I look forward to working with him and know he will be an excellent representative in Ottawa.” The Premier added, “I would like to thank Ethel Blondin-Andrew for her service to Northerners over the past seventeen years. We have seen much positive change during her time as a Member of Parliament and she should be proud of her achievements.”

For more information, contact:

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





R(15)250106220

## REPORT OF THE 2005 *LIQUOR ACT* REVIEW RELEASED

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 25, 2006)** – "Improving Liquor Legislation in the NWT - Final Report of the 2005 *Liquor Act* Review" was released today by Government of the Northwest Territories Finance Minister, Floyd Roland. Minister Roland commissioned the review in April 2005, asking for input from stakeholders, licensees, communities and the general public. Changes arising from the review will result in legislation designed to be more flexible and better suited to the needs and priorities of Northwest Territories residents.

"I am pleased with the thoroughness of the report," said Minister Roland. "A number of recommendations on amendments to the Act have been made, which I will be reviewing carefully with my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly. Following that discussion, the next step will be to draft amendments to the *Liquor Act*. I would like to thank all participants for their input during the public consultation process," Minister Roland concluded.

The Department of Finance is accepting comments on the report until February 28, 2006. The report is available at [www.fin.gov.nt.ca/liquor\\_act\\_review/](http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/liquor_act_review/).

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It is anticipated that a bill amending the NWT *Liquor Act* could be introduced in the Legislative Assembly by early 2007.

For more information, contact:

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



R(15)310106222

## Minister Dissolves the Fort Simpson Village Council

**YELLOWKNIFE (31 January, 2006) :** The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Honorable Michael McLeod, announced today that he has dissolved the Village Council and appointed a municipal administrator for the Village of Fort Simpson.

Due to an internal dispute among elected Village Council members, and differences of opinion between the Volunteer Fire Department and Village administration, the Village's Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief resigned last week.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) worked with local officials in an effort to resolve the dispute for several days before choosing to dissolve Council and appoint an Administrator, said the Minister.

"The Government of the Northwest Territories believes strongly that community councils elected by local residents should be in charge of municipal issues," stated Minister McLeod. The Minister added that normally the Department would not take such drastic action, but in the face of the inability of Council to resolve the issue and the refusal of the Fire Department to provide services under the current Village administration, there were few options. "It has become clear in this situation that the local Council can no longer function effectively", said Minister McLeod.

Minister McLeod also commended the efforts of local RCMP in attempting to resolve the dispute, and in ensuring that ambulance services remained available in the community.

The appointment of a municipal administrator effectively removes the elected Council from office for the duration of the administrator's appointment. In the short term, the Deputy Minister of MACA will oversee Village operations until a municipal administrator can be appointed.

"I would like to assure the residents of Fort Simpson that it is not the Government of the Northwest Territories' intent to take over running the Village," the Minister stated. "The first priority for the municipal administrator will be to initiate the process of electing a new Mayor and Council."

To ensure the safety of residents, as of January 30<sup>th</sup>, the Department has obtained the services of a qualified fire fighter/emergency medical technician with over 20 years of experience in fire fighting and commanding fire operations, to provide leadership to volunteers in the event of any emergency situation in the short term. In addition, the Northwest Territories Fire Marshal has been in Fort Simpson since January 29<sup>th</sup> to meet with the volunteer fire fighters and provide leadership in the interim.



Minister McLeod said, “The Department will continue to work with all parties to resolve the outstanding issues and ensure that a locally elected Council is able to resume control as soon as possible.”

For more information, contact:

Debbie Delancey  
Deputy Minister  
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
(867) 873-7118





R(15)010206221

## 2006 Outstanding Volunteer Awards Nominations Now Available

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 1, 2006)** – Nominations are open for the 2006 Northwest Territories (NWT) Outstanding Volunteer Awards, the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) announced today.

The awards, sponsored this year by MACA in partnership with Volunteer NWT, recognize the outstanding contribution volunteers make to their communities across the Northwest Territories.

Awards are presented in the categories of Youth Volunteer, Elder Volunteer, Outstanding Group as well as Outstanding Volunteer. The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, March 1, 2006.

“I hope to see a large number of community nominations this year,” said Minister McLeod. “There are many deserving volunteers across the north and these awards are an opportunity for the community to thank these dedicated individuals.”

Brochures containing nomination forms are available in all community offices or from any MACA office. The brochure and nomination form is also available on the MACA web site, [www.maca.gov.nt.ca](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca).

Winners in each category will be honoured in a special ceremony during National Volunteer Week, April 18 - 22, 2006.

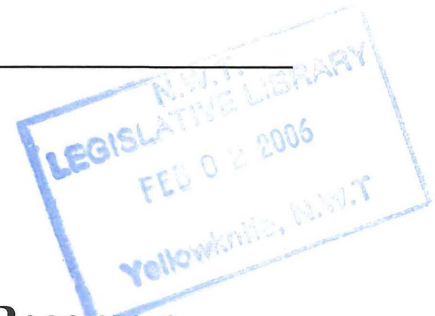
For more information, contact:

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





R(15)020206223



## Northwest Territories Poised to Become a Key Economic Driver in Canada

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 2, 2006)** – Finance Minister Floyd Roland presented the 2006 Northwest Territories Budget Address in the Legislative Assembly today.

“This budget comes at an historic time. We are on the brink of tremendous economic opportunity – opportunity that will test our imagination and our ability to respond. Opportunity that will transform the Northwest Territories into a key economic driver not only for the North but for all of Canada,” said Minister Roland.

The Budget sets a bold agenda for the Northwest Territories (NWT) – an agenda designed to take full advantage of the economic opportunities ahead, and an agenda with a clear message to the Canadian government.

Minister Roland stated that two essential conditions are necessary to ensure the potential for the NWT is realized. First, the Government of the Northwest Territories must use revenues wisely, adhere to the Fiscal Responsibility Policy, invest in essential services, prepare people for the challenges ahead, and, in doing so, create a positive climate for investment and business growth.

Second, the Canadian government must act immediately to resolve critical fiscal issues affecting the NWT. In congratulating Mr. Harper on his election, Minister Roland called on the Prime Minister-designate to act on his commitment to help the North achieve its dreams. Minister Roland said, “I am very encouraged by Mr. Harper’s understanding of the challenges we face in the NWT and by his commitment to work with us to overcome them. I am sure he wants to work as quickly as I do towards immediate progress and positive long-term solutions.”

Specifically, Minister Roland called on the federal government to:

- Take immediate action on implementing a new approach for Territorial Formula Financing
- Resume negotiations on resource revenue sharing to ensure the Northwest Territories and its people are the primary beneficiaries from resource development
- Maintain its commitment to financial support to address the social and economic impacts of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline
- Lift the arbitrary \$300 million limit on borrowing

The 2006 Budget projects an operating surplus of \$31 million. Spending is expected to increase by 7 percent from last year’s budget, as the government addresses increased social program



costs, community infrastructure needs and the need for competitive wages. Revenues are projected to increase by about five percent. \$111 million will be invested in capital projects.

To encourage investment and improve competitiveness in the NWT, the Budget includes a reduction in the corporate income tax rate on large corporations from 14 per cent to 11.5 percent, effective July 1, 2006.

As part of his Budget address, Minister Roland committed to action on two priorities – developing a new economic blueprint for the NWT and taking immediate action to resolve outstanding issues with the federal government.

Highlights of initiatives included in the 2006 Budget can be found in the attached Budget Highlights document. The Budget Address can be found on the Department of Finance website at [www.fin.gov.nt.ca](http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca). The Main Estimates can be found at [www.gov.nt.ca/FMBS/documents/mainestimates/MainEstimates.html](http://www.gov.nt.ca/FMBS/documents/mainestimates/MainEstimates.html).

For further information, contact:

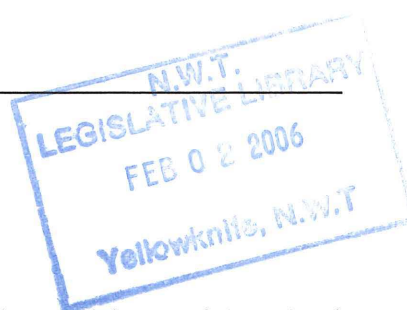
Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
Office of the Premier  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
Phone: (867) 669-2304





## Backgrounder

R(15)020206223 NWT Budget  
YELLOWKNIFE (February 2, 2006)



The 2006-07 Budget shows that the GNWT remains within the guidelines of its Fiscal Responsibility Policy with projected operating surpluses of \$18 million for 2005-06 and \$31 million for 2006-07.

### Economic and Fiscal Review

- ◆ Led by non-renewable resource developments, the NWT economy is expected to grow by 7.6 per cent in 2006.
- ◆ 2006-07 GNWT revenues are forecast to be \$1.1 billion, a 5 per cent increase from the 2005-06 Main Estimates amount.
- ◆ 2006-07 expenditures are budgeted to be \$1.07 billion, an increase of 7 per cent from the 2005-06 Main Estimates amount.

### Fiscal Strategy

- ◆ The GNWT's fiscal strategy revolves around the Fiscal Responsibility Policy, which provides a framework to ensure a coordinated strategy for responsible spending, borrowing and debt repayment. Key to the Policy are the guidelines that require the GNWT to monitor expenditures to ensure that it is able to fund a minimum of 50 per cent of annual capital investments through cash surpluses generated from operations.
- ◆ Much of the GNWT's fiscal strategy will depend on the federal government taking positive action on the following issues:
  - ◆ The federal response to the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing must result in new formula financing arrangements that reflect the needs of the Northwest Territories.
  - ◆ The federally imposed \$300 million borrowing limit must be changed to one that reflects the GNWT's capacity to finance debt.
  - ◆ Devolution of Northwest Territories' resources to NWT governments, including a resource revenue sharing agreement that provides a net fiscal benefit to the GNWT, must be concluded.
  - ◆ Maintain the \$500 million commitment of financial support to address the social and economic impacts of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

### Revenue Initiatives

- ◆ To encourage and improve competitiveness in the NWT, the Budget includes a proposed reduction in the Corporate Income Tax rate on large corporations from 14 per cent to 11.5 per cent, effective July 1, 2006.





## **Expenditure Measures**

The 2006-07 funding initiatives address the goals and objectives outlined in the GNWT's *Strategic Plan*. Major initiatives include:

### ***Healthy, Educated People Living in Safe Communities***

- ◆ \$400,000 to develop and implement the Healthy Choices Framework – a healthy eating and physical activity communication plan and a curriculum for NWT schools.
- ◆ \$6.4 million to meet increased demand for health services.
- ◆ \$1.8 million to increase contributions to Education districts and authorities for student support funding from 15 per cent to 17 per cent of all operations funding in a school year.
- ◆ \$1.6 million for on-going delivery costs of full-time kindergarten programs.
- ◆ \$240,000 to fund a pilot program for distance learning community-based education.
- ◆ \$326,000 to increase the low-income senior citizen supplementary benefit from \$135 to \$160 per month.
- ◆ \$500,000 to implement a Northern Youth Program to coordinate GNWT youth-based initiatives.
- ◆ \$696,000 to help fund the NWT Games Program, and NWT's participation in the 2008 Arctic Winter Games and the 2007 Canada Winter Games.

### ***Well-Governed, Sustainable Communities***

- ◆ \$4 million for the Community Capacity Building Fund to construct new affordable housing units in 14 of the smallest NWT communities.
- ◆ \$1.3 million for the Northern Community Insurance Program to help address the insurance implications of the transfer of community public infrastructure from the GNWT to community governments.
- ◆ \$715,000 to improve the management of drinking water in various NWT communities.
- ◆ \$440,000 to help build community government capacity to address Mackenzie Gas pipeline issues.
- ◆ \$350,000 for the interim grant program for 2006-07 to flow property tax revenue under the New Deal for Community Governments to those communities that do not currently raise their own property tax revenues.
- ◆ \$4.5 million in community infrastructure funding from the federal Gas Tax Transfer Agreement.

