

# Northwest Territories Government Press Releases 2008

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R(16)111108029

## Changes to Employment Standards Effective April 1, 2008

**YELLOWKNIFE** (January 11, 2008) – Changes to Employment standards including a new *Employment Standards Act*, that was legislated in August of 2007, will become effective April 1, 2008.

“These changes are the result of many years of consultation and input by employees and employers,” said Minister Jackson Lafferty. “Employment in the Northwest Territories is growing and changing, and this new system of Employment Standards will better suit modern Northern employees and workplaces.”

In addition to the new *Employment Standards Act*, which combines the *Labour Standards Act*, *Wages Recoveries Act* and *Employment Agencies Act* into one modern and effective legislative framework, corresponding changes to regulations are currently in development, based on input gathered from a consultation paper that was also released today.

There have been previous public consultations on Employment Standards in the NWT, with the last initiated in 2004. During the same time period, the responsibility for Employment Standards has moved within the Government of the Northwest Territories from the Department of Justice, to Education, Culture and Employment.

For more detailed information on the changes to Employment standards, please refer to the attached backgrounder.

For more information, contact:

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



For R(16)110108029

## **Changes to Employment Standards in the NWT**

The *Employment Standards Act* provides a modern and effective legislative framework for employment standards in the NWT. The *Act* will come into effect on April 1, 2008.

The new *Act* is the result of extensive consultation with Northerners, including many employers, employer organizations, and labour organizations as well as individuals.

The *Employment Standards Act* combines the *Labour Standards Act*, *Wages Recoveries Act* and *Employment Agencies Act* into one modern and effective legislative framework.

Additionally, the *Act*:

- allows for certain employers and employees or classes of employers and employees to be exempted from the general standards of the *Act*;
- incorporates standards regarding employment of young persons, previously dealt with through regulations;
- establishes new days of rest requirements:

An employer must provide to every employee at least:

- One day of rest in each work week,
- Two consecutive days of rest in each period of two consecutive work weeks, or
- Three consecutive days of rest in each period of three consecutive work weeks;
- allows employees to receive lieu-time with pay instead of overtime, when employer and employee enter into an employee agreement:
  - Overtime agreements must have certain standards, set out in section 12 of the *Act*;
- provides for the establishment of a minimum wage by regulation;



- requires that employees be granted an annual vacation with vacation pay within 6 months following the first year of employment;
  - requires that employers provide the number of hours of statutory holiday pay, if applicable, on pay advice;
  - allows for employers to provide pay advice electronically in lieu of written pay advice;
  - establishes the right of employees to unpaid:
    - compassionate leave,
    - bereavement leave,
    - sick leave and
    - court leave;
  - requires that employers give advanced notice of termination to affected employees and their trade union where large numbers of employees are to be terminated at one time;
  - establishes a new complaints process and provides for the resolution of complaints by an Employment Standards Officer and provides the Employment Standards Officer with the authority to dismiss complaints in certain circumstances, including situations where the complaint can be addressed under the processes set out in a collective agreement or under the *Human Rights Act*;
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- establishes a new appeal process by which individual Adjudicators hear appeals of decisions made by the Employment Standards Officer;
  - ensures that employee wages continue to have priority over other claims against the employer, up to a maximum of \$7500 per employee; and
  - restricts access to information provided under the *Act* that could identify the parties to a complaint or appeal.

If you have questions about how the *Act* will affect you, please contact Labour Services at 1-888-700-5707 or in Yellowknife at 873-7486.



R(16)11010803

## 2008 Outstanding Volunteer Awards Open for Nominations

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 11, 2008)** – The 2008 Northwest Territories (NWT) Outstanding Volunteer Awards are open for nominations, the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) announced today.

MACA in partnership with Volunteer NWT annually pays tribute to volunteers by presenting the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards to individuals and groups who have improved the quality of life for NWT residents through significant voluntary commitment.

Awards are presented in the following categories:

- Youth
- Elder
- Group
- Individual

The deadline for nominations is Monday, March 17, 2008.

“The awards program recognizes the important contribution that volunteers make to our communities and the whole NWT,” said Minister McLeod. “Since 1991, these awards have been presented to individuals and organizations nominated by the public for their volunteer work. By drawing attention to these volunteers, the awards also highlight the role that all NWT volunteers play.”

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

For more information, contact:

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





R(16)140108031

## 2008 Get Winter Active Campaign Launched

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 14, 2008)** – The 2008 Get Winter Active Campaign was launched today by the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

“As we enter into what are often the coldest months of the year, it is important to remember that we need to stay active for our mental and physical wellbeing,” said Minister McLeod. “By incorporating daily physical activity into our families lives, we are leading by example and teaching our children to make healthy choices.”

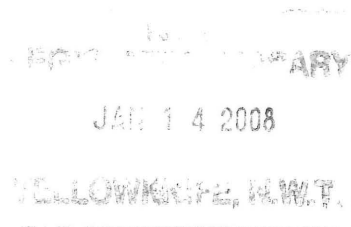
Created in 2007, Get Winter Active is designed to encourage communities to organize local events that support youth and their families to be more physically active. This year, Get Winter Active will run from January 14 to March 31, 2008. All kinds of physical activities are included in the challenge, for example: walking, snowshoeing, swimming or playing outside with your children.

There has been a change in the way the program is being run this year. In order to tailor the campaign to community needs and preferences, local champions have been recruited to act as community organizers for Get Winter Active Events. ~~These volunteers will be responsible for encouraging community participation in events designed to help residents Get Winter Active this year.~~

To find out who your local champion is or for more information on the campaign, check out the Get Winter Active website at [www.getactivenwt.ca](http://www.getactivenwt.ca).

For more information, contact:

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





R(16)180108032

## Plans Announced for French Single -Window Service Centre

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 18, 2008)** – A French single-window service centre will be piloted by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment in Yellowknife. Plans for the centre were publicly announced by Minister Jackson Lafferty today.

“This centre will provide French language GNWT services to NWT francophones,” said Minister Lafferty. “We are hoping it will be a model for future language-based service delivery in the NWT.”

Two full-time bilingual staff will offer non-specialized front-line services and information on GNWT department and agency programs and services in French. Services will be provided to francophones outside of Yellowknife through a toll-free number and website.

The centre will be an added point of service delivery, and will not replace any existing service delivery points of any department or agency of the GNWT. In order to better meet the public demand for services and information, the services and information provided at the centre will be flexible and change according to customer needs.

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It is hoped that the centre will open its doors for business in late spring of 2008, although plans are dependent on finding appropriate office space. An official name for the centre also has yet to be chosen.

Funding for this pilot project is being provided by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

For more information, contact:

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



R(16)170108033

## Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers Address Emergency Management Priorities

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 17, 2008)** - The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister responsible for emergency management, along with his provincial/territorial colleagues, met with the federal Minister of Public Safety, the Honourable Stockwell Day, in Halifax on January 9, 2008, to discuss several key emergency management issues.

“This event provided an excellent opportunity to discuss common areas of interest with my provincial/territorial counterparts and to encourage the federal government to continue work on topics that are important to all NWT residents” said Minister McLeod.

Discussions during the meeting have resulted in the implementation of the following measures that will improve Canada’s overall emergency management system:

- Discussion about the National Disaster Mitigation Strategy provided a basis for a national approach to eliminate or reduce the impacts of hazards to save lives, protect property and preserve the environment.
- Officials were directed to continue their work on proposals for disaster financial assistance for non-natural disasters and to streamline the existing processes for providing financial assistance after natural disasters.
- Ministers continued discussions from the 2007 national meeting on enhancing public alerting capabilities across the country. Ministers agreed to instruct their officials to continue work with the broadcasting industry to establish a Canadian public alerting system to be operational by 2010.
- A national strategy and action plan for critical infrastructure protection was also discussed as a means to establish a framework for governments and the private sector to move forward collaboratively on critical infrastructure protection.

Ministers also discussed the importance of the ongoing work in pandemic planning, best practices and aboriginal emergency management.

The next federal, provincial and territorial ministers’ meeting on emergency management will be held next year in Alberta.

For more information, contact:

Amy Hacala  
Communications and Policy Advisor  
Municipal and Community Affairs





R(16)210108034

## Public Consultation on Waste Reduction and Recovery Program Expansion

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 21, 2008)** – The launch of public consultation to expand the Waste Reduction and Recovery Program in the Northwest Territories (NWT) was announced today by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Michael Miltenberger.

The consultations will determine what new waste products northerners would like to see recovered and recycled in the NWT. Under the Waste Reduction and Recovery Act (WRRRA) the Government of the Northwest Territories can develop and implement programs to reduce waste and to recycle products and materials.