### ***Diversified Economy***

- ◆ \$1 million to implement Tourism 2010, a multi-year tourism plan designed to help the NWT compete more effectively for tourists in the global marketplace.
- ◆ \$1 million in contribution funding to the Northwest Territories Energy Corporation and its project partners to complete the work necessary to file a permit application for construction of the Taltson Hydro Expansion Project.



- ◆ \$1.3 million to address Mackenzie Gas pipeline issues including assisting impacted communities to prepare for and participate in the Joint Review Panel and National Energy Board hearings and support the GNWT as an intervener in these reviews.

#### ***Strong Northern Voice and Identity***

- ◆ \$1.7 million to ensure the government has the resources to participate in lands, resources and self-government negotiations.
- ◆ \$1.7 million extension of funding to enable the government and the Aboriginal Summit to continue to participate in devolution and resource revenue sharing negotiations with the federal government.

#### **Infrastructure Investment**

Total infrastructure investment expenditures for 2006-07 are budgeted to be \$141 million. This includes \$111 million in direct investment in capital assets and \$30 million for infrastructure contributions (included in departmental operating expenditures). The infrastructure contributions are mainly for community and regional operations.

The major infrastructure capital investments included in the 2006-07 Infrastructure Acquisition Plan of \$111 million are:

- ◆ \$19.7 million for three new schools and for renovations in other schools;
- ◆ \$2.6 million for upgrades to water treatment plants, solid waste disposal sites and sewage treatment plants and various community building repairs;
- ◆ \$9.8 million for airport improvements, including \$5.2 million for runway enhancements, \$3.6 million for buildings and \$1 million for airport equipment;
- ◆ \$35.6 million for various highway programs, including \$11 million for the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road bridge program;
- ◆ \$2.2 million for upgrades and building repairs in various territorial parks;
- ◆ \$1.4 million for the North Slave wildlife laboratory complex;
- ◆ \$1.1 million for forest management infrastructure including improvements to the North Slave heliport;
- ◆ \$1.6 million for improvements at the Prince of Wales museum, including \$1.4 million to build the Aviation Gallery;
- ◆ \$6.4 million for replacement of student residences in Fort Smith and to build new student residences in Inuvik;
- ◆ \$11.9 million for renovations to hospital units, medical equipment and health record management upgrades; and,
- ◆ \$6.8 million for tank farm code upgrades and capacity increases.

Full Budget documents can be found on the Department of Finance website at [www.fin.gov.nt.ca](http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca). Visit [www.gov.nt.ca/FMBS.documents/mainestimates/Main Estimates.html](http://www.gov.nt.ca/FMBS.documents/mainestimates/Main%20Estimates.html) for the 2006-07 Main Estimates.



R(15)030206224

## **GNWT General Submission Filed to Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 3, 2006)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has filed its General Submission to the Joint Review Panel (JRP) for the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP).

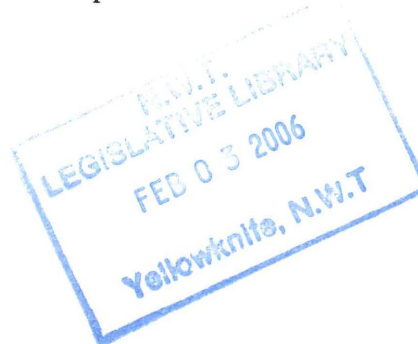
“Our government wants to ensure the Mackenzie Gas Project is undertaken in a way that is environmentally, socially, culturally and economically sustainable,” said Premier Joe Handley today. “This is the goal of our General Submission filed with the Joint Review Panel yesterday”.

The General Submission presents the issues, analyses and recommendations based on information and data currently available to the GNWT. The GNWT will provide further details, viewpoints, analyses and, possibly, additional recommendations during the appropriate JRP hearings.

“The Government of the Northwest Territories maintains qualified support for the Mackenzie Gas Project based upon the information currently available,” added the Premier. “We intend to continue working with the Proponents and other Interveners throughout the public hearing phase of the environmental review of the Mackenzie Gas Project to ensure our concerns and issues are addressed.”

The GNWT General Submission contains 73 preliminary recommendations related to the MGP as well as two overarching recommendations dealing with monitoring programs and mitigation strategies and the need for a Socio-Economic Agreement.

“I am confident our qualified support for the Project, as outlined in our General Submission, opens the door for the Proponents to address our preliminary recommendations during the hearing process,” said Handley. “I am also confident any outstanding issues will be addressed by the Joint Review Panel in its final report to the federal and Responsible Ministers.”



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A copy of the GNWT General Submission can be found on the JRP Public Registry at:  
[http://www.ngps.nt.ca/registryDetail\\_e.asp](http://www.ngps.nt.ca/registryDetail_e.asp).

A Backgrounder on the General Submission and Summary of GNWT Recommendations are attached.

For more information, contact:

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







## Backgrounder

R(15)030206224

YELLOWKNIFE (February 3, 2006)

# GNWT General Submission to the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project

## Introduction

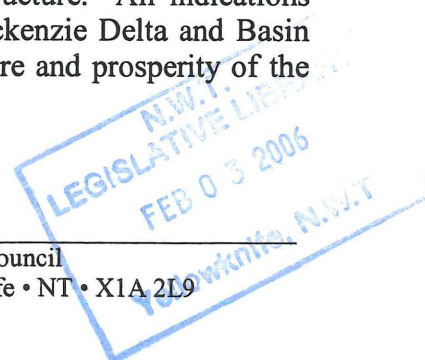
Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited, ConocoPhillips Canada (North) Limited, Exxon Mobil Canada Properties Limited, Shell Canada Limited and the Aboriginal Pipeline Group (the Proponents) are proposing to bring gas from the Mackenzie Delta to southern markets. The Mackenzie Gas Project (the Project) includes development of natural gas fields, gathering lines and processing facilities in the Mackenzie River Delta of Canada's Northwest Territories (NWT) and transportation of natural gas and natural gas liquids through pipelines along the Mackenzie River Valley.

Following the October 7, 2004 submission of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the Project by the Proponents to the Joint Review Panel (JRP), the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) began preparing its General Submission to the JRP. The GNWT has carefully considered the EIS and all related submissions by the Proponents with respect to all issues under its mandate and has been actively involved as an Intervener in the Information Request process. The issues, analyses and recommendations presented in the General Submission are based on information and data currently available to the GNWT.

The GNWT maintains qualified support for the Project and intends to continue working with the Proponents and other Interveners throughout the public hearing phase of the environmental review.

The GNWT recognizes the Project is critical to the long-term strategic interests of the NWT and to the social and economic future of residents and the communities. It has the potential to provide enormous opportunities for NWT residents and other Canadians.

The Project is much more than the means by which specific natural gas reserves will be moved to southern markets. It is the first step in connecting the significant producing region located in the NWT to North America's energy infrastructure. All indications point to very significant natural gas and oil reserves in the Mackenzie Delta and Basin and their development is a key component to the economic future and prosperity of the NWT.



For NWT residents, the Project and future oil and gas activities represent opportunities for employment, investment and business, as well as the pride of becoming a net contributor to Canada's economic well-being. It offers an increase in self-reliance and the opportunity for NWT residents to provide a good standard of living and quality of life for their families.

The Project also provides the opportunity to diversify the NWT's economy. The pipeline and resulting exploration could lead to new business opportunities for NWT companies, including manufacturing and value-added opportunities. The proposed access corridor could offer new infrastructure possibilities and options, such as the potential for a north to south all weather road, increasing the viability of business opportunities and reducing re-supply costs to communities in the Mackenzie Valley.

To ensure that the Project is undertaken in a way that is environmentally, socially, culturally and economically sustainable, it is of key importance to the GNWT that:

- (i) the Proponents implement commitments pertaining to Project-related impacts;
- (ii) the Project be subject to ongoing monitoring, mitigation and reporting; and,
- (iii) the Proponents complete a Socio-Economic Agreement with the GNWT.

The first four chapters of the General Submission provide background and the context of the GNWT's submission.

Chapters 5 through 10 present the outcome of the GNWT's review of the Proponents' filings and set out the GNWT's recommendations. Chapter 11 provides a summary of the GNWT's preliminary recommendations to the JRP.

## **Chapter 5**

Chapter 5 describes the potential effects of the Project on the capacity of natural and cultural systems to maintain their structure and functions and to support indigenous biological diversity and productivity. It also provides recommendations on these matters.

**Archaeological Sites:** Although ongoing assessment activities by the Proponents have been conducted to a relatively high standard, the lack of a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment makes it difficult to predict the impact of the Project on the archaeological record of the Mackenzie Valley and to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

**Forests:** The Proponents have provided some information regarding the area and volume of timber that could be affected by the Project. Consideration of a more comprehensive array of important forest attributes is still pending.

**Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat:** Baseline data provided by the Proponents on wildlife is generally incomplete and places heavy reliance on generalized habitat use information. The absence of defined mitigation and monitoring programs creates uncertainty about predicted impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat.

**Protected Areas Strategy:** Protected areas are currently under development in the NWT. Additional Project infrastructure could impact the establishment of a planned network of protected areas.

## Chapter 6

Chapter 6 describes the potential effects of the Project on the environment for present and future generations and provides recommendations on these matters.

**Air Emissions:** The Project will produce emissions from a variety of facility sources and locations. These emissions include criteria air contaminants (CAC's), air toxics and dust that can impact on local and regional air quality. A number of uncertainties exist regarding baseline data, dispersion modelling of emissions and subsequent impact assessment. These issues highlight the need for the Proponents to adopt pollution prevention strategies to minimize emissions from all sources and to ensure emissions and air quality are tracked over the lifetime of the Project. These requirements can be achieved through development of a comprehensive emissions and air quality management plan.

**Greenhouse Gases:** Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the Project are of concern to the GNWT as they have the potential to alter the environment for future generations. GHG emissions do not directly impact local or regional air quality and, consequently, cannot be assessed in the same way as CAC or toxic air emissions. The primary focus for assessment should be on identifying and quantifying emission sources and demonstrating that appropriate pollution prevention and mitigation strategies are employed to ensure emissions are minimized. The Proponents identified most of the major emission sources and estimated the GHG emissions although details on final equipment choices (e.g. compressors), certain emission scenarios (e.g. construction phase and well testing) and mitigation strategies (e.g. pipeline system leak detection) was lacking. The Proponents should document their pollution prevention and mitigation strategies, and track GHG emissions over the lifetime of the Project

**Water Quality:** The protection of a high standard of drinking water quality is important. The Proponents focus on impacts to water quality generally and not on specific pathways to humans.

**Hazardous Materials and Waste Management:** The Project will require the transport of considerable volumes of fuel and hazardous material, which increases the probability that spills will occur. The Project will also generate considerable volumes of waste that will ultimately require disposal in an approved manner. Detailed plans must be developed and distributed to stakeholders and regulatory agencies well in advance of Project-related regulatory permitting processes.

## Chapter 7

Chapter 7 describes the issues related to the process for monitoring potential effects of the Project, and of other development activities, on the rights of future generations to the sustainable use of resources.

***Forests, Wildlife, Wildlife Habitat and Cultural Resources:*** The lack of baseline data for the Mackenzie Valley hinders efforts to predict regional cumulative impacts. The Project and other subsequent activity may have impacts on forest, wildlife and cultural resources that could be significant.

***Monitoring Cumulative Effects:*** Several long-term monitoring initiatives have been developed as a result of land claims negotiations, follow-up program recommendations, environmental assessments and legislation in the NWT. These include initiatives concerned specifically with monitoring cumulative effects (e.g., Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management Strategy and Framework, NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program, Mackenzie River Basin Board) and initiatives aimed at improving baseline data available to industry, regulators, communities and governments (e.g., Western NWT Biophysical Study). The GNWT believes that it is necessary to build on these existing initiatives.

## Chapter 8

Chapter 8 describes the potential effects of the Project on the capacity of the social and economic systems of the human environment to achieve, maintain or enhance conditions of self-reliance and diversity. It also provides recommendations on these matters.