“We want to build on the success of the Beverage Container Program by asking residents what new waste products they would like to be recovered,” said Minister Miltenberger.

A public discussion document, *To All NWT Residents – Help Decide What New Waste Products to Recycle Across the NWT*, provides information on the benefits of waste reduction and recycling and asks for input and advice on what new products should be added to the territory-wide program. ~~Products under review are waste electronics, tires, lead acid batteries, fuel drums/scrap metal, plastic grocery bags, milk containers, and paper and cardboard.~~

Results of the consultations will be used to determine what, if any, new waste materials should be collected and recycled in the NWT.

A copy of the discussion paper and a background report can be found on-line at: <http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/eps/index.htm>

For more information, please contact:

Environmental Protection Division  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
Tel: (867) 873-7654  
Fax: (867) 873-0221  
Email: [nwtrecycle@gov.nt.ca](mailto:nwtrecycle@gov.nt.ca)





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# News Release

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## **BUILDING CANADA: CANADA AND THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES SIGN \$245 MILLION INFRASTRUCTURE AGREEMENT**

*Kakisa River Bridge Replacement Project identified as a priority for funding under  
Building Canada*

**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, February 21, 2008** — The governments of Canada and Northwest Territories today announced the signing of a Framework Agreement worth \$245.8 million under Building Canada, the Government of Canada's new long-term infrastructure plan. This investment will help address public infrastructure needs and priorities in the Northwest Territories.

The Honourable Diane Ablonczy, Secretary of State (Small Business and Tourism) and Member of Parliament for Calgary-Nose Hill, on behalf of the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, and the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Public Works and Services, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, and Minister Responsible for Youth, for the Government of the Northwest Territories, participated in today's announcement. They were joined by the Honourable Norman Yakeleya, Minister of Transportation, Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, and Minister Responsible for Seniors, for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The governments of Canada and Northwest Territories also indicated that the Kakisa River Bridge Replacement Project will be a priority for funding under Building Canada. The project includes the replacement of the 50-year old bridge with a new 179-metre long, three-span, two-lane bridge. The total estimated cost of the Kakisa Bridge Replacement Project is \$18 million.

"The signing of a Framework Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories will result in significant infrastructure initiatives which will strengthen the territory's economy and communities, and contribute to a cleaner environment," said Secretary of State Ablonczy. "The Kakisa River Bridge Replacement Project is an important step toward ensuring residents of the Northwest Territories have modern, safe and efficient infrastructure."

"This agreement is a significant step forward in addressing the Northwest Territories' overall infrastructure deficit," said Minister McLeod. "The enhanced investment in our transportation infrastructure, and in infrastructure that supports the delivery of essential



services at the community level, will increase the quality of life for all residents. We look forward to finalizing a funding agreement with the Government of Canada so that we can proceed with critical priority projects.”

Through combining the Building Canada Fund and \$25 million per year in Base Funding (provided to each province and territory), an allocation of \$185.8 million will be available through to 2014 to help address core infrastructure priorities at both the territorial and community level. The federal government will contribute 75 per cent for public infrastructure, while the Territories will contribute an additional 25 per cent. An additional \$60 million will flow to communities in the Northwest Territories through the extension of the Gas Tax Fund agreement from 2010 to 2014, bringing the total infrastructure funding under the agreement to over \$245 million.

The Canada-Northwest Territories Framework Agreement outlines how the Building Canada plan will operate in the territory. The two governments have agreed that community infrastructure will be one of the priorities for investment under Building Canada. The two governments will work together to address infrastructure priorities, such as water, wastewater, green energy, regional and community airports, community and intercommunity access roads. Through the Agreement, the two governments will also establish a mechanism for reporting to Canadians on the results of these investments.

Through its unprecedented \$33-billion Building Canada infrastructure plan, the Government of Canada will provide long-term, stable and predictable funding to help meet infrastructure needs across Canada. Building Canada will support a stronger, safer and better country.

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For further information on the Building Canada plan, visit [www.buildingcanada.gc.ca](http://www.buildingcanada.gc.ca)

For further information contact:

Karine White  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Minister of Transport,  
Infrastructure and Communities  
613-991-0700

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

Infrastructure Canada  
613-948-1148



R(16)220108035

## Premier Roland Discusses Government Priorities

**YELLOWKNIFE (22 January, 2008)** - Plans to meet the vision, goals and priorities of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) were discussed at a media conference today by Premier Floyd Roland and Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, MLA, Chair of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning.

“Members of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly have developed a vision, goals and a set of priorities that take a long-term view of the future of the Northwest Territories,” said Premier Roland. “Now it’s the government’s task to put us on the right path to meet the Assembly’s goals.”

“Committee Members agree it is financially prudent for a new government to evaluate their spending to ensure that our limited financial resources are being directed to the programs, services and infrastructure of highest priority, effectiveness and benefit to northerners,” said Mrs. Groenewegen.

Premier Roland said he has asked Ministers to review departments existing programs and services to ensure they are relevant to the priorities of the Assembly and that we are living within our means. At the same time Ministers will consider some significant investments in programs, services and infrastructure to meet the Assembly’s priorities.

Changes will be presented in the first Budget session of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly scheduled to take place May 21 to June 19, 2008.

“We are working towards a clear plan to meet this Assembly’s key priorities,” said Premier Roland. “We firmly believe the end result will be an improved public service able to achieve our priorities and better serve the people of the Northwest Territories.”

For more information contact:

Julia Mott  
Coordinator, Cabinet Communications  
Office of the Premier  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
(867) 669-2304  
(867) 445-5669 cell





R(16)240108036

## ENR and Canadian Boreal Initiative Sign MOU

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 24, 2008)** – Northwest Territories (NWT) boreal wildlife and protected areas Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed today by Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Minister Michael Miltenberger and Canadian Boreal Initiative (CBI) Executive Director Larry Innes.

“This agreement recognizes the significance of Canada’s Boreal region to our communities, wildlife and economy as well as Canada as a whole and acknowledges the value of working together with partners such as the Canadian Boreal Initiative to conserve NWT lands, wildlife and waters,” said Minister Miltenberger.

“The NWT is a leading jurisdiction within Canada in developing balanced solutions for conservation and sustainable use,” said Larry Innes, Executive Director of CBI. “We look forward to identifying projects we can jointly support to help advance those solutions.”

CBI works with First Nations, governments, conservation organizations, industry leaders and others to link science, policy and conservation solutions across Canada’s Boreal Forest. For more information, please visit [www.borealcanada.ca](http://www.borealcanada.ca).

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Under the four-year MOU, ENR and the CBI will cooperate on mutually beneficial initiatives relating to boreal wildlife and protected areas.

For more information, contact:

Judy McLinton  
Public Affairs and Communications  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Tel: 867-873-7379  
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Website: [www.enr.gov.nt.ca](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca)





**Plane Crashes near Fort Simpson, all Aboard are Safe**  
**R(16)037** - Monday, January 28, 2008[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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**YELLOWKNIFE (28 January, 2008)** – This morning at approximately 10:55, a Simpson Air Cessna 206 with a pilot and two passengers crashed near the Fort Simpson Airport. At 10:56, the pilot made contact with the Community Aerodrome Radio Station in Fort Simpson indicating that all on board were safe. Fort Simpson RCMP, ambulance, fire department, and airport staff responded, and Wolverine Air, Great Slave Helicopter and Canadian Helicopters began an aerial search.

After a search of approximately a half hour, the crash site was located. A Great Slave Helicopter picked up the pilot and passengers and transported them to the Fort Simpson Community Health Centre to be assessed. They are being treated for the effects of the cold, but have not suffered other injuries.

For further information:

Earl Blacklock  
Manager of Public Affairs and Communications  
(867) 873-7712  
(867) 445-3494 (Cell)  
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R(16)310108038

## Yamória comes to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

**YELLOWKNIFE (31 January, 2008)** – Yamória, *the one who travels* is coming to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC), beginning this Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The exhibit features Yamória stories from Dene regions throughout the Northwest Territories. Stories of this legendary traveller and lawmaker are told in multiple ways: through art, artifacts, oral recordings, an animated video, a puzzle, story panels and a map. The exhibit also celebrates Northern oral traditions and presents portraits of respected Dene storytellers.

A few of the many highlights of the exhibit are:

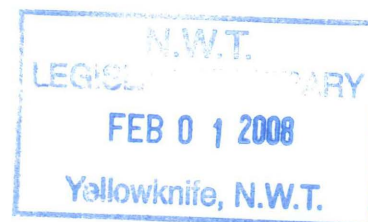
- a series of paintings by Archie Beaulieu commissioned by the Yellowknife Catholic School Board, and now acquired by the PWNHC, that tell the Tłıchǵ legend of *Yamǵǵzha and His Beaver Wife*.
- CBC North Radio One's Yamória series, produced by Dave Miller, featuring elders telling *Yamǵǵzha* and Yamória stories in Tłıchǵ and North Slavey available inside a listening tipi with photo portraits of the storytellers taken by Northern photographer Tessa Macintosh.
- A series of story panels from across the NWT featuring stories and artifacts
- A giant beaver display

*Yamória, the one who travels* launches this Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00 to 5:00 PM at the Prince of Wales, in a family event that will include the launch of the book *Yamǵǵzha and His Beaver Wife*, interactive displays and games, and beaver tails.

There may be opportunities for members of the media to schedule an advanced preview of the exhibit on Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

For more information, contact:

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





R(16)080208039

## **New Intersection Lights on Highway 3 at the Behchoko Turnoff**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 8, 2008)** - New intersection lights at the Behchoko turnoff will help improve safety on Highway 3.

The installation was the result of a cooperative effort between the Community Government of Behchoko, the Department of Transportation, and the NWT Power Corporation. The lights were identified as a priority under the Road Safety Improvement Program, which examines possible safety improvements to roadways and intersections. Among the considerations taken into account are whether the improvement would improve sightlines, visibility, and vehicle control, as well as whether the program's resources would be used efficiently.

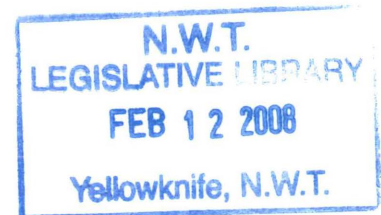
Transportation Minister Norman Yakeleya, who is also the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, sees this collaboration as an example of how government agencies can work together to address community needs. "This installation is important to the community because it has the potential to greatly improve pedestrian and vehicle safety," said Minister Yakeleya. "Safety is always our government's main concern and I commend Chief Leon Lafferty and MLA Jackson Lafferty for calling for this improvement."

Jackson Lafferty, MLA for Monfwi including the community of Behchoko, welcomed the joint cooperation that led to this installation. "It is great news for the community of Behchoko and the traveling public. My constituents called in for this safety improvement and our government listened and acted", he said.

The Department of Transportation will continue to look for opportunities to work with communities and others to improve roadway safety.

For further information, please contact:

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# News Release

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## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES JOINS BIZPAL

YELLOWKNIFE, Northwest Territories, February 21, 2008 — Starting and running a business in the Northwest Territories will become easier thanks to BizPaL, a new online business permit and licence service that saves time spent on paperwork and helps entrepreneurs start up faster.

Today, the Honourable Diane Ablonczy, Secretary of State (Small Business and Tourism), on behalf of the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Industry, together with the Honourable Bob McLeod, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment for the Northwest Territories, welcomed the addition of the Northwest Territories to the BizPaL initiative by signing a multi-jurisdictional memorandum of understanding formally acknowledging a shared commitment to the BizPaL initiative.

“The Government of Canada is pleased to be working with the Government of the Northwest Territories to promote a more competitive and productive local economy by providing easy access to essential information and reducing paperwork costs for business,” said Secretary of State Ablonczy. “With BizPaL, Northern entrepreneurs will find it simpler and easier to tap the tremendous economic potential in the Northwest Territories.”

“Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is pleased to invest in the BizPaL project,” said the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. “The project will help entrepreneurs access detailed and customized information about permits and licensing online. It will enhance business development and support economic growth in the Northwest Territories.”

“I look forward to adding this multi-partnered initiative to the list of programs and services delivered by our government in support of small business,” Minister McLeod said. “This initiative reflects not only our priority to support the development of sustainable local economies, but also to seek out more client-focused, service-oriented approaches to delivering government information to Northwest Territories residents.”

BizPaL is an innovative project that provides entrepreneurs with simplified access to the information on permits and licences that they need to establish and run their businesses. This unique partnership among federal, provincial, territorial, regional and local governments is designed to cut through the paperwork burden and red tape that small business owners encounter.





The Government of the Northwest Territories is leading the implementation of BizPaL in the Northwest Territories, the eighth partner to add its signature to the memorandum of understanding. Others are the Yukon, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia. The Northwest Territories is looking forward to working with municipalities to offer the BizPaL service. Visit [bizpal.ca](http://bizpal.ca) for additional project history, information and access to the websites of participating partners.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

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R(16)270208041

## 2008 Federal Budget Contains Good News for Northerners

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 27, 2008)** – Yesterday’s federal Budget offered a number of initiatives that will benefit the North, said Northwest Territories (NWT) Premier and Minister of Finance Floyd Roland.

“The Budget tabled yesterday afternoon is a stay the course budget, given the uncertainties surrounding the Canadian economy, but it does take some steps to address NWT priorities,” Premier Roland said.

The federal Budget announced a 10 per cent increase, or \$547, in the residency component of the Northern Residents Deduction, starting in 2008. The Deduction was introduced in 1988 to improve the fairness of the tax system and increase incentives for Canadians to live in the North, but has not been increased since then.

The Premier said he is pleased that the federal Minister has agreed to increase this Deduction. “This is an issue I raised personally with my provincial and territorial Finance colleagues, and with Minister Flaherty,” he said. “This increase in the Northern Residents Deduction is a good first step. It helps make the tax system fairer for Northerners who have to cope with the higher cost of living and encourages people to live and work here.”

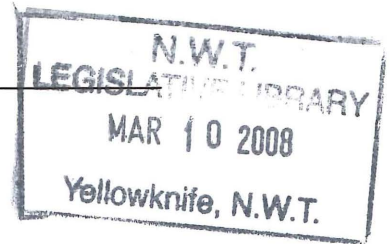
The Budget also provides additional funding for the provinces and territories for recruitment of police officers and for investment in public transit infrastructure. The Budget’s announcement making the Gas Tax funding to municipalities permanent will help provide a stable source of infrastructure funding for NWT communities. This program provides approximately \$7.5 million annually to communities in the NWT.

“The federal Budget provides some good news for Northerners. We appreciate the Government of Canada listening to our concerns and continuing to pay attention to Northern priorities,” said Premier Roland.

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R(16)270208042

## Additional Funds to help NWT Tourism Industry meet Global Trends

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 7, 2008)** - Twelve proposals received under the new Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Program were announced today by the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod.

The Program, launched in January 2008, provides assistance to members of the Northwest Territories (NWT) tourism industry to support business planning, product and product package development, as well as marketing, in light of changing tourism trends.

“This Program provides industry operators with the means to re-invent or expand their tourism products to better meet trends and demands that we anticipate will provide growth for our tourism industry in the future,” said Minister McLeod.

Under the GNWT’s Tourism 2010 Strategy, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment and NWT Tourism have completed research and analysis on global tourism trends, product development, potential markets, and the capacity of the NWT’s tourism industry.

A large and growing market has been identified among high-income baby boomers in Canada, and around the world, for authentic travel experiences that will put them in touch with nature,

“The rugged, pristine and isolated nature of the Northwest Territories is a perfect fit for these travellers,” said Minister McLeod. “Our wilderness, wildlife, Aboriginal culture, fresh air and country foods all appeal to this targeted audience.”

Of the 12 proposals announced today, three are from the Dehcho Region, seven from the North Slave, one from the Sahtu and two from the South Slave. Most of the proposals requested assistance for business planning. In total, \$319,000 will be provided to Tourism Operators in the current fiscal year. Of this amount, NWT Tourism received \$150,000 for a cooperative advertising program, which will allow our northern tourism operators to partner at a partner at a significantly reduced cost with NWT Tourism in ad placements.

The Department is also offering to work with applicants who were not successful to ensure that their proposals can be considered in time for the next Banking Day (April 15, 2008).

In 2006, tourism revenues in Canada totalled \$66.8 billion. In the Northwest Territories, tourism revenues for 2006-2007 were over \$113.6 million.

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Industry, Tourism and Investment  
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Ron Ostrom  
Director of Marketing  
NWT Tourism  
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FOR RELEASE  
R(16)110308043

**NORTHERN HEALTH MINISTERS TELL AWG ATHLETES TO “PLAY STRONG”**

**WHITEHORSE (March 11, 2008)** - A pan-territorial health education initiative to coincide with the 2008 Arctic Winter Games, which opened Sunday in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (NWT) was announced today by the three northern health ministers.