***Employment and Training Opportunities:*** The GNWT is concerned the Proponents have limited the potential for NWT residents to take full advantage of the training and employment opportunities to be created by the Project. Further concerns relate to hours of work, work schedules, transportation arrangements to and from points of hire, transportation arrangements between camps, worksites, camp lifestyle rules, and hiring practices and policies.

***Supplying Goods and Services:*** The Project offers opportunities for local business to supply goods and services, which can result in the expansion of existing businesses and the creation of new businesses. The Proponents have done a reasonable job in identifying Project procurement requirements and matching them with NWT businesses. It is important the Proponents support NWT business access to the Project. As regional business capacity expands in the NWT, the availability of accurate and timely information about the Project is key.

**Transportation Infrastructure:** NWT transportation infrastructure must be sufficient to meet the needs of territorial residents and to support opportunities for a diversified economy. It is estimated that 11 million tonnes of material will be shipped on the transportation system in the NWT during construction of the Project. More than 70,000 Project-related air passengers are expected to use the NWT airports during the same period. The demands of the Project on the transportation infrastructure will cause parts of the system to deteriorate and require substantial repair and maintenance work to maintain the system to an operable standard. Improvements and upgrades to existing infrastructure, including highways, winter road bridges and airports, will be required prior to the construction phase of the Project. Increased operations and maintenance efforts to existing transportation systems will also be required throughout this phase.

**Community, Family and Individual Well-Being:** The Project may increase social pressures and cause changes some people and communities may find difficult to cope with. Anticipated impacts to well-being include: reduced availability and increased costs of housing; increased family and social pressures; reduced opportunity for traditional activities and aboriginal language use; increased crime, violence and other events affecting the need for protection services; reduced physical well-being arising from social impacts; reduced education outcomes; increased cost of living; and, reduced capacity for community governance.

## Chapter 9

Chapter 9 describes the potential effects of the Project on the capacity of human environments, including local and regional institutions, to respond to and manage externally induced change. It also provides recommendations on these matters.

**Community Capacity:** The Proponents identify extensive needs for water, sewage treatment, landfill sites, bulk fuel storage, recreation services, granular sources and emergency services. There is a need to have processes in place ensure the Project does not operate to the detriment of community needs and growth.

**Government Capacity:** The Project will result in an influx of temporary workers in camps and communities as well as permanent population increases. Increases in population will result in increased demand for services provided by the GNWT including health care and social programs, policing and justice, housing and transportation infrastructure. The GNWT's current funding arrangements and capacity for revenue generation limit its ability to accommodate increased demands from development.

## Chapter 10

Chapter 10 describes the potential effects of the Project on the attainment and distribution of lasting and equitable social and economic benefits. It also provides recommendations on these matters.

***Sustainable Development:*** Technology transfer and research and development plans have become a common part of other non-renewable developments in Canada. These activities make important contributions to promoting sustainable economies. The Proponents have not demonstrated similar opportunities for the NWT.

***Socio-Economic Long Term Monitoring Plans:*** Under environmental legislation, an Environmental Impact Review Panel must consider the need for a follow-up program. An effective follow-up program tests impact predictions, assesses effectiveness of mitigation and supports adaptive management approaches. A Socio-economic Agreement would acknowledge predicted socio-economic impacts, formalize mitigation and commitments and would include mechanisms that require implementation of adaptive mitigation measures.

## **Conclusion**

The GNWT anticipates that some of the identified issues, including concerns of others, will be resolved as more information and commitments are provided by the Proponents through the hearing phase of the environmental impact review. The GNWT will participate in the hearing phase to learn more about the Project, concerns of others, and to consider adjustments to its preliminary recommendations to the JRP.

The GNWT anticipates the JRP will resolve any outstanding issues before making its final recommendation to the Responsible Ministers and Authorities.



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## Summary of Recommendations

R(15)030206224

YELLOWKNIFE (February 3, 2006)

### **GNWT General Submission to the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project**

The recommendations contained in the GNWT General Submission to the Joint Review Panel (JRP) for the Mackenzie Gas Project (the Project) are based upon a review and analysis of information available at this time and take into consideration the mitigative or remedial measures and commitments proposed by the Proponents on the JRP's Public Registry to date.

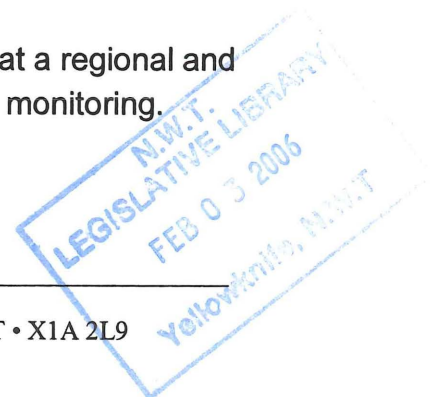
These recommendations are intended to strengthen existing commitments and address areas not covered by proposed mitigative, remedial measures and commitments on the JRP's Public Registry to date.

The GNWT will provide further details, viewpoints, analyses and, possibly, additional recommendations during the appropriate JRP hearings.

#### **Overarching Recommendations**

The following overarching recommendations apply to all the other recommendations contained in this document and commitments made previously by the Proponents:

- A) In relation to all recommended monitoring programs and mitigation strategies, the GNWT generally recommends that monitoring and reporting programs:
  - i. Be designed to test impact predictions in the environmental review process, including predictions of no impact or no significance.
  - ii. Be conducted to assess effectiveness of mitigation and to support adaptive management approaches.
  - iii. Be for the life of the Project, including construction, operations and decommissioning.
  - iv. Support and contribute to improving baseline data at a regional and territorial level and contribute to cumulative effects monitoring.



- B) In relation to all recommendations aimed at addressing socio-economic impacts, the GNWT recommends that the Proponents finalize a Socio-economic Agreement (SEA), as a follow-up program, prior to the final argument before the NEB Panel that:
- i. Acknowledges predicted socio-economic impacts identified in the environmental review process.
  - ii. Formalizes socio-economic mitigations and commitments identified in the environmental review process.
  - iii. Addresses the results of the monitoring programs by including mechanisms that require implementation of adaptive mitigation measures.
  - iv. Is flexible enough to accommodate other parties to sign the SEA, such as regional Aboriginal organizations and other oil and gas developers.

## Specific Recommendations

In addition to the above, the GNWT makes the following specific recommendations to the JRP. The structure of the recommendations follows the format of the GNWT General Submission.

### **Chapter 5: The Capacity of Natural Systems and Cultural Systems to Maintain and Support Indigenous Diversity and Productivity**

1. That the Proponents make best effort to avoid archaeological sites in determining the Project footprint.
2. That the Proponents commit to informing the GNWT of changes to the Project footprint made after the full Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA) of the Project has been completed to determine if additional archaeological work is required in areas not examined during the full HRIA. In such cases, any archaeology work must be completed in the summer before the new area is developed.
3. That the Proponents work with the GNWT to conduct assessments of the impact of the Project on forest assemblages, forest landscape and general forest stratification, prior to construction of the Project.
4. That the Proponents commit to ensuring that current and future forest fibre use by the communities is not compromised by the Project's fibre demands.



5. That the Proponents initiate appropriate research, mitigation and monitoring programs for all species at risk in the project area. These programs need to be consistent with Recovery Strategies, Action Plans or Management Plans as developed and revised from time to time under Schedule 1 of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.
6. That the Proponents commit to participating in the development and implementation of NWT Recovery Strategies, Action Plans and Management Plans as revised from time to time under Schedule 1 of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.
7. That the Proponents, prior to construction of the Project, develop species-specific wildlife management and monitoring programs for boreal and barren-ground caribou; black, grizzly and polar bears; wolverines; and, peregrine falcons in consultation with the GNWT.
8. That the Proponents commit to developing comprehensive wildlife monitoring programs for each region in consultation with the GNWT and applicable regional organizations.
9. That the Proponents work with the Protected Areas Implementation Advisory Committee to identify and mitigate any Project infrastructure that could impact the establishment of a planned network of protected areas

## **Chapter 6: Protection of the Environment for Present and Future Generations**

10. That the Proponents design and implement a comprehensive air quality and emissions management plan to demonstrate compliance with all applicable federal and territorial ambient air quality criteria, standards, objectives and guidelines and to ensure that facility emissions are tracked and contaminants of potential concern are monitored. The emissions and air quality management plan should be designed in consultation with representatives of the appropriate governments, agencies and communities, be revised every five years and should include an annual report on emissions and ambient information.
11. That the Proponents incorporate passive air quality monitoring program within the recommended air quality and emissions management plan and include both NO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>.
12. That the Proponents co-locate passive monitors with the GNWT's air quality monitoring stations (which contain continuous NO<sub>x</sub>/NO<sub>2</sub> analyzers) located in Inuvik and Norman Wells.

13. That the Proponents conduct a revised air quality modeling assessment to determine the environmental impact of planned changes should any significant alteration to emission sources identified in the EIS occur or any significant new emission sources be introduced.
14. That the Proponents work with community governments to develop appropriate dust mitigation strategies to avoid dust impacts in communities and that the Proponents develop a strategy for reducing vehicle idling, particularly in communities.
15. That the Proponents incorporate the commitments on incineration into an integrated waste management plan developed in consultation with Environment Canada and the GNWT.
16. That the Proponents develop a monitoring and mitigation plan to ensure that toxics are not accumulating in the environment at unacceptable levels surrounding facilities where incineration is occurring and provide an annual report to the GNWT, Environment Canada and Health Canada.
17. That the Proponents use best available technologies and best management practices to increase energy efficiency and minimize greenhouse gas emissions, particularly fugitive and vented methane releases. The Proponents should strive for the optimum balance to protect human health and the environment in cases where improving energy efficiency could result in increases in Criteria Air Contaminants (CACs).
18. That the Proponents track Project-related greenhouse gas emissions and include pollution prevention strategies as part of the recommended comprehensive air quality and emissions management plan.
19. That the Proponents develop a Source Water Protection Plan pertaining to community water supplies, traditional water sources and recreational use areas. The plan should include criteria for locating Project activities relative to identified water uses, a risk assessment and mitigation measures and contingencies.
20. That the Proponents submit the Source Water Protection Plan for review by the GNWT's Chief Environmental Protection Officer and the Chief Medical Health Officer during the regulatory approvals stage.
21. That the Proponents commit to provide Spill Contingency, Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Plans to stakeholders and regulatory agencies prior to the end of the JRP Hearings.
22. That the Proponents commit to implement measures to prevent and expediently detect slow leaks at remote locations.

23. That the Proponents coordinate the management of drilling wastes in order to consolidate waste disposal sites.
24. That the Proponents develop a drilling waste management plan that demonstrates the waste will be maintained in an ice-bonded state and proves compatibility with the on-site thermal regime, if freezing in sumps is retained as a drilling waste disposal option.
25. That the Proponents develop, in consultation with representatives of the appropriate governments and agencies, a Regional Waste Management Strategy and Waste Management plans.
26. That the Proponents review, and report annually, throughout the life of the Project on the effectiveness, efficiency and recommended improvements or modifications to waste management strategies and plans.
27. That the Proponents commit to conduct a residual ash analysis prior to ash disposal targeted for disposal in the NWT to ensure it meets the GNWT *Environmental Guideline for Industrial Waste Discharge*.
28. That the Proponents commit to develop a detailed Emergency Plan prior to start of construction that includes the Proponents' approach to dealing with emergencies, malfunctions and accidents and develop a protocol for working with governments on comprehensive emergency response plans.

## **Chapter 7: Monitoring Impacts on Future Generations' Sustainable Use of Resources**

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29. That the Proponents engage with governments, communities and other companies to examine positive and negative cumulative effects issues through direct participation in both the CEAM and CIMP programs.
30. That the Proponents commit to develop a sustainability plan for granular resources prior to construction that addresses the present and future needs of the GNWT, community governments, Aboriginal governments and the public interest.

## **Chapter 8: The Capacity of the Social and Economic Systems of the Human Environment to Achieve, Maintain or Enhance the Conditions of Self-Reliance and Diversity**

31. That the Proponents commit to including all communities in the NWT as point of hire locations and to pay full travel costs for employees to travel from each NWT community to the work place.