Health Ministers Sandy Lee from NWT, Leona Aglukkaq from Nunavut and Yukon's Brad Cathers launched *Play Strong*, a health promotion initiative aimed at the athletes, aged 13 to 19 years, and designed to give them age-appropriate information on a variety of topics including healthy eating, peer pressure, bullying, smoking, safe sex practices and alcohol abuse.

This is the first joint project under the pan territorial mass media initiative funded by the Territorial Health Access Fund. The intent of the initiative is to undertake joint projects that will improve health throughout the north.

“Our youth face the same or similar problems across the North,” Cathers said. “We need to provide strong, positive and consistent messages throughout our three jurisdictions. By working together, we can share resources and reach northern youth from one end of the country to the other. Alone, we can't afford to do the kinds of things we can do collaboratively.”

NWT Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee said “It is our view that these young athletes represent a positive force of change for a healthier future in the North. We're extremely pleased to partner with Yukon and Nunavut in this health promotion initiative to empower northern youth to be true champions, in athletics as well as health and well-being.”

The Play Strong campaign is an extension of last year's *Play safe, Play hard* campaign for the 2007 Canada Winter Games. In both campaigns, athletes are encouraged to play strong on the field of play and in their lives.

“The campaign is youth-oriented and information cards build on very random statements to catch the athlete's attention,” added Cathers.

All 1800 AWG athletes received safety kits comprised of a light-weight cinch bag that contains message cards and buttons on healthy eating and drinking; hand washing and respiratory etiquette; information on peer pressure, alcohol and tobacco; basic information on sexually transmitted infection and injury prevention. Bags also include a healthy snack, a t-shirt; and other goodies.

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## News Release

R(16)170308044

### Notice of Winter Road Closures

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 17, 2008)** - Winter road access to the communities of Trout Lake and Nahanni Butte will close at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, March 26. The Mackenzie Valley winter road system beginning at Wrigley and affecting the communities of Tulita, Deline, Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope, and Colville Lake, as well as the N'Dulee Ice Crossing, is expected to close for the season at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, April 1. Prior to these closures, travel may be restricted to night travel only, from 10 p.m. to 10 a.m. If conditions warrant, these roads may shut down sooner than planned with little or no notice.

Drivers are advised that these roads may not be suitable for small vehicles. The Department of Transportation reminds all motorists to drive with caution, watch for overflow and rough conditions, and limit your speed as appropriate for the road conditions.

For current information on the status of Northwest Territories public highways, winter roads, ice crossings, and ferries, visit the Department of Transportation Website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca).

For further information, please contact:

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Department of Transportation  
Phone: (867) 873-7712





2 (16) 280308045

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# News Release

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## **Governments of Canada and Northwest Territories partner to put more police on our streets**

**OTTAWA, March 28, 2008** –The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, on behalf of the Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety, and the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Justice for Northwest Territories, today announced that the Government of Canada will provide the Northwest Territories with \$800,000 over five years as part of a new Police Officers Recruitment Fund. This Fund supports the Government of Canada’s national effort to recruit 2,500 police officers and provides flexibility to the provinces and territories in hiring additional personnel across the country.

“The Government’s most important duty is the protection of Canadians against threats to their safety and security, and our Government has been taking action where needed to get the job done,” said Minister Strahl. “By making funding available to support the recruitment of new front-line police officers, we are delivering on a key platform commitment to enhance community safety. I am pleased we are partnering with Northwest Territories to strengthen law enforcement in the region.”

“Community safety is a priority of the Government of the Northwest Territories and all our residents,” said Minister Lafferty. “In the north, the RCMP plays a vital role in addressing crime and underlying social issues. These funds will contribute to our government’s actions to improve policing services in our small communities.”

Budget 2008 has created a third-party trust fund of up to \$400 million to be allocated proportionally. Each province and territory – in recognition of their jurisdiction over policing – is responsible for distributing funds to municipal and provincial/territorial police services. The provincial and territorial governments are encouraged to report directly to their residents on the expenditures and outcomes on the implementation of this initiative in hiring additional officers.

Tackling crime and strengthening the security of Canadians are paramount responsibilities for the Government of Canada. The introduction of the Police Officers Recruitment Fund further demonstrates that the Government takes these responsibilities seriously by providing assistance to the provinces and territories for the recruitment of 2,500 additional front-line police officers.

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For more information, please visit the website [www.publicsafety.gc.ca](http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca).



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Minister of Public Safety  
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Laura Seddon  
Director, Policy and Planning  
Department of Justice  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
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# Communiqué

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## **Les gouvernements du Canada et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest ont signé une entente visant à augmenter le nombre de policiers dans nos rues**

**OTTAWA, le 28 mars 2008** – L'honorable Chuck Strahl, ministre des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien et interlocuteur fédéral auprès des Métis et des Indiens non inscrits, au nom de l'honorable Stockwell Day, ministre de la Sécurité publique, et l'honorable Jackson Lafferty, ministre de la Justice des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, ont annoncé aujourd'hui que le gouvernement du Canada verserait au gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest la somme de 800 000 \$ sur cinq ans dans le cadre du nouveau Fonds de recrutement de policiers. Ce Fonds appuie les efforts déployés par le gouvernement du Canada à l'échelle nationale en vue de recruter 2 500 agents de police supplémentaires et accorde aux provinces et aux territoires la marge de manœuvre nécessaire pour embaucher du personnel supplémentaire dans l'ensemble du pays.

« La responsabilité la plus importante du gouvernement consiste à protéger les Canadiens et les Canadiennes contre les menaces pour leur sécurité, et notre gouvernement a pris les mesures nécessaires en ce sens, a déclaré le ministre Strahl. En investissant dans le recrutement de nouveaux agents de police de première ligne, nous remplissons un engagement clé que nous avons pris dans notre plateforme électorale dans le but d'accroître la sécurité des collectivités. Je suis heureuse que nous établissions aujourd'hui un partenariat avec les Territoires du Nord-Ouest pour renforcer la sécurité publique dans cette province. »

« La sécurité des collectivités est une priorité du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest et de tous nos résidents, a déclaré le ministre Lafferty. Dans les régions du nord, la GRC joue un rôle essentiel dans la lutte contre la criminalité et les problèmes sociaux sous-jacents. Ces fonds permettront au gouvernement de prendre des mesures visant à améliorer les services de police dans les petites collectivités. »

Dans le Budget de 2008, le gouvernement a prévu une somme de 400 millions de dollars devant être répartie proportionnellement. Comme la police relève de leur compétence, les provinces et les territoires distribueront les fonds aux services de police municipaux et provinciaux/territoriaux. On encourage les gouvernements provinciaux et territoriaux à rendre compte directement à leur population des dépenses et des résultats liés à la mise en œuvre de cette initiative dans le recrutement d'agents de police supplémentaires.

La lutte contre la criminalité et le renforcement de la sécurité de la population canadienne sont des responsabilités cruciales pour le gouvernement du Canada. La mise en place du Fonds de recrutement de policiers montre que le gouvernement accorde beaucoup





d'importance à ces responsabilités en fournissant de l'aide aux provinces et aux territoires pour qu'ils puissent recruter 2 500 policiers de première ligne supplémentaire.

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Pour plus de renseignements, visiter le site [www.securitepublique.gc.ca](http://www.securitepublique.gc.ca).

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Directrice, Politiques et planification  
Ministère de la Justice  
Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest  
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R(16)310308046

## **2008 Aviation Career Development Program Scholarships**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 1, 2008)** – Applications are now being accepted for \$5,000 scholarships under the 2008 Aviation Career Development Program. This is the first intake of the 2008 bursary year. Students who are planning to enter aviation-related full-time studies in a program that begins by September 30, 2008 are eligible to apply in this intake.

Each year, the Department of Transportation joins with Canadian North, Discovery Air, and Adlair Aviation to provide twelve \$5,000 scholarships for NWT students attending full-time training leading to an aviation-related career in the North.

The bursaries are financed each year by \$60,000 in contributions from each of the partners. Canadian North contributes \$20,000, Discovery Air and Adlair Air each contribute \$5,000, and the Department of Transportation contributes \$30,000.

For 2008, there are an additional four bursaries that are available after the partners decided to carry forward the funds that were not disbursed in 2007. Eight bursaries are available in the first intake, and eight in the second for programs that begin after October 1, 2008.

Minister of Transportation Norman Yakeleya said “This program is a great success story. It is helping our young people receive the training they need to be part of the growing aviation industry in the NWT.” Minister Yakeleya also acknowledged the contribution of the Northern Air Transport Association (NATA), which represents all of the North’s aviation industry. “NATA has provided valuable guidance on the needs of the northern aviation industry. One of their priorities is to have more northerners fill northern aviation positions, and this program will assist greatly in meeting that objective.”