32. That the Proponents work with the GNWT and Aurora College to ensure training opportunities for Northerners commence as soon as possible to ensure NWT residents are appropriately qualified.
33. That the Proponents commit to maximizing NWT and Aboriginal hiring goals for the Project and that the Proponents commit to annual public reporting of Project hiring activities by community of residence.
34. That the Proponents provide information to the JRP on hours of work, work schedules, transportation arrangements to and from points of hire, transportation arrangements between camps, worksites, camp lifestyle rules and hiring, retention and lay-off practices and policies.
35. That the Proponents provide a detailed plan to the JRP on specific issues related to maximizing participation of women in the Project which should address: specific training initiatives for women for non-traditional jobs; security and safety of women in the work-camps; and, gender-sensitivity and anti-harassment training for Project employees.
36. That the Proponents commit to ensuring participation of persons with disabilities in employment opportunities by identifying positions that could be carried out by disabled persons and providing accessibility at work locations.
37. That the Proponents implement a monitoring program as early as possible to capture training commitments for the construction phase. The monitoring program should also include a follow up program to ensure NWT residents are considered as priority for employment opportunities throughout the life of the Project.
38. That the Proponents commit to maximizing NWT procurement and contracting goals for the Project and that the Proponents commit to annual public reporting on Project contracting activities.
39. That the Proponents commit to supporting NWT business access to the Project by measures including splitting procurement contracts into a size and scale to match NWT business capacity; structuring contracts to ensure competitiveness of NWT businesses; developing a comprehensive supplier and contracting list; maintaining a detailed list of goods and services that the Project will require; identifying certification and prequalification requirements with sufficient lead time to assist NWT business to compete; and, enhancing regional Project information offices.
40. That the Proponents commit to supporting the development of NWT manufacturing through purchase of northern manufactured products for the Project.

41. At such time that the Proponents confirm Project plans and sources of Project materials, that the Proponents provide a logistics plan with contingency options for the Project and an analysis of transportation impacts that accompany the possible implementation of the contingency plan.
42. That the Proponents work with barge and rail system providers to monitor and ensure the necessary capital improvements to barge and rail infrastructure are completed so that additional traffic is not diverted onto the highway system. The Proponents will mitigate additional impacts to the highway and winter road systems in the case where alternate transportation contingencies are implemented.
43. That the Proponents commit to working with barge and rail providers to ensure priority is given to community re-supply traffic over Project traffic.
44. That the Proponents ensure public access to community marine infrastructure is maintained through the implementation of slot/slip management plans and ensure the necessary capital improvements to related facilities are completed.
45. That the Proponents provide sufficient highway rescue vehicles and other appropriate equipment for efficient and effective emergency response coverage of their activities on the NWT highway system, on community roads and on winter road supply routes.
46. That the Proponents will make reasonable efforts to ensure that all ~~Employee Relations Personnel will be able to communicate in one or more~~ Aboriginal languages spoken in the NWT and the Proponents will provide funding for Aboriginal language interpreters at community meetings.
47. That the Proponents promote cultural preservation and sustainability, by measures such as: encouraging Aboriginal language use at the work site; providing Aboriginal language reading and video materials on-site; addressing cultural sensitivity and cross-cultural awareness in all orientation training; funding cross-cultural training programs; and, providing communication links to home communities.
48. That the Proponents commit to assisting with financial support for existing or emerging community-based culture or language programs or agencies in the NWT.
49. That the Proponents commit to providing employee and family assistance programs to all employees and their family members, including mental health services, substance abuse programs, money management, gambling and family counselling.

50. That the Proponents commit to providing a fitness-to-work assessment for those hired to work on the Project and paying the full costs.
51. That the Proponents commit to ensuring that employees of the Project will complete a full vaccination schedule prior to commencing work. This vaccination should include Influenza, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Hepatitis A and B.
52. That the Proponents mitigate impacts on families of Project-employees by supporting community-based programs such as child and home care services; recreational and other programs for youth; and, improving information on available services.
53. That the Proponents commit to developing emergency plans which specifically consider responses to the handling of mass casualties scenarios in consultation with the Department of Health and Social Services.
54. That the Proponents work with communities to determine appropriate location of work camps.
55. That the Proponents commit to making reasonable efforts to return NWT workers to their point of hire community without stopovers at the end of all work period assignments.
56. That the Proponents commit to making reasonable efforts to return non-NWT workers to their southern point of departure without stopovers at the end of all work period assignments.
57. That the Proponents develop and implement, in consultation with the GNWT, RCMP, community justice organizations, Aboriginal organizations and other key public safety stakeholders, a comprehensive plan addressing Project-related community crime prevention, policing and other justice programs to reduce risk factors that could lead to criminal activity.
58. That the Proponents work with the GNWT and housing authorities to address short term housing requirements for persons who reside outside of a work camp.
59. That the Proponents work with Regional Career Centres, Aurora College and NWT schools on concrete measures to encourage youth to stay in school by participating in regional career fairs, working with the GNWT to distribute related labour market information, enhancing Jobs North and working with Skills Canada NWT.

## **Chapter 9: The Capacity of Human Environments, Including Local And Regional Institutions, to Respond to and Manage Externally Induced Change**

60. That the Proponents commit to providing a self contained independent fuel supply, transportation and distribution network in order to meet the fuel requirements of the Project in those communities supplied by the GNWT.
61. That the Proponents work with the GNWT and community governments on the community transportation infrastructure requirements of the Project.
62. That the Proponents commit to reviewing and monitoring the state of Community Public Infrastructure in affected communities, with community governments and the GNWT, and mitigating any Project-related impacts.
63. That the Proponents work cooperatively with community governments to develop strategies specifically addressing the continued provision of key community services during the construction phase.
64. That the Proponents, where they have not concluded an agreement with a community government, enter into an agreement with the GNWT that addresses the remaining capital investments, maintenance, regulatory, safety and enforcement issues and related infrastructure essential to accommodate the Project.
65. That the Proponents commit to making available granular resources developed by the Proponents to communities at the conclusion of the Project.
66. That the Proponents and their contractors pay the full health care costs for non-Canadian residents who are hired to work on the Project and who are not eligible for provincial or territorial health care plans. Coverage must be in place prior to the commencement of an individual's employment and secured during the entire period of employment.
67. That the Proponents complete agreements related to access to the NWT health care system with the Department of Health and Social Services and the Health and Social Services Authorities at least six months prior to the beginning of Project construction.
68. That the Proponents enter into an agreement with the GNWT on shared RCMP response to emergencies, accidents, incidents at camps, traffic policing and crime prevention programs.

69. That the Proponents commit to utilizing convertible workforce housing and to make it available to the GNWT on completion of pipeline construction for it to be relocated to NWT communities and converted to permanent residential homes.
70. That the Proponents enter into an agreement with the GNWT that addresses the remaining capital investments and commits the Proponents to providing the necessary funds required for improvements to the NWT transportation system essential to accommodate the Project. This includes Highway No. 1 all-weather and winter road improvements; Highway No. 8 capacity, grade and safety improvements; Trout Lake Winter Road improvements; and, apron expansions at the Fort Simpson and Inuvik airports.
71. That the Proponents enter into an agreement with the GNWT that addresses the increased transportation system operations and maintenance costs and commits the Proponents to providing the necessary funds to address the increased costs associated with accommodating Project-related traffic.
72. That the Proponents enter into an agreement with the GNWT that addresses the need for increased regulatory, safety and enforcement measures related to the NWT transportation system and commits the Proponents to providing the necessary funds to implement the measures required.

#### **Chapter 10: The Attainment and Distribution of Long Term Socio-Economic Benefits and Protection of the Environment**

73. That the Proponents commit to providing a plan prior to construction for technology transfer and research and development in the NWT that will contribute to economic diversification and sustainability.



R(15)030206225

## Place Name Changes for Holman, Victoria Island and Coronation Gulf Region

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 3, 2006)** – A total of 306 Inuinnaqtun and Inuvialuktun place names in the Victoria Island and Coronation Gulf areas of the Northwest Territories are becoming official under the NWT Geographical and Community Names Policy. The names identify land and water features, as well, as gathering places and camps.

As part of the project, and at the request of residents, Holman's official community name will be changed to Ulukhaktok. This traditional name for the location means "*the place where we find material for ulus*".

"Formally recording traditional place names is important," said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Charles Dent. "The place names have been used by elders, hunters and other residents for hundreds and hundreds of years. They are an important part of the language, culture, and history of the area."

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs noted the strong commitment of the community of Holman to changing its name. "The municipal government has played a lead role in supporting the interests of community residents," noted Minister McLeod. "The community joins fourteen other NWT communities that are now known by their traditional place names."

The MLA for Nunakput, Mr. Calvin Pokiak praised the cooperation of all parties in supporting this effort. "The contributions of elders, researchers and officials from the Government of the Northwest Territories have been important to the success of this project. We now have recorded the names so that our children and our children's children will be able to remember a part of our history."

The name changes were first collected under studies in the early 1990's and will come into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

For more information, contact:

Tricia Melander  
Manager, Public Affairs,  
Department of Education, Culture and Employment  
Phone: (867) 920-6222





R(15)030206226

## Municipal Administrator Appointed for Fort Simpson

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 3, 2006)** –Mr. Gary Black has been appointed as Municipal Administrator for the Village of Fort Simpson, effective Monday, February 6, 2006, announced Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, today.

Mr. Black has extensive prior experience working at both the municipal and territorial levels. He has been a member of the Fort Simpson Village Council holding the positions of Councillor, Deputy Mayor and Mayor, and spent several years serving on the Fort Simpson Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Black is a former Regional Director and former Associate Deputy Minister for the Department of the Executive.

“Mr. Black will provide the Village with required administrative services until an election takes place,” said Minister McLeod. “Based on Mr. Black’s experience and his familiarity with the community, I am fully confident of his ability to serve as Municipal Administrator.”

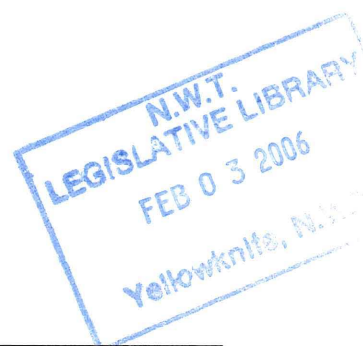
Under the direction of the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, and with support from ~~the department, the Municipal Administrator assumes all duties normally performed by the~~ Village of Fort Simpson Council and administration.

The Municipal Administrator will also take the lead role to assist the community to resume operations until a municipal election can be held on March 6, 2006.

Minister McLeod is also pleased to announce that Pat Rowe has been re-appointed as Fire Chief for the Village effective February 2, 2006.

For more information, contact:

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





R(15)070206227

## Minister Announces Land Transfers in Yellowknife

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 7, 2006)** – Several parcels of Commissioner’s Land will be transferred to the City of Yellowknife, in fee simple title, the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) announced today.

“While the quantum of land that will be transferred to the City of Yellowknife is less than requested, I believe it will ease the immediate pressure the City is under for residential, commercial and industrial land development in the short term,” said Minister McLeod.

The Minister will also impose a two-year freeze on considering new applications for the sale or lease of Commissioner’s Land on certain parcels within the municipal boundaries of the City.

At the request of the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Minister has imposed a freeze on considering applications for the sale or lease of certain parcels of Commissioner’s Land. This will go into effect on February 7, 2006, and will remain in place for up to two years. The land freeze will be lifted on February 7, 2008, or upon the completion of interim land withdrawals of Commissioner’s Land within the City, pursuant to Akaitcho Process negotiations.

This decision follows several years of consultation and discussion between the City of Yellowknife, the Akaitcho Dene First Nations, and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The transfer of land to the City will make land available for residential, commercial and industrial development within Yellowknife. The land freeze is intended to give Akaitcho Process negotiations time to conclude interim land withdrawal negotiations. The land transfer to the City and the land freeze are intended to facilitate the conclusion of interim land withdrawal negotiations with the Akaitcho Dene First Nations while addressing the City’s needs for land. The areas identified for transfer to the City and the areas identified for the land freeze minimize existing overlapping interests in the land.