Major sponsor Canadian North knows how valuable it is to be able to hire qualified northerners to fill positions in the North. Kelly Kaylo, Vice President for Passenger Product and Sales, said “We’re pleased to be able to support the training of NWT residents to work in our industry. We have already benefited from hiring recipients of the Aviation Career Development Program, and we expect we will continue to see benefits in the years to come.”



Discovery Air, which owns two of the NWT's principal aviation companies (Air Tindi and Great Slave Helicopters) also sees long-term benefits arising from their participation in funding the program. Spokesperson Adam Bembridge said, "Our industry is growing each year, and there's an urgent need for trained professionals to fill a wide range of positions in northern aviation. We're proud to be part of a program that helps meet that need."

Adlair Aviation's contribution to the program will now be named the Willy Laserich Memorial Scholarship in honour of Adlair's founder. President and General Manager Paul Laserich said, "My father spent 55 years in northern aviation, and he loved every minute of it. We welcome the opportunity, in his memory, to give someone else the opportunity to pursue his passion."

Information about the Aviation Career Development Program, including application forms, can be found on the Department of Transportation website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca)

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Paul Laserich  
President and General Manager  
Adlair Aviation  
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Adam Bembridge  
Director  
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Executive Director  
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R(16)080408047

## The Three Northern Territories Jointly Release “Northern Connections: A Multi-Modal Transportation Blueprint for the North”

OTTAWA (April 8, 2008) –The Ministers Responsible for Transportation for Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories have jointly released **Northern Connections: A Multi-Modal Transportation Blueprint for the North**. The transportation blueprint outlines a vision for the development of northern transportation infrastructure to address the northern infrastructure deficit, promote economic development and build sustainable northern communities.

The document was prepared to complement and build upon the northern components included in the national transportation strategy: **Looking to the Future: A Plan for Investing in Canada’s Transportation System** released by the Council of the Federation in December 2005.

“The northern transportation system of the future must support economic development, connect communities to each other and to the South, and provide enhanced sovereignty and security in Canada’s North,” Yukon Highways and Public Works Minister Archie Lang stated.

“Investment in the northern transportation system is required to meet the demands of the North’s booming economy and to promote economic diversification opportunities for northern communities. The recently announced federal Building Canada Fund will enable us to continue addressing the north’s infrastructure needs,” said Transportation Minister Norman Yakeleya of the Northwest Territories

Minister Patterk Netser of Nunavut added, “The Building Canada Fund is a good start to providing the long term funding to address the unique needs and priorities of the North. Investment in transportation infrastructure will help facilitate a prosperous and sustainable future for northerners.”

**Northern Connections** not only identifies the ways in which the northern territories and their residents would benefit from investment in transportation infrastructure, but also how all Canadians stand to gain from true ‘northern connections’ that are established, maintained and improved to connect Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

Yukon Highways and Public Works officials, Yakeleya and Netser are currently in Ottawa attending the Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation meetings.





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R(16)110408048

## Mackenzie River Crossing at Fort Providence to Close on Monday

**YELLOWKNIFE (11 April, 2008)** – The Mackenzie River ice crossing on Highway 3 at Fort Providence will close today at 5 p.m. for cars and other small vehicles with low clearance, and will shut down to all traffic on Monday, April 14 at noon.

Restricting the access of vehicles with low clearance is a necessary safety precaution to prevent small vehicles from getting stuck or damaged by holes or ruts in the surface. There is considerable melting on approaches to and surface of the ice crossing which could lead to problems controlling a vehicle.

All drivers are advised to use extra caution and to slow down on the ice crossing and its approaches, particularly when approaching open water or areas that have ruts.

Safety is the first consideration in any decision to close an ice crossing. If the condition of the ice crossing deteriorates faster than expected, the crossing could close sooner than Monday with little or no notice.

Other closures took effect today. The winter road to the Tlicho communities of Whati and Gameti closed at 10:00, as did the ice crossing between Yellowknife and Dettah.

Ice crossings over the Liard and Mackenzie River near Fort Simpson and Wrigley remain open but are showing signs of deterioration. Afternoon travel should be avoided if possible. A decision on the closure of the crossings is expected on Monday, April 14, to take effect later in the same week.

The Dempster and Beaufort ice crossings and ice roads are in good driving condition, and their status is being reviewed regularly.

Up-to-date information on the status of NWT public highways, ferry and ice crossings, and winter roads 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).

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## News Release

R(16)150408049

### **Premier Floyd Roland Congratulates Nellie Cournoyea on the Awarding of the Governor General's Northern Medal**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 15, 2008)** – On behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories, Premier Floyd Roland, congratulates Nellie Cournoyea on receiving the Governor General's Northern Medal.

“Ms. Cournoyea has made an enormous contribution to the North throughout her career,” Premier Roland said. “Her work as Premier of the Northwest Territories and through organizations such as the Committee for Original Peoples' Entitlement and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation has helped to draw national and international attention to the rights of Aboriginal peoples and to the Northwest Territories as a vital part of Canada. I am pleased that Ms. Cournoyea is being recognized today for her efforts on behalf of her people and all residents of the Northwest Territories.”

The Governor General's Northern Medal was created in 2005 and is awarded each year to a citizen whose actions and achievements have contributed to the evolution and constant reaffirmation of the Canadian North as part of our national identity. The Medal will be presented to Ms. Cournoyea by Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada in a ceremony today in Inuvik, Northwest Territories.

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R(16)210408050

## Outstanding Volunteer Awards Announced

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 21, 2008)** — The 2008 Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients were announced today by the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA). The outstanding volunteers will be honoured at a ceremony in Norman Wells during National Volunteer Week, April 27 to May 3, 2008.

“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 2008 are:

- Outstanding Elder Award – Mabel Collinson, Yellowknife
- Outstanding Youth Award – Taylor Reid, Hay River
- Outstanding Individual Award – George Tsetso, Nahanni Butte
- Outstanding Group Award – Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Inuvik

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, in partnership with Volunteer NWT, presents the Outstanding Volunteer Awards annually to individuals and groups who have helped improve the quality of life in the NWT through their work as volunteers. Award recipients are chosen through an open nomination process.

“The theme for National Volunteer Week 2008, “Volunteers, from Compassion to Action”, represents the inspiration that drives volunteers as they donate their time, energy and skills to better their communities”, said Bill Graham, Chair, Volunteer NWT. “National Volunteer Week is a great opportunity for all Northwest Territories residents to take action and celebrate the contributions of community volunteers”.

For further details about the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards and the 2008 award recipients, visit MACA’s website at [www.maca.gov.nt.ca](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca), or Volunteer NWT’s website at [www.volunteernwt.ca](http://www.volunteernwt.ca).

For more information:

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R(16)220408051

## Territorial Dementia Facility

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 22, 2008)** – A Territorial Dementia Facility will be built and operated in Yellowknife, the Minister of Health and Social Services, Honourable Sandy Lee announced today. The facility will include 28 beds along with a day program that can accommodate 5-8 clients. The day program will be operated by the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors (YACCS).

“The new Territorial Dementia Facility is a facility for all Northwest Territories residents. It will allow our seniors to stay in the Northwest Territories, closer to family and friends. We will no longer have to send residents to southern institutions or place them in facilities not designed for their needs,” said Minister Lee.

Continuing Care is a core service identified in the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Integrated Service Delivery Model. Its goal is to ensure long-term care and extended care support for people who cannot live at home and to help individuals to be as independent as possible and supported at a level of functioning that allows them to live in their own home.

The facility will be constructed by Nahanni Construction Ltd. under a community-driven partnership, which includes Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. According to Diavik’s President, Kim Truter, “We recognized that the dementia facility is a much needed facility that will remove tremendous family stress by having loved ones under appropriate care and close to home. At Diavik, we feel very strongly about contributing back to the community and in helping support healthy lifestyles.”

“YACCS is pleased to participate in this community partnership finding solutions to help address the issues and challenges of a growing number of NWT resident seniors diagnosed with Alzheimer Disease and related dementias,” said Dan Costache YACCS President.

The GNWT is providing \$15 million capital funding for this project. The community partnership of Nahanni Construction Ltd. and Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. are overseeing the building of the project.

A project unveiling event and photo opportunity will take place

Date: April 24th 2008

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Aven Manor Parking Lot





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R(16)240408052

## Appointment of Public Administrator at Stanton Territorial Health Authority

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 24, 2008)** – A new Public Administrator (PA) was appointed by Health and Social Services Minister Sandy Lee today for the Stanton Territorial Health Authority.

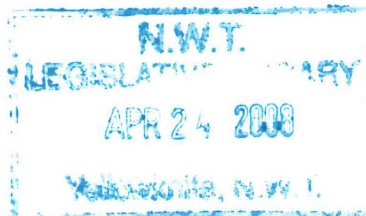
Effective immediately Mr. Al Woods replaces Ms. Brenda Johnson, and assumes responsibility for the management of the affairs of the Health Authority.

“I would like to thank Ms. Johnson for her work as PA and her continued contribution to the Northwest Territories (NWT) health and social service system as chair of the Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority. I would also like to welcome Mr. Woods, who brings a wealth of northern experience and is familiar with health and social service system in the NWT,” said Minister Lee.

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For more information, contact:

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## News Release

R(16)290408053

### Northwest Territories Fur Industry Takes Centre Stage

**MONTREAL (April 29, 2008)** – Speaking at the opening of the 2008 North American Fur Fair and Exhibition in Montreal, the Honourable Bob McLeod, Minister of Industry, Tourism, and Investment, endorsed the proud history of the Northwest Territories (NWT) trapping community and Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) support programs built on the time-honoured practices of passing on traditional skills and knowledge to the youth.

“We have seen the quality and demand for NWT furs at auction increase. Today, fur from the Northwest Territories is recognized as some of the finest wild fur in North America,” Minister McLeod said. “The on going support and success that the NWT fur industry has experienced in the international marketplace is reflected in the benefits that are being returned to our trappers and their communities.”

Sales results from NWT’s fur sales totaled \$822,000 at the February 18th auction of Fur Harvesters Auctions Incorporated and American Legend, up slightly from last year. Trappers from the NWT obtained top overall prices for this year’s auction of marten, mink, fisher, wolverine and weasel pelts, outperforming trappers from across the rest of Canada and the United States.

“It all bodes well for the trapping industry in the North, which was almost completely devastated just a few short years ago,” Minister McLeod said.

For many people in the NWT, trapping remains an important source of cash income and economic stability. The GNWT actively supports the harvesting and marketing of wild fur as a fundamental component of a modern and thriving economy. Continuing good auction results can be credited, in part, to Guaranteed Advances and the Prime Fur Bonus provided to NWT trappers under the GNWT - sponsored Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program.

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R(16)070508054

## Get Winter Active 2008 Wraps Up

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 7, 2008)** Cold temperatures and short days did not prevent Northwest Territories residents from getting active this winter. Today, the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Communities Affairs announced the results of the 2008 Get Winter Active campaign.

“Everyone should lead an active life. With Get Winter Active communities led the way using their knowledge about what motivates residents. Having local community champions on board made the winter campaign a great success,” said Minister McLeod.

Created in 2007, Get Winter Active is designed to encourage communities to organize local events that support youth and their families to be more physically active. This year, Get Winter Active ran from January 14 to March 31, 2008. The purpose of the campaign is to raise general public awareness of the health benefits of being physically active. Community champions volunteered their time to organize activities and to arrange for healthy snacks during events.

In 25 communities, led by 39 champions, approximately 4,000 residents skied, slid, snow-shoed, and played hockey, soccer, volleyball and basketball as part of Get Winter Active 2008. As with past campaigns, schools played a big role in promoting community involvement.

Campaign organizers were pleased to again receive sponsorship from First Air, who donated eight First Air passes as incentive prizes for individual participants and community champions. The following prizewinners each received two flight passes through a ballot draw:

- **Allan Browning (Community Champion)**, Hay River Reserve
- **Kelly Allinott**, Hay River
- **Soloman Crerve**, Yellowknife
- **Philip Elanik**, Aklavik

For more information: contact:

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## News Release

R(16)050508055

# Drivers Urged to Drive Safely Through Construction Zones

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 5, 2008)** – Drive Alive, the transportation safety information program of the Department of Transportation, reminds drivers to reduce speed and exercise caution as they pass road construction and highway crews on the streets and highways of the Northwest Territories.

May 4 - 10<sup>th</sup> is North American Occupational Health and Safety Week. The theme of this year's NAOSH Week is "*Start Today! Live it Every Day!*" Transportation Minister Norman Yakeleya says that is an appropriate theme to remember for drivers going through construction zones. "We should never forget, when we're driving past road construction crews, that we are driving through their work place", Minister Yakeleya said.

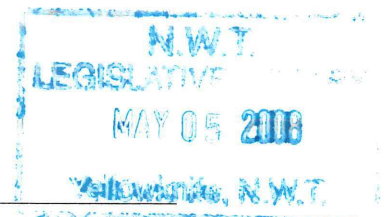
It is important at all times to obey the instructions of the flag person, watch for unexpected movement by crews and equipment, and reduce speed to the posted speed limit. Drivers who fail to exercise extra care and attention in construction zones risk the lives of not only highway workers, but also themselves and their passengers. More than half of those killed in work zone crashes are drivers and passengers as vehicles hit obstacles or drivers lose control.

According to the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, young workers are particularly vulnerable to injury and death while on the job. Minister Yakeleya says that's an extra reason to be careful in construction zones. "Our young people will not always have the experience to make the safest choice when they are working on a road", he says. "We should be willing to take a few more minutes to get to our destination if it means that each young worker arrives home safely every day."

Drive Alive is partnering with the Northern Construction Safety Association (NCSA) to promote awareness of the need to drive safely in road construction work areas. NCSA is working with contractors and employees to help ensure safe work practices are followed. Mike Ingram, the Executive Director of NCSA, says his members are committed to improving the safety of their employees. "Our members recognize that worker safety is a shared responsibility", he said. "We all have a duty to ensure the safety of highway crews, and we need to remember that responsibility each and every day."

For more information, contact:

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Department of Transportation  
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R(16)070508057

## **NWT Premier Roland Responds to Delayed Reporting of the JRP**

**YELLOWKNIFE (8 May, 2008)** – Northwest Territories Premier Floyd K. Roland has expressed disappointment at the further delay of the final report of the Joint Review Panel.

Premier Roland said, “While I appreciate this review is a large under-taking, constant delays have a negative impact on the project, and on the entire investment climate in the Northwest Territories (NWT). There is no signal to indicate when in 2009 the report will be prepared. As a government we want to invest in and diversify our economy and prepare for the pipeline. The time is right for this project to move ahead, continued delays in the process are not helpful.”

The Premier urged the Joint Review Panel to be as speedy as possible with their report so the process can move to the next stage and the National Energy Board can do it’s work. The Government of the Northwest Territories continues to support the project, which is vital to the future of NWT residents.

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R(16)140508058

## **Merv Hardie Ferry Operating With Limited Hours**

**FORT PROVIDENCE (May 14, 2008)** – Operations of the Merv Hardie ferry, which crosses the Mackenzie River near Fort Providence, have commenced. The ferry is operating on an "on demand" basis for 13 hours daily. The hours of operation will be 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily

Operating hours are being restricted to permit the most effective use of available crewmembers and to ensure all safety and regulatory requirements are met. The Department of Transportation's (DOT) Marine services are continuing efforts to recruit Marine Engineers, a position for which there is currently a shortage.

Travelers are reminded that ferry approaches may be slippery, and to drive with extra care on approaches and when driving on and off the ferry.

Ice conditions may cause occasional disruptions in service, so travelers requiring the ferry service are advised to check road and ferry conditions prior to departure. Up-to-date information on ferry conditions throughout the Northwest Territories is available on the DOT website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca/\\_live/pages/wpPages/ferries.aspx](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/ferries.aspx).

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Department of Transportation  
Phone: (867) 873-7712



R(16)140508059

## US Polar Bear Ruling Will Affect NWT Residents

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 14, 2008)** – Today’s decision by the United States (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service to list polar bears as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act will have an affect on Inuvialuit communities.

“It is ironic that, once again, decisions made in other countries are affecting the ability of Aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories (NWT) to benefit economically from one of the best managed species in the world,” said Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Minister Michael Miltenberger about the decision. “We are working with the Government of Canada to find a practical solution to the listing that will continue to allow legally harvested polar bears to be imported to the United States.”

Inuvialuit communities were issued 103 polar bear tags in 2007-2008. Thirty-seven of the tags are designated for outfitted polar bear hunts. The majority of the hunters for these outfitted hunts, which generate about \$700,000 for Inuvialuit communities, are U.S. citizens.

“While climate change is affecting parts of the Arctic,” said Miltenberger, “Canadian polar bears, and the NWT population in particular, are not on the verge of extinction”.