“It is my sincere hope that the land freeze will aid the completion of Akaitcho Process interim land withdrawal negotiations,” Minister McLeod noted.

The Minister will also establish a reserve in the area of the Legislative Assembly to provide land for a new Territorial Courthouse and the expansion of the Legislative Precinct.

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The parcels to be transferred to the City include:

- A parcel of land immediately west of the Yellowknife Airport for a proposed bypass road and for industrial development;
- A parcel of land immediately north of Old Airport Road to provide for road and commercial lot development;
- A parcel of land around the City's solid waste disposal site;
- A parcel of land surrounding Bristol Pit/Lakeshore Cemetery;
- A parcel of land in the area of Tin Can Hill for residential lot development;
- A parcel of land in the vicinity of the GNWT Warehouse on Old Airport Road; and
- Certain parcels that are currently leased to the City.

The land will be transferred as the City completes the legal survey process and passes the applicable land acquisition by-laws.

For more information, contact:

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





R(15)200206230

## **GNWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy and Interim Measures**

**Yellowknife (February 20, 2006)** – A strategy to guide the management of barren-ground caribou herds in the Northwest Territories (NWT) was released today by Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Minister, Honourable Michael Miltenberger.

“Evidence from traditional and scientific sources show that barren-ground caribou herds are declining,” said Minister Miltenberger. “Given this trend, the Government of the Northwest Territories, along with co-management boards and harvesters must act in the best interests of conserving our barren-ground caribou populations.”

The NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy outlines approaches that can be taken during the next five years to conserve the herds in the NWT. It includes conservation measures, both immediate and long term, to ensure the sustainability of the barren-ground caribou herds.

“When wildlife population trends suggest there is a serious concern ENR applies the “Precautionary Principal.” This means that management decisions err on the side of caution,” added Minister Miltenberger. “We know that caribou numbers are declining and we must take reasonable conservation measures now to prevent serious or irreparable damage to this resource.”

Immediate actions, to be applied throughout the Northwest Territories during the next six months, include:

- reducing caribou tags for resident harvesters from five to two;
- allowing resident harvesters to hunt bulls only;
- reducing caribou tags for outfitters on the Bathurst herd fall range to 1999 levels;
- increasing wolf tags for non-resident harvesters from one to two;
- delaying the public release of maps showing the locations of satellite collared caribou by two weeks;
- increasing enforcement patrols; and,
- developing a major public education campaign.

The NWT co-management boards have also recommended specific actions to reduce harvesting of herds within their settlement regions. The Government of the Northwest Territories accepts the voluntary harvest limits proposed by co-management boards and



will continue to work with those boards on any further necessary actions. The actions and overall caribou management strategy draw on management planning initiatives conducted with co-management boards, caribou management boards and NWT communities.

A copy of the Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy can be found on the ENR website at: [www.enr.gov.nt.ca](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca).

For more information, contact:

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



R(15)200206231

## Get Smart about Energy during Education Week

**Yellowknife (February 20, 2006)** – ‘*Get Smart about Energy*’ is the theme for Education Week 2006 in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The celebration runs from February 20 to 24 and is an opportunity for people to reflect on life long learning and the role that education plays in enriching our lives.

This week is an ideal time to learn about responsible energy consumption. Melting permafrost, declining water levels in our lakes and rivers, changes in our air quality and uncommon weather patterns are all signs that climate change is currently taking place in the NWT and that action is required.

Recognizing education as one of the first steps towards a change in practices and attitudes, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment has provided schools throughout the NWT with a list of energy learning links, including access to instructional games, websites and quick facts relating to energy.

With these resources, students will discover how their individual energy usage contributes to greenhouse gas emissions resulting in climate change, as well as tips to get smart about the power they use every day. Posters and energy efficient night-lights are also being distributed to promote informed energy decisions in the classroom, home and community.

“This is an excellent opportunity to reflect on the impact that each of us has on our environment. It is important for Northerners to receive as much information and knowledge as possible to preserve our current NWT landscape. This week also provides an opportunity to recognize and applaud the dedication and contributions of educators across the North,” said Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Special activities have been planned in many schools across the NWT to support energy awareness.

For more information, contact:

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



R(15)220206232

## NWT Historical Timeline Launch

**Yellowknife (February 22, 2006)** – The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre is launching the Northwest Territories (NWT) Historical Timeline today during Heritage Week. During the launch, a class of Sir John Franklin High School's Northern Studies students will participate in an online scavenger hunt at the museum.

Over the past two years, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre has developed an online exhibit entitled the NWT Historical Timeline. It consists of 100 modules or mini exhibits on important moments, events, and people in the history of the NWT and is available on the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre's website.

Some examples of exhibits include 1821 Akaitcho Rescues Sir John Franklin, 1871 'Emperor' Firth, 1911 Billy McNeil's Reindeer, 1931 The Mad Trapper of Rat River, 1946 Operation Musk Ox, 1954 The Northwest Territories' Last Execution, and 1978 Cosmos 954 and Operation Morning Light.

Each module consists of a few paragraphs explaining the significance of an event or person accompanied by historical photographs, documents, sound recordings, film or artifacts. These documents are drawn from the collections of the NWT archives at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. For example the 1946 Operation Musk Ox module consists of three photographs taken during the operation, a radio broadcast on the operation, as well as, a map and an article published in 1946.

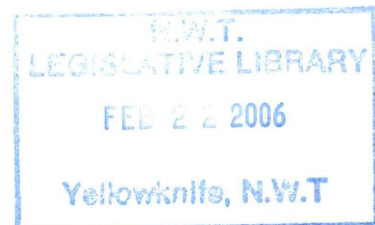
While making the rich history of the NWT more accessible to the general public, the Timeline also complements the NWT educational system as it targets grade ten Northern Studies students. The timeline project was developed to fill the need for a teaching resource relating to northern history and peoples in the absence of a history textbook focusing primarily on the North.

To help teachers and students use the Timeline, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment produced and distributed the NWT History Online Timeline Teacher's Resource Kit containing educational activities. The kit is linked to learning objectives in various parts of the Northern Studies curriculum and make the exploration of northern history come alive for students.

This project has been funded in part by the Government of Canada's Department of Canadian Heritage.

For more information, contact:

Tricia Melander  
Manager, Public Affairs  
Education, Culture and Employment  
(867) 920-6222







R(15)220206233

## Changes in Deputy Minister Assignments

**Yellowknife (22 February, 2006)** – Premier Joseph Handley is pleased to announce the following changes in Deputy Minister assignments.

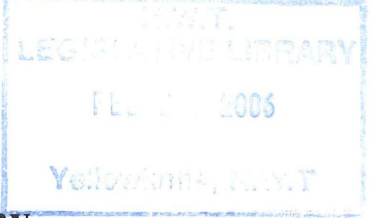
- Mark Cleveland, currently Deputy Minister at the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, becomes Deputy Minister to the Financial Management Board effective April 1, 2006. He succeeds Lew Voytilla who will be retiring from the public service.
- Michael Aumond, currently Acting Deputy Minister for the Department of Public Works and Services, becomes Deputy Minister for the Department of Public Works and Services effective immediately.
- Lynn Elkin, currently Assistant Deputy Minister for Human Resources, Financial Management Board Secretariat, becomes Deputy Minister for the Department of Human Resources effective April 1, 2006.
- Chuck Parker, currently Chief Executive Officer at the Stanton Regional Health Board, becomes Deputy Minister for the Department of Health and Social Services effective April 1, 2006. He succeeds Dave Murray who will be retiring from the public service.
- Fred Koe, currently President of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, will be retiring from the public service.

The Premier took the opportunity to thank Lew Voytilla, Dave Murray and Fred Koe for their dedication and excellent service over the years, and to wish them every success in their future endeavours.

For further information contact:

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





R(15)230206234

## GNWT Support For Traditional Economy

**Yellowknife (February 23, 2006)** – Over \$200,000 is being provided to regional programs promoting and supporting the Northwest Territories traditional economies through a Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) funding initiative.

Projects have been identified in every region of the Northwest Territories.

Funding for these programs is provided through an arrangement between the Minister Responsible for Youth, the Honourable Michael McLeod, and the GNWT Departments of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) and Environment and Natural Resources (ENR).

“This initiative helps meet a growing and constant demand for programming to support the involvement of young people in activities such as trapping and training in traditional skills,” said Minister McLeod.

Half of the funding is targeted at youth. Over 800 young NWT residents are expected to take part in programs and initiatives to increase awareness of the value and importance of traditional life skills.

Funding is also allotted for workshops to provide training and orientation for trappers and prospective trappers of all ages in new technologies, legislation, sustainable harvesting and conservation education.

“The NWT’s traditional economy plays an important role in the North’s smaller communities,” Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Brendan Bell, notes. “The products of traditional activities such as hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering directly off-set a higher cost of living yet, more importantly, provide a valuable foundation for the history, culture, and social fabric of the NWT and its Aboriginal people.”

“These programs provide opportunities for young people to learn a wealth of traditional knowledge and skills from the experienced trapper instructors,” adds Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Michael Miltenberger. “The special skills and knowledge passed through trapping workshops and programs ensures future generations will continue in their role as caretakers of our land and wildlife.”

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Program funding is being administered by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment and delivered through third party organizations or the community and regional staff of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

For more information, contact:

Guy Erasmus  
Fur Management/Traditional Economy  
Industry, Tourism and Investment  
Tel: (867) 920-6406

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





R(15)270206235

## Up to \$15 million more for Tourism in the Northwest Territories - ITI Minister unveils Tourism 2010

**Yellowknife (February 27, 2006)** – Calling it a strong step towards the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) vision for a diversified economy, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Brendan Bell today launched *Tourism 2010 – A Tourism Plan for the Northwest Territories*.

The plan outlines the investments and initiatives that the GNWT will take to help build Tourism in the Northwest Territories (NWT) between 2006 and 2010.

“Tourism offers the potential for economic diversity and the development of viable and sustainable small business ventures in every NWT community,” Minister Bell noted.

*Tourism 2010* identifies five key areas in which the government will invest a total of \$5 million over five years. This new funding is intended to stimulate additional investment from public and private sector partners of approximately \$10 million – providing the potential for diversification, development and expansion of viable and sustainable Tourism business ventures territory wide.

“This plan will allow more NWT businesses and residents to benefit from opportunities in the tourism sector and promotes links between tourism and other sectors most notably - the traditional economy and arts and fine crafts sectors,” Minister Bell said.

*Tourism 2010* includes an additional \$400,000 for NWT Tourism to enhance existing marketing efforts. New funding has also been identified for product development, infrastructure, training and research.

“The tourism industry has been steadily growing, thanks to the many dedicated entrepreneurs who have been building their businesses on service and reputation,” said Minister Bell. “This will provide a much-needed and often-requested uplift for their efforts.”

For more information, contact:

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

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





R(15)070306236

## 2006 Arctic Winter Games “Snowshoeing: A Training and Resource Manual”

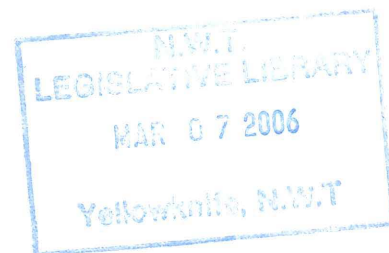
**Kenai, Alaska (March 7, 2006)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories in partnership with the Governments of Yukon, Nunavut, Alberta, Canada and several volunteer sport organizations in each of those jurisdictions announced today the completion of “Snowshoeing: A Training and Resource Manual”.

“Snowshoeing is a northern tradition and the skills have traditionally been passed from generation to generation,” said the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. “Through this manual, information and knowledge can now be shared widely to encourage Northerners to take part in this traditional activity as a sport or as a recreational activity.”