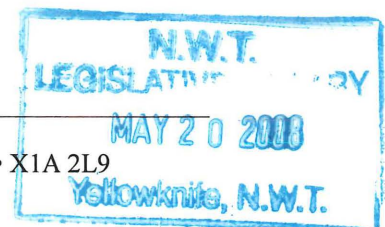
Recently, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada recommended polar bears remain a species of special concern, the same status it has had since 1991.

There are 13 populations of polar bears in Canada. Each Canadian population is managed and monitored separately.

Polar bears are co-managed in the NWT. The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), established through the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, is responsible for providing advice and recommendations to the Minister of ENR on polar bear management. Any threats to polar bears and their habitat are carefully monitored and considered before making decision on quotas and management actions.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)160508060

## Drop the Pop School Winners Announced

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 16, 2008)** – Drop the Pop Northwest Territories (NWT) School Award Winners have been announced for 2008. Of the 35 schools that participated in Drop the Pop NWT this year, the following 10 deserve special recognition:

These four schools were winners of the population-based categories and receive between \$1,500.00 and \$2,000.00:

Helen Kalvak School - Ulukhaktok  
Chief Julius School - Fort McPherson  
Weledeh Catholic School - Yellowknife  
Louis Norwegian School - Jean Marie River

Another six schools will each receive "Honourable Mention" awards of \$1,000.00:

Sir Alexander Mackenzie School - Inuvik  
Moose Kerr School - Aklavik  
Chief Albert Wright School - Tulita  
Bompass Elementary School - Ft. Simpson  
Ecole JH Sissons - Yellowknife  
Joseph Burr Tyrrell - Fort Smith

Participating schools showed initiative in engaging students and communities in the 2008 Drop the Pop NWT Challenge, such as,

- Helen Kalvak School held special healthy luncheons for pre-school, District Education Authority members, elders, school staff and students. Students also promoted healthy choices on the local radio station.
- Bompass Elementary School, students' cooked healthy snacks and created a 'Yummy Snack Book' for their families.

All registered participant schools in Drop the Pop receive grant funding of between \$750-\$2000. The school awards are additional funding provided at the end of the Drop the Pop event. The Drop the Pop NWT Challenge is a Healthy Choices Initiative that raises awareness of how sugary beverages (like pop and other sweetened beverages) and low-nutrient foods affect health. This year's theme, "Drop the Pop NWT – Grab the Tap", also focused on how pop cans and bottles impact the environment.





Through Healthy Choices Initiatives such as Drop the Pop NWT, the Government of the Northwest Territories is working to ensure our children have the opportunity to develop the health knowledge, skills and ability they need for a better future.

Drop the Pop NWT is funded by the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative and is coordinated by the Government of the Northwest Territories, in partnership with the Northern Nutrition Association, NWT/Nunavut Dental Association, NWT Medical Association, Food First Foundation, Canadian Public Health Association, Health Canada, Northern Stores and CO-OP. The challenge also takes place in Nunavut and the Yukon.

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R(16)220508061

## 2008-09 Budget Targets Investments in the Future of the Northwest Territories

**YELLOWKNIFE (22 May 2008)** – The Honourable Floyd K. Roland, Minister of Finance, presented the 2008-09 Budget Address for the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) in the Legislative Assembly today.

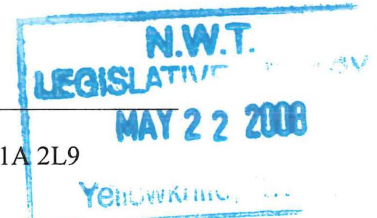
“The Budget begins to make the substantial investments needed to advance our priorities. It builds on key existing programs and services, and moves the Northwest Territories forward, toward our vision and goals”, said Minister Roland.

The Budget takes a balanced approach that involves reallocation of some spending to permit new investments; that starts to align expenditure growth with revenue growth; and that makes a significant investment in badly needed infrastructure.

The 2008-09 Budget projects a small operating surplus of \$13 million, based on proposed 2008-09 operating expenditures of \$1.217 billion. This represents an operating expenditure increase of \$64 million, or about 5.5 per cent, over the previous year’s Budget.

The Budget supports five strategic initiatives, based on the vision and priorities of the Legislative Assembly, that form the focus of government actions and investment in the years ahead:

- Building our Future – taking actions that focus on children and youth, on promoting healthy choices, and on supporting families and seniors.
- Reducing the Cost of Living – taking actions to address the high costs that stand in the way of achieving a better quality of life and affect our ability to grow and diversify the NWT economy.
- Managing this Land – taking action toward finding the right balance between development and protection of the NWT’s land and resources, and making these decisions in the NWT.
- Maximizing Opportunities in the NWT – opening the door to new developments that contribute to the North and improving the quality of education and training so that Northerners can take advantage of the jobs that are created here in the NWT.



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- Refocusing Government – achieving greater effectiveness and efficiency in how the government operates and in how programs and services are delivered to the people of the NWT.

The Budget includes \$72 million to support investments in these priorities. These investments will be funded by offsets in other spending areas - \$32 million in sunsetted programs and \$35 million in expenditure reductions in 2008-09. The Budget also invests \$180 million in public infrastructure in 2008-09, including contributions to community infrastructure projects.

“This Budget builds a stronger Northwest Territories by making a substantial commitment to invest in our people and the infrastructure that supports communities, economic activity and the programs our residents rely on.”

Highlights of specific initiatives of the 2008-09 Budget are included 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).

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For R(16)220508061

## **2008-09 Budget – Investing in the Future**

### ***Budget 2008-09 Highlights***

- ◆ The 2008-09 Budget projects a small operating surplus of \$13 million, based on proposed 2008-09 operating expenditures of \$1.217 billion. This represents an operating expenditure increase of \$64 million, or about 5.5 per cent, over the previous year's Budget.
- ◆ Total revenues are estimated to decrease 4.5 per cent from \$1.29 billion in 2007-08 to \$1.23 billion in 2008-09. The decrease is due largely to the receipt of a one-time Territorial Formula Financing adjustment in 2007-08 and projected lower corporate income tax revenues.
- ◆ The Budget also invests \$180 million in public infrastructure in 2008-09, including contributions to community infrastructure projects.
- ◆ No direct debt is forecast for the end of 2008-09. Total GWNT debt will be comprised of the \$158 million in guaranteed debt of the NWT Power Corporation, the NWT Energy Corporation and the NWT Housing Corporation.

### ***2008-09 Strategic Initiatives***

The 2008-09 Budget includes \$72 million to support investments in five strategic priorities identified by the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly in February. These investments will be funded by \$32 million in sunsetted programs and \$35 million in expenditure reductions in 2008-09.

- ◆ ***Building our Future*** – taking actions that focus on children and youth, on promoting healthy choices, and on supporting families and seniors. Investments totalling \$18.6 million will be made in 2008-09 in encouraging healthy choices and addressing addictions, supporting victims of family violence, expanding programs for children and youth, increasing safety and security of individuals and communities and strengthening the care for seniors.
- ◆ ***Managing this Land*** – taking action toward finding the right balance between development and protection of the NWT's land and resources, and making these decisions in the NWT. A total of \$6.2 million will be invested to ensure that NWT lands and water resources are used in a sustainable way, including almost \$3 million for alternative energy projects, \$2 million for wildlife studies and environmental monitoring, almost \$600,000 to protect territorial water and \$750,000 to advance devolution discussions and develop a land use framework.



- ◆ **Maximizing Opportunities in the NWT** – opening the door to new developments that contribute to the North and improving the quality of education and training so that Northerners can take advantage of the jobs that are created here in the NWT. The 2008-09 Budget invests a total of \$11.7 million in strategic initiatives including over \$4.4 million to improve workplace skills, \$3 million to support economic diversification and over \$3.6 million to maximize the benefits from the Mackenzie Gas Project and other related initiatives.
- ◆ **Reducing the Cost of Living** – taking actions to address the high costs that stand in the way of achieving a better quality of life and affect our ability to grow and diversify the NWT economy. The Budget invests \$24.7 million in this strategic initiative including \$17 million to build affordable homes, \$900,000 for energy awareness programs, \$200,000 to improve transportation access to communities and almost \$6 million to support a re-design of the income security program.
- ◆ **Refocusing Government** – achieving greater effectiveness and efficiency in how the government operates and in how programs and services are delivered to the people of the NWT. \$3.7 million will be provided in the 2008-09 Budget for various initiatives including \$424,000 to establish a Program Review Office and \$2.7 million in operating funding, complemented with \$5 million in infrastructure investments, to maximize the useful life of government buildings.