The knowledge in “Snowshoeing: A Training and Resource Manual” was gathered primarily from elders and other snowshoeing experts. The Manual consists of information on the cultural history of snowshoeing and how it has evolved to be included in events such as the Arctic Winter Games. It also includes information on equipment, technical components and the application of snowshoeing in a sport context.

For further information contact:

Ian Legaree  
Director, Sport, Recreation and Youth Division  
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs  
Phone: (867) 445-6000





R(15)140306237

## **Sod Turning Ceremony Eight-plex Designed for Persons with Disabilities**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 14, 2006)** – The Honourable David Krutko, Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, along with Yellowknife Centre MLA Robert Hawkins, representatives from the NWT Council for Persons with Disabilities and the Yellowknife Housing Authority participated in a sod turning ceremony today.

The ceremony marks the new construction of an eight-plex building designed specifically for persons with disabilities. The project highlights the successful planning and consultations undertaken with many stakeholders to meet a significant housing need in the city of Yellowknife.

“This building is unique. Each of the eight two-bedroom units is designed to be barrier free and to meet the needs for persons with disabilities,” said Minister Krutko.

The building will be constructed on 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, across from the Victorian Suites.

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is focused on providing affordable, suitable and adequate housing solutions to the residents of the Northwest Territories.

For more information contact:

Jeff Anderson,  
Acting President  
Northwest Territories Housing Corporation  
Phone: (867) 873-7873



R(15)270306238

## Drop the Pop NWT

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 27, 2006)** – “*Drop the Pop NWT*” is a campaign encouraging northern students and their families to make healthier beverage choices for at least 5 days - from March 27-31, 2006.

Research shows that regular consumption of sugary beverages contributes to negative health effects, such as poor dental health, weight gain and obesity. In northern communities, pop is also known to displace healthy foods such as milk or natural fruit juices, leading to nutritional deficiencies.

“In addition to encouraging students and families to reduce their pop consumption in the Northwest Territories, we now have an opportunity to expand this initiative into a ‘North of 60’ challenge”, said Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Health and Social Services. “This year Yukon, NWT and Nunavut are challenging each other to see which territory can be most successful in ‘dropping the pop’.”

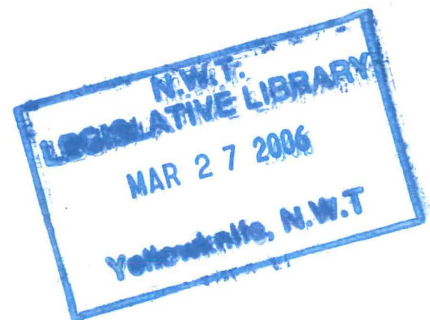
Though the campaign will be school-based, family and community members will also be encouraged to “Drop the Pop” for the week and to provide a supportive environment for children and schools that wish to participate.

Schools registered for the challenge received information packages highlighting the advantages of limiting high sugar drinks. Funding was also made available to assist schools with this initiative.

Based on the original concept developed by the Government of Nunavut, “*Drop the Pop NWT*” challenge is being initiated by the Departments of Health and Social Services and Education, Culture and Employment; Inuvialuit Regional Corporation; Dene Nation; the NWT/Nunavut Dental Association and Health Canada.

For more information, contact:

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



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
LIBRARY  
1207 EAST 58TH STREET  
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

R(15)110406248

## Winners of Drop the Pop NWT Challenge Announced

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 12, 2006)** – Northwest Territories schools rose to the challenge and an impressive 1,920 students made the pledge to Drop the Pop for 5 days, from March 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Students throughout the North also created projects that encouraged healthy drinking choices by participating in nutrition presentations, smoothie-making sessions, and a contest for the best tasting smoothie.

Overall, there were 13 schools that participated in the challenge by choosing healthier and more traditional beverages over high-sugared drinks – this accounts for approximately 21% of the NWT student population.

The 2006 winners are:

Population 50-121: Helen Kalvak Elihakvik, Ulukhaktok

Population 122-176: ?ehtseo Ayha School, Deline

Population 177-300: Mangilaluk School, Tuktoyaktuk

Population 300+: Weledeh Catholic School, Yellowknife

Highest Ratio: K'álemi Dene School, Ndilo

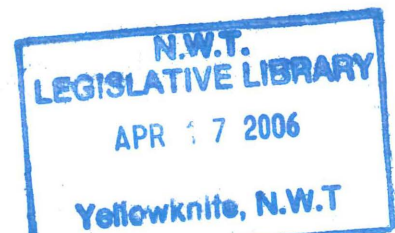
All schools will receive a special Drop the Pop NWT participation package and prizes.

This year the 5 schools won \$2,000 each for their school. The winning schools will be able to use the funding to buy healthy eating and active living equipment.

Based on the original concept developed by the Government of Nunavut, the Drop the Pop NWT Challenge was initiated by the Departments of Health and Social Services and Education, Culture and Employment; Inuvialuit Regional Corporation; Dene Nation; the NWT/Nunavut Dental Association and Health Canada.

For more information, contact:

Elsie DeRoose  
Team Leader, Health Promotion  
Department of Health and Social Services  
Tel: (867) 873-7904  
[healthpromotion@gov.nt.ca](mailto:healthpromotion@gov.nt.ca)







R(15)130406250

## Aviation Career Development Program Bursaries Available

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 13, 2006)** – The Department of Transportation, Canadian North and Northern Air Transport Association (NATA) are seeking student applicants for this year's Aviation Career Development Program bursaries worth a total of \$40,000.

May 31, 2006 is the deadline for students with an interest in the aviation industry to apply for one of eight, \$5,000 bursaries due to be awarded for the upcoming academic year. Now in its sixth year, the program is co-sponsored by the Department of Transportation and Canadian North, with support from the Northern Air Transport Association, the umbrella organization for northern air carriers.

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 has encouraged and assisted NWT students to train for a career in a field that provides many opportunities as the North's economy expands," says Transportation Minister Michael McLeod. "This outstanding partnership between government and industry has already provided 40 bursaries worth a total of \$200,000."

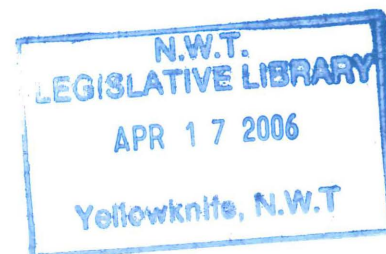
"Young northern students have benefited immensely from this innovative program," says Tom Ruth, president of Canadian North. "Canadian North is pleased to continue jointly funding the Aviation Career Development Program with the Department of Transportation."

"The Northern Air Transport Association proudly supports the Aviation Career Development Program and works with operators throughout the North in providing encouragement to our youth to seek out career opportunities in the aviation industry," says Gary Reid, NATA president. "The continued and ever increasing demands on air services in the North, for the social well being of Northerners and in meeting the needs of a healthy economic environment, offers long and rewarding careers in a highly skilled and progressive workforce."

Applications and information on the program are available from Margaret Czyz 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](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca).

For more information, contact:

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







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## News Release

R(15)130406251

### 72-Hour Closure Notice For Winter Roads

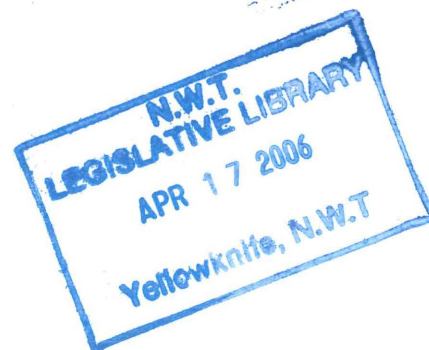
**YELLOWKNIFE (April 13, 2006)** – The Department of Transportation issued 72-hour notice of closure today for the winter roads to Gameti and Wha Ti, including the winter supply route to Colomac and Wekweeti. Closure will take place at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 16.

The Tlicho winter roads are restricted to night travel only from 10 p.m. to 10 a.m. The roads may close early if conditions warrant. Motorists are advised to drive slowly and carefully due to changing road conditions.

Highway information is available on the department's toll-free line at 1-800-661-0750 and its website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://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)200406255

## Northwest Territories Residents Ready to “Get Active”

**NORMAN WELLS (April 20, 2006)** – The 2006 Get Active challenge was launched today by Municipal and Community Affairs Minister Michael McLeod, along with Health and Social Services Minister Michael Miltenberger and Education Minister Charles Dent. The launch included a challenge to political leaders gathered for the Circle of Northern Leaders meeting, April 19 and 20 in Norman Wells. All attendees of the Circle of Northern Leaders were each given a pedometer to track their steps during the conference, with the person who takes the most steps, to be declared the winner at the end of the meeting.

Residents of the NWT are challenged to put on their running shoes, play baseball, go berry picking, split wood and find other ways to increase their activity level for the 2006 edition of the Get Active campaign. The Get Active challenge encourages communities of similar size to log their activity minutes in an effort to claim the title of most active community in their category. By tracking their activity minutes Northerners are recognizing the value of including physical activity in their daily lives.

Residents can register to participate in the Get Active challenge by:

- Going to the website at [www.getactivenwt.ca](http://www.getactivenwt.ca) and completing the online registration form; or
- Filling out a registration form on the back of a *Get Active NWT* brochure and mailing it or faxing it to:

Sport, Recreation and Youth  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Suite 400, 5201-50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Yellowknife NT  
X1A 3S9

Fax (867) 920-6467

The campaign lasts from May 1 to July 15, 2006. All kinds of physical activity are included in the challenge: walking, running, bicycling or playing outside with family.



R(15)210406256

## Liard River Ice Crossing Extended To April 24

**YELLOWKNIFE (21 April, 2006)** – Cooler weather has allowed the Department of Transportation to extend operation of the Mackenzie Highway ice crossing at Liard River near Fort Simpson to 8 a.m. Monday, April 24.

The Ndulee ice crossing at Km 548 of the Mackenzie Highway will close for the season as planned at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 22.

In the meantime, the Department of Transportation advises motorists to drive slowly and carefully on the crossings and watch for crews and equipment.

Information on the status NWT public highways, ice crossings and ferries is available on the department's toll-free line at 1-800-661-0750 or its website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca)

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For more information, contact:

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







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## News Release

R(15)240406257

### **24-Hour Extension For Liard River Ice Crossing**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 24, 2006)** – Operation of Liard River ice crossing at Km 457 of the Mackenzie Highway near Fort Simpson has been extended to Tuesday, April 25.

The crossing will shut for the season at 8 a.m. on that date. The Department of Transportation advises motorists to drive slowly and carefully on the crossing and to watch for crews and equipment.

Information on the status of NWT public highways, ice crossings and ferry services is available on the department's toll-free line at 1-800-661-0750 and its website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://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)260406258

## **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Seniors Public Housing Duplexes in Hay River**

**HAY RIVER (April 26, 2006)** – The Honourable David Krutko, Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, along with Jane Groenewegen, MLA for Hay River South, representatives from the Hay River Housing Authority and seniors participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony today.

The ceremony celebrates six new duplexes built in Hay River providing 12 two-bedroom public housing units for seniors. This project highlights the successful planning and consultations undertaken with many stakeholders to meet a housing need in the Town of Hay River.

“The public housing duplex units are barrier-free and designed to support seniors pursuing independent lifestyles,” said Minister Krutko. The units are located on Caribou Drive, Saskatoon and Cranberry Crescents.

Minister Krutko acknowledged the important contribution of many people and organizations such as members of the construction industry, the Town of Hay River and especially seniors themselves. “We recognize it requires the cooperation of many stakeholders to make a housing project a success. The Housing Corporation values everyone’s assistance in designing and building homes that blend energy efficiency with a practical layout,” said Minister Krutko.

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is focused on providing affordable, suitable and adequate housing solutions to the residents of the Northwest Territories.

For more information contact:

James Appleton  
Manager, Policy and Evaluation  
Northwest Territories Housing Corporation  
(867) 873-3051



R(15)270406259

## **Create the Smoke-free Future Contest Begins NWT Tour**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 27, 2006)** - Northwest Territories (NWT) youth have been vocal about smoking, as people in the NWT will have the opportunity to hear for themselves when a tour of the finalist entries from *Create the Smoke-free Future* contest begins in Inuvik. A significant amount of entries were received from across the NWT in response to the creative contest, part of the Department of Health and Social Services' *Don't Be a Butthead* campaign.

“As a government we have some important messages to relay to youth about tobacco. But in this initiative we turn the tables and ask NWT youth to tell us what they think about smoking. They have certainly done so in many creative ways. We have received all kinds of entries including videos, posters, paintings, stories, songs and raps and the list goes on. There are even some websites designed by youth for youth to get the word out about smoking,” said Dr. Andre Corriveau, Chief Medical Officer of Health for the NWT.

The finalist entries will tour four NWT communities, Inuvik, Hay River, Fort Smith and Yellowknife. During each stop, a panel of local judges will view and score entries in the junior and senior class. Winners in the junior class will receive a digital camera or \$250, while winners in the senior class will have the chance to work with a professional in their chosen field to turn their entries into professional work. Winners will be announced on May 31, World No Tobacco Day.

“People in Inuvik will not only get the opportunity to see what youth have to say about tobacco,” said Dr. Corriveau. “They will also have a chance to vote for their favourite entry. When they do, they will also be entering to win a prize themselves. Draws will be made from the people’s choice ballots for a \$100 gift certificate for the Northern Store or a 6-foot inflatable Butthead.”

**Dates:**

**Inuvik**

May 4-6 Family Centre 3:30pm-7pm

May 5 1:00pm-7pm

May 6 10:00am-3pm

**Hay River**

Diamond Jenness Secondary School

May 11th 1pm-4pm

May 12th 9am-5pm

May 13<sup>th</sup> 10am-4pm



**Fort Smith**

Recreation Centre

May 16th and 17<sup>th</sup> noon-8pm

**Yellowknife**

Yellowknife Inn

May 25 noon-6pm

May 26 8am-6pm

May 27 10am-5pm

For more information, contact:

Miriam Wideman

Health Promotion Consultant

Health and Social Services

(867) 920-8826

[www.dontbeabutthead.com](http://www.dontbeabutthead.com)





R(15)280406260

## **NWT Outstanding Volunteer Award Winners Announced**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 28, 2006)** — At a ceremony in Kakisa yesterday afternoon, the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and Chief Lloyd Chicot, Chief of the Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation announced the recipients of the 2006 Northwest Territories (NWT) Outstanding Volunteer Awards.

“MACA recognizes and appreciates the important work that volunteers do across the Northwest Territories,” said 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 2006 are:

- Outstanding Youth Award – Bhreagh Ingarfield, Nahanni Butte
- Outstanding Elder Award – Mary Kudlak, Ulukhaktok
- Outstanding Volunteer Award – Barb Tsetso, Fort Simpson
- Outstanding Group Award – Yellowknife Victim Services, Yellowknife

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The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, in partnership with Volunteer NWT, 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 23-29, 2006.

“Volunteers play a critical role in our communities. Their efforts make our communities better places to live,” said Bill Graham, Chair of Volunteer NWT. “I would like to thank the Outstanding Volunteer Awards recipients for their dedication and hard work.”

Check out the MACA website at [www.maca.gov.nt.ca](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca), or the Volunteer NWT website at [www.volunteernwt.ca](http://www.volunteernwt.ca) for further details about the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards and award recipients.

For more information:  
Brandice Shostak  
Communications/Policy Advisor  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Phone: (867) 920-3092





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## Press Release

R(15)280406261

### NWT Fire Crews to Assist in Alberta

**Fort Smith (April 28, 2006)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories is sending 26 fire management personnel to Alberta as part of the Canadian Interagency Mutual Aid Resources Sharing Agreement.

The five crews of five firefighters each and an agency representative left this morning for Lac La Biche, Alberta. The crews, from Fort Simpson and Fort Smith, are expected to be in Alberta for two weeks.

Fire danger in Alberta is high to extreme across most of the province due to a combination of above average temperatures, strong winds and unusually low humidity.

The wildfire season in the Northwest Territories runs from May 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. This is the time of the year when wildfires are likely to start, spread and cause damage to values-at-risk. To report a forest fire, call 1-877-NWT-FIRE (1-877-698-3473).

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For more information, contact:

Frank Lepine

Territorial Duty Officer

Environment and Natural Resources

Tel: (867) 872-7710

<http://forestmanagement.enr.gov.nt.ca>





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## Press Release

R(15)110906308

### **GNWT Invests in Training and HR Development for the Tourism Industry**

**YELLOWKNIFE (11 September, 2006)** -- An initiative to advance training and human resource development in the Northwest Territories tourism industry was launched today by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

Tourism training is a key objective of the GNWT's Tourism 2010 plan released last year.

Working in association with Northwest Territories Tourism (NWTT) and industry partners, the GNWT has contracted the Northern Learning Institute to develop and deliver training programs aimed at allowing more NWT residents to excel in tourism careers.

"Businesses in the northern hospitality and tourism industry anticipate needing hundreds of qualified and skilled employees in the next few years," Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) Brendan Bell said.

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An initial investment of \$100,000 has already leveraged additional training dollars from related sectors including \$190,000 for a tourism entry-level program beginning in Yellowknife this week.

The GNWT's training plan has been developed to: increase the number of skilled workers in the tourism industry; improve the profitability of existing tourism operators by enhancing customer experience; and increase awareness of tourism careers in the NWT.

"The men and women working in the tourism industry play a critical role in the development and growth of their industry and the NWT economy," Minister Bell said. "Their competence, knowledge and skills represent our Territory to the world."

For more information contact:

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

John Simpson  
Northern Learning Institute  
(867) 873-3456



R(15)130906309

## Renovated Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Re-opens

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 14, 2006)** – The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) is re-opening its doors to the public this week following the near-completion of an extensive renovation project, Minister for Education, Culture and Employment, Charles Dent, announced today.

“The renovations will enhance the experience of the over 40,000 visitors the PWNHC hosts each year and will ensure the Centre continues to operate with world-class exhibits, archives, events and services,” said Minister Dent.

Visitors will notice substantial changes in the appearance of the Centre including the addition of a public reading room where people can access archival documents, sound bites, moving image recordings and the library collection.

Other project highlights include new carpet, heating, ventilation and electrical system replacements; technical upgrades as well as newly painted and reconfigured workspaces. Changes not only reflect current building code requirements but also meet the varied needs of the many in-house and outreach programs offered at the PWNHC.

“Much of the rich history of the Northwest Territories is housed within the PWNHC. The renovations provide an improved capacity to make this information accessible, interactive and interesting to students, tourists and the general public,” said Charles Arnold, Director of Culture and Heritage, Education, Culture and Employment.

A number of exciting new exhibits will be showcased during the next few months. The first exhibition, *Through the Eyes of the Cree and Beyond*, will feature a display of art and paintings by Cree artist Allen Sapp and run from September to December. This exhibit opens Sunday September 17, 2006 at 2:00pm and the artist will be in attendance.

Other exhibitions scheduled to open in the upcoming months include: *We Live Securely by the Land* presenting, for the first time in Canada, Dene artifacts from the collections of the National Museums of Scotland; *Qilalukkat!* including both artifacts and narratives detailing how the Inuvialuit used beluga whales over the centuries; and *Long Ago Sewing We Will Remember*, the story of the Gwich'in Traditional Clothing Project.

For more information, contact:

Tricia Melander  
Manager, Public Affairs  
Department of Education, Culture and Employment  
920-6222





R(15)130906310

## **Tlicho Community Services Agency – Wins Silver IPAC Award**

**YELLOWKNIFE (14 September, 2006)** - Recognized for its managerial initiatives, the Tlicho Community Services Agency was awarded the Silver Award for Innovative Management by the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) at an award ceremony in Prince Edward Island on August 30, 2006.

This award was first introduced in 1990 by IPAC to identify and publicize success stories worthy of emulation, to foster innovation by recognizing organizations and individuals for creative and effective management and to enhance the image of the public sector.

Judges agreed this year's theme, *Sharing Governance: Citizens, Partners and Networks*, is exemplified by the management approach implemented by the Tlicho Community Services Agency.

For many years, Tlicho leaders have understood the important link between education, health and social issues in the Tlicho region and the importance of integrating traditional culture into all aspects of community. Governed by a board of community representatives, appointed by the Tlicho Government, the Tlicho Community Services Agency has experienced positive results by combining the management and delivery of health, social and educational programs in Behchoko, Gameti, Wekweeti and Whati.

"Congratulations to all the staff in the Tlicho," said Minister of Health and Social Services, Michael Miltenberger. "Your dedication and innovation have improved the health and well being of all residents in the Tlicho. IPAC recognized the Tlicho for strong leadership skills; these are best displayed through your continued efforts to foster community capacity and partnerships. Continue the great work."

"The emphasis on educational achievement, while highlighting the importance of Tlicho tradition and culture, has contributed to both increased high school graduation rates and postsecondary enrolment," said Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "This management approach to program delivery is unlike other models seen in Canada and promises continued success in the Tlicho region."

Jim Martin, Chief Executive Officer; Anna Beals, Director of Health and Social Services; Lucy Lafferty, Director of Education all with the Tlicho Community Services Agency, along with Alfonz Nitsiza, Chairperson of the Tlicho Community Services Agency Board and representatives from the Government of the Northwest Territories were present at the award ceremony to celebrate this outstanding national achievement.



For more information, please contact:

Tricia Melander  
Manager, Public Affairs  
Education, Culture and Employment  
(867) 920-6222

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



R(15)190906311

## **Bathurst Caribou Survey Completed**

**YELLOWKNIFE (19 September 2006)** – A recent survey of the breeding females on the Bathurst caribou herd calving grounds shows the herd continued to decline at about five percent per year over the past decade.

In 1986 the calving ground survey estimated 203,000 breeding females and a herd size of approximately 472,000. A 2003 survey showed these numbers had fallen to approximately 80,800 breeding females and a total herd size of 186,000. June 2006 aerial surveys conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shows this decline has continued. This survey estimated 55,600 breeding females and a herd size of 128,000.

Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Michael Miltenberger, says that management actions were taken in 2006 across the Northwest Territories to address declining caribou herds. However, with the continued decline, further actions will be required. "I am looking for advice from the newly-formed Wek'eezhie Renewable Resources Board which will meet in early October. I will also be having discussions with all other affected governments, groups and organizations," said Minister Miltenberger.

The North Slave regional office will hold a workshop in late fall to review management actions identified in the Bathurst Caribou Management Plan. This follows the workshop held in February 2006. Participants will include agencies and boards responsible for caribou management and representatives from First Nations, Inuit organizations, outfitters, resident hunters and the public.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Ray Case  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Manager, Technical Support  
Wildlife Division  
(867) 920-8067

Ernie Campbell  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Superintendent, North Slave Region  
(867) 920-6134



R(15)250906312

## NWT Hosts Northwest FASD Ministers' Meeting

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 25, 2006)** – Ministers responsible for the Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Partnership met in Yellowknife today with the Board of the Research Network to review work plans and to provide direction on research priorities.

The Northwest Territories is the lead jurisdiction for the Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Partnership (CNFASDP) for 2006/07. The partnership includes Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The Partnership has developed an inter-provincial/territorial approach to the prevention of FASD and the care and support of those affected.

“As ministers we are aware of the impacts of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) on our families, our communities and more broadly, our territories and provinces. FASD is a lifelong disability. Effective prevention efforts, early diagnosis, supportive environments and a range of special supports and services are important and necessary to assist individuals and their families in their journey for self-reliance and well-being,” said Michael Miltenberger, Northwest Territories Minister of Health and Social Services and chair of today’s meeting.

Ministers reviewed the annual report from the partnership’s Research Network and discussed future research opportunities. The one-day meeting included discussion of the reports on the most recent CNFASDP conference as well as the steering committee’s annual activities report and work plan.

Ministers also discussed the report, *Even One is Too Many: A Call for a Comprehensive Action Plan for FASD*, recently tabled by the Federal Standing Committee on Health. Ministers called on Health Canada and the Standing Committee to recognize the work of the CNFASD Partnership and to ensure meaningful consultation with the Partnership in the development of any national comprehensive plan related to FASD.

This is the first time the Northwest Territories have hosted a CNFASDP Ministers meeting. The Government of the Northwest Territories has been a member of CNFASDP since May 2000.

For more information contact:

Ngan Trinh  
Health and Social Services  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
Ph (867) 920-3171









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## Press Release

R(15)280906313

### Northwest Territories Proposes Higher Dividend Tax Credit

**YELLOWKNIFE (28 September, 2006)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories’ intends to increase the dividend tax credit for NWT residents investing in Canadian corporations, subject to anticipated federal increases, Finance Minister Floyd Roland announced today.

“Dividends paid by public corporations and large Canadian-controlled private corporations have incurred double taxation under the existing federal and NWT *Income Tax Acts*,” said Minister Roland. “The higher dividend tax credit will reduce the personal taxes individuals pay on taxable dividends.”

The proposed change will parallel measures announced in the May 2006 federal Budget designed to minimize the incidence of double taxation of dividends. The total personal income tax and corporate income tax on earnings distributed as dividends will be more comparable to the income tax paid on interest, income trust distributions or other flow-through structures.

Minister Roland said, “A more comparable treatment of dividends, interest and flow-through disbursements will also encourage organizations to base their legal structures on solid business reasons, rather than tax considerations.”

Further information can be found in the attached backgrounder or on the Department of Finance website at [www.fin.gov.nt.ca](http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca).

For more information, contact

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





## Backgrounder

R(15)280906313 Dividend Tax Credit  
YELLOWKNIFE (28 September, 2006)

The Government of the Northwest Territories proposes to match anticipated federal increases to the dividend tax credit beginning with the 2006 tax year.

- Income earned at the corporate level is subject to both corporate income tax (CIT) and, after it is distributed as dividends to individuals, personal income tax (PIT). The PIT system provides relief from this “double taxation” through mechanisms referred to as the gross-up and the dividend tax credit (DTC). Depending on both the CIT rates and the PIT rates in effect, these mechanisms may compensate too much or not enough for taxes paid at the corporate level. When the system does not provide enough compensation an element of double taxation remains and thus creates incentives to avoid this taxation.

### How the “Gross Up” and Dividend Tax Credit Work

Under the current income tax system, income earned by corporations is taxed at the corporate tax rate. If that income is paid out as dividends to individuals, it is taxed again, at the personal tax rate. Without any other measures, this would result in double taxation.

To address this, the tax system uses two mechanisms: the “gross up” and the dividend tax credit. Therefore, if we assume a corporation earns \$100 in income, and pays out all the after-tax amount in dividends, the corporation will pay 30.5 per cent, or \$30.50, in income tax and distribute \$69.50 in dividends.

The individual receiving the \$69.50 in dividends “grosses up” his or her income by 125 per cent, and reports \$86.90 in income. This is intended to approximate the before-tax income of the corporation. Assuming a personal tax rate of 43.05 per cent, the individual is liable for \$37.40 in tax on this income.

The individual is then eligible to claim a Dividend Tax Credit of 19 1/3 per cent of the grossed up amount, or \$16.80, for a net tax liability of \$20.60

The total tax paid by both the corporation and the individual is \$51.10.



- When the gross-up and DTC are fully integrated with the CIT and PIT rates then there is no difference in taxes paid based on whether the business is operated as a corporation or some other structure.
- The current income tax regime in Canada is not fully integrated. An NWT taxpayer receiving a distribution of \$100.00 from a flow-through arrangement such as an income trust would pay PIT of \$43.05. The same \$100.00 earned by a corporation and paid out in dividends would result in payment of \$30.50 in CIT and \$20.60 in PIT, for a total tax of \$51.10. (see Table 1 for details).
- Where too much tax compensation is provided by the gross-up/DTC mechanisms, there is a tax advantage to incorporating compared to other ownership structures. When the gross-up/DTC mechanisms provide inadequate compensation, companies have an incentive to reorganize as trusts or other flow-through entities to save taxes. Flow-through structures can take the form of sole ownership, partnerships, or income trusts. Flow-through entities allow their owners to escape tax at the entity level to the extent that income is attributed to the unit holder in the case of income trusts, or partners in the case of limited partnerships. These distributions are taxed in the hands of the recipients.
- The May 2006 federal Budget announced measures designed to minimize the incidence of double taxation of dividends and make the total PIT and CIT on earnings distributed as dividends more comparable to the income tax paid on interest, income trust distributions or other flow-through structures.

#### **NWT DIVIDEND TAX CREDIT PROPOSAL:**

- The GNWT is proposing to fully harmonize the NWT's DTC rate with that proposed by the federal government so that the NWT DTC for eligible dividends is approximately equal to the NWT general corporate tax rate. The DTC rate would be  $6.67 / 18$  (approximately 37 per cent) of the 45 per cent gross-up of dividends or 11.5 per cent of the grossed-up dividends.
- Eligible dividends are designated dividends paid after 2005 by public corporations and other corporations that are resident in Canada. If a Canadian-controlled private corporation designates dividends that are paid out of income that is subject to tax at the small business rate, it is subject to federal penalty tax.
- The proposed NWT treatment of the DTC would provide tax treatment of dividends similar to the tax treatment provided to the flow-through structures.
- Table 1 shows the CIT and PIT impacts for this treatment of the dividend tax credit compared with alternatives, assuming \$100 in corporate taxable income.



**TABLE 1**  
**Total Taxes Paid on \$100 of Corporate Income.**  
**Assuming all after tax income is distributed.**

	Dividends paid by large corporations		
	Flow-through	Current	GNWT proposed legislation
A Corporate Income	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>CIT</b>			
B Federal (19 % of A)	N/a	19.0	19.0
C NWT (11.5% of A)	N/a	11.5	11.5
D <b>Total CIT (B plus C)</b>	-	<b>30.5</b>	<b>30.5</b>
E Amount distributed to investor (A minus D)	100.0	69.5	69.5
F Gross-up (E times currently 25%; changes to 45%)	-	17.4	31.3
G Grossed-up amount included in personal income received by investor (E plus F)	100.0	86.9	100.8
<b>PIT</b>			
H Federal (G times 29% - highest PIT rate)	29.0	25.2	29.2
I NWT (G times 14.05% - highest PIT rate)	14.1	12.2	14.2
J <b>Total PIT (H + I)</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>43.4</b>
<b>Dividend Tax Credit</b>			
K Federal (currently 2/3 of gross-up (F); changes to 11/18)	-	11.6	19.1
L NWT (30% of gross-up (F), proposed to 6.67 / 18)	-	5.2	11.6
M <b>Total DTC (K plus L)</b>	-	<b>16.8</b>	<b>30.7</b>
N Net PIT (J minus M)	43.1	20.6	12.7
<b>Total Tax paid</b>			
O Federal (B plus H minus K)	29.0	32.6	29.1
P NWT (C plus I minus L)	14.1	18.5	14.1
Q <b>Total Tax paid (O plus P)</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>43.2</b>





R(15)280906314

## **Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Exhibit Opening - *We Live Securely By the Land***

**YELLOWKNIFE (28 September, 2006)** – The newest exhibition at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre entitled *We Live Securely By the Land* will open on October 1st. The exhibition has been compiled by The Department of Education, Culture and Employment, in partnership with the Tlicho Government, the University of Dundee and National Museums Scotland.

The exhibition features selections from the Dene Collection of National Museums Scotland, the oldest and most extensive collection of 19<sup>th</sup> century Dene artifacts in the world today. It includes everyday Dene clothing and tools collected at Hudson Bay Company trading posts in the Mackenzie Valley during the 1850s. Collected at a time of momentous change in the history of Dene people, the exhibition includes items of ethnographic interest and visual appeal, while providing unique perspectives on Dene technology and art.

The collection focuses on Tlicho heritage artifacts; however, it also includes key pieces representative of other NWT Dene cultures. The exhibition provides a rare opportunity for Canadian audiences to view some of the most significant objects in National Museums Scotland's collection.

The exhibition is funded in part through the Museums Assistance Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage, and is sponsored by Canadian North. It is scheduled to open at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre on Sunday, October 1, 2006 at 2:30 pm. *We Live Securely By the Land* will be at the Northern Heritage Centre from October 2006 to August 2007.

For more information, contact:

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## Press Release

R(15)290906317

### Premier Issues Apology

**YELLOWKNIFE (29 September, 2006)** – Premier Handley met with Members of the Legislative Assembly this afternoon, where he issued the following statement.

“I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely apologize for remarks I made to a Canadian Press reporter related to the Edward Horne lawsuit currently before the courts.

It is clear to me I made a fundamental error of judgment when I entered into a conversation with the reporter about this issue. I have no excuse. I am an experienced politician and I should have known better. During a long conversation with the reporter he asked me about this, among other issues, and I responded without fully considering the ramifications of my response, especially to the brave and courageous people who came forward with these type of issues.

It was not my intention to denigrate or dismiss the suffering of those people who have ~~been abused, sexually or otherwise, by Mr. Horne or by any other person.~~ I deeply regret my remarks and the pain they have caused and I ask your forgiveness for my insensitivity and lack of judgment.”

The Premier will make no further comment on this issue.

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R(15)061206351

## 2006 - 2007 Recipients of the High Performance Athlete Grant

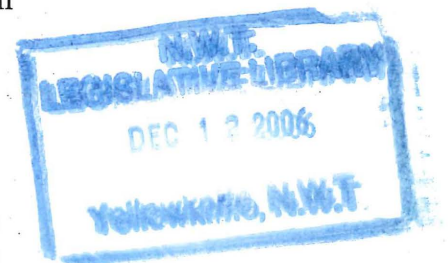
**YELLOWKNIFE (6 December 2006)** - The recipients of the 2006-2007 High Performance Athlete Grant were announced today by the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), and Abe Theil, President of the Sport North Federation.

"Through the High Performance Athlete Grant program, MACA and Sport North are able to provide enhanced support to our athletes as they pursue their goals and dreams around the world," said Minister McLeod. "This program offers Northwest Territories (NWT) athletes access to supportive funding, which allows them to dedicate even more effort to improving their performance."

"We are really excited about the High Performance Athlete Grant program. The demand for such a program has increased rapidly as the number of high caliber athletes produced in the NWT continues to grow," said Abe Theil. "The High Performance Athlete Grant program recognizes and addresses the needs of our athletes while demonstrating our commitment to support them in their pursuit of excellence."

The recipients for the High Performance Athlete Grant program for 2006-2007 are:

Tyrone Yukon	Boxing	Deline
Chris Stipdonk	Duathlon	Fort Simpson
Sarah Daitch	Cross Country Skiing	Fort Smith
Brandon Thompson	Volleyball	Fort Smith
Amy McDonald	Biathlon	Hay River
Brendan Green	Biathlon	Hay River
Dez Cassaway	Soccer	Lutselk'e
Michael Gilday	Speed Skating	Yellowknife
Mike Argue	Cross Country Skiing	Yellowknife
Jill Gilday	Speed Skating	Yellowknife
Andrew Matthews	Snowboarding	Yellowknife
Kelsey McDougall	Soccer	Yellowknife
Tyler Rentmeister	Hockey	Yellowknife
Graeme Ryder	Basketball	Yellowknife
Danielle Pontus	Badminton	Yellowknife
Thompson D'hont	Cross Country Skiing	Yellowknife





“I would like to thank MACA and Sport North for their financial support. It will help with the significant expenses involved in pursuing speed skating competitions at the highest levels in Canada,” said speed skater Michael Gilday. “By providing this funding, MACA and Sport North are supporting me to pursue my immediate goal - to be a member of the National Short Track Team.”

The High Performance Athlete Grant program provides financial support to high performance athletes from the NWT. The Sport North Federation and MACA jointly approve all recipients. More details on the High Performance Athlete Grant program can be found on the MACA website at [www.maca.gov.nt.ca](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca).

For more information, contact:

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