### ***Revenue Initiatives***

The budget includes no tax increases. The GNWT is committed to maintaining a fair and competitive tax structure, that will generate the necessary revenues to fund programs and services, but also encourages people to live, and businesses to invest, in the NWT.

The fiscal strategy calls for \$10 million in new revenue measures starting in 2009-10. After consultation with Members of the Assembly, a paper describing revenue options will be released in the summer of 2008 for public comment. Decisions on revenue initiatives will be made following these consultations.



For R(16)220508061

## **Strategic Initiatives**

### ***Building Our Future***

*Building our Future* is about taking actions and making significant investments in prevention and the long-term well-being of the NWT population. This initiative funds actions that focus on children and youth, promote healthy choices, address addictions, support families and seniors, enhance support for the volunteer sector, and increase the safety and security of individuals and communities.

A total of \$18.6 million in new initiatives will be provided under 2008-09 funding including:

- ◆ \$460,000 to increase support and outreach services available to women and children experiencing family violence;
- ◆ \$340,000 to enhance programs at existing shelters for victims of family violence;
- ◆ \$5.74 million to continue supplementary funding of priority health initiatives using the Territorial Health Access Fund – Long-term Reform;
- ◆ \$3.1 million for long-term health reform with federal funding to enhance nursing resources in small communities and expand nurse practitioner training;
- ◆ \$1.8 million for the on-the-job community health nurse development program to help reduce patient wait times;
- ◆ \$100,000 to continue Healthy Choices Framework programs geared to improving the health of NWT residents and reducing long-term health and social service costs;
- ◆ \$1.6 million to support minority language instruction in partnership with the Government of Canada.
- ◆ \$120,000 to fund a full-time Language and Cultural instructor at Aurora College to help train qualified instructors to deliver Aboriginal language and culture programs.
- ◆ \$1 million to improve the quality of early childhood programs through a commitment to further the Language Nest Initiative, increase regional Early Childhood Programming staff to 6 person years and create an Early Childhood coordinator to build linkages between early childhood programs and the formal school system. Over time, this action will improve high school completion rates in the NWT.
- ◆ \$300,000 will be invested to develop a plan to increase the enrolment and completion rates of the Teacher Education Program by providing access to programs and practicum placements in communities and additional personal, professional, cultural and academic learning supports. Ultimately, it is expected that this will increase the number of Aboriginal teachers in the NWT school system.





- ◆ \$1 million to rationalize and standardize foster care rates to produce a foster care program that reflects the higher costs of supporting a foster child in smaller communities and ensures that equitable services are available to children across the entire NWT by 2009-10.
- ◆ \$224,000 to provide planned relief for families that care for children with disabilities. The relief will decrease stress and help primary caregivers develop the necessary skills to meet these children's social, emotional and educational needs. The initiative is to help children with disabilities develop to their full potential.
- ◆ \$125,000 to fund a permanent school-based Take a Kid Trapping program as part of the GNWT contribution to the cost of youth activities.
- ◆ \$250,000 to continue support to community governments or other organizations that operate youth centre programs in NWT communities.
- ◆ \$1.5 million to open additional RCMP detachments and support increased coverage in smaller detachments.
- ◆ \$350,000 to support communities providing ground ambulance, and/or highway rescue services and to complete the development of a new policy and funding framework for integrated territorial delivery of these services.
- ◆ \$571,000 in additional operating funds for the Territorial Supported Living Campus, which includes three adult group homes and a day program that will improve the quality of life for adults with moderate to severe cognitive and behavioural challenges.





***Building Our Future***

***Implement Phase II of the Framework for Action on Family Violence***

Enhance Community Services	460,000	
Stabilize Existing Shelters	340,000	
		<hr/>
		800,000

***Encourage healthy choices and address addictions***

Territorial Health Access Fund - Long-Term Reform	5,743,000	
Federal Health Care Funding - Various	3,132,000	
Community Health Nurse Development Program	1,793,000	
Healthy Choices Framework	100,000	
		<hr/>
		10,768,000

***Expand programming for children and youth***

Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction	1,617,000	
Language/Cultural Instructor Program	120,000	
Expansion of Early Childhood Development Programs	1,000,000	
Community Based Teacher Education Program	300,000	
Foster Care Review and Standardization	1,011,000	
In House Respite Services for Families of Special Needs	224,000	
Take a Kid Trapping Program	125,000	
Youth Centres Initiative	250,000	
		<hr/>
		4,647,000

***Increase safety and security***

Enhancing Policing Services	1,490,000	
Enhancing Emergency Services	350,000	
		<hr/>
		1,840,000

***Strengthen continuum of care for Seniors***

Supported and Assisted Living in Smaller Communities	571,000	571,000
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**\$ 18,626,000**



## ***Managing This Land***

*Managing this Land* is about balancing the need for economic growth with protecting the land. It is about taking actions that protect the NWT water supply and quality; coordinate GNWT efforts to ensure economic development is sustainable for NWT land and wildlife; work proactively with residents, communities and industry on mitigation of, and adaptation to climate change; and advance alternative energy initiatives.

A total of \$6.2 million in new initiatives will be provided in 2008-09 to ensure that NWT land and water resources are used in a sustainable way that protects these resources for future generations. Funding includes:

- ◆ \$200,000 to develop a business case and choose a site for an operating wind energy turbine,
  - ◆ \$450,000 for a program to establish alternative energy projects in communities,
  - ◆ \$2.2 million for alternative energy projects eligible for federal Ecotrust funding,
  - ◆ \$650,000 to continue funding for devolution and resource revenue sharing negotiations,
  - ◆ \$100,000 in one-time funding to develop a land use framework that ensures all GNWT land use decisions are guided by a common corporate approach that supports the political development of the NWT,
  - ◆ \$1.4 million to continue work for the *Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy*, to implement an *NWT Wood Bison Strategy* and to develop a better understanding of the cumulative effects habitat change from exploration and development activities on species at risk,
- 
- ◆ \$250,000 for the Western NWT Biophysical Study,
  - ◆ \$350,000 to update the classification and mapping framework for the Southern and Northern Arctic ecozones,
  - ◆ \$130,000 to develop and implement water management initiatives, especially a trans-boundary water agreement with Alberta, and
  - ◆ \$425,000 to address the highest priority areas in the *Action Plan for Drinking Water Quality in the NWT* not covered under current funding.



**Managing this Land****Work to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change Impacts**

Wind Energy Electricity Supply	200,000	
Alternative Energy Program	450,000	
EcoTrust - mini hydro projects for communities	900,000	
EcoTrust - residual heat project	190,000	
EcoTrust - housing energy audits and solar water preheat	130,000	
EcoTrust - wood pellets, hydro and other projects	970,000	
		<hr/>
		2,840,000

**Continuing to develop governance**

Advance Devolution Discussions	650,000	
Develop a Land Use Framework	100,000	
		<hr/>
		750,000

**Environmental stewardship**

NWT Wood Bison Strategy and Caribou Studies	880,000	
NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy	560,000	
		<hr/>
		1,440,000

**Improve Environment Monitoring**

Western NWT Biophysical Study	250,000	
Ecoregion Mapping	350,000	
		<hr/>
		600,000

**Protect Territorial Water**

Participate in Management of Transboundary Waters	130,000	
Water Quality & Waterborne Diseases - increase public awareness	15,000	
Water Supply System Upgrades, Training and Support	380,000	
Pilot Studies for Remote Monitoring and Testing Water Supplies	30,000	
		<hr/>
		555,000

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**\$ 6,185,000**





## ***Maximizing Opportunities***

*Maximizing Opportunities* is about taking actions that will maximize the benefits from NWT development and contribute to an economy that is balanced, diversified and sustainable.

Investments in key priorities that maximize the opportunities from economic development will be made with the expectation that this support for trades and apprentices and economic diversification will produce, in the long run, a balanced, diversified and sustainable NWT economy. The 2008-09 Budget includes \$11.7 million for the following investments:

- ◆ \$2.8 million to lower the pupil teacher ratio in the trades training as a way of emphasizing the trades, technical and work-related skills in NWT classrooms to help students get a better understanding of the career opportunities in the trades and develop better work-related skills and attitudes,
- ◆ \$100,000 to develop supports and plans to increase enrolments in apprenticeship programs, especially for women and Aboriginal people,
- ◆ \$200,000 to support the operation and maintenance of the Aurora College Mobile Trades Training Unit so that trades training can be expanded to include the College's Inuvik campus and outlying communities,
- ◆ \$1.2 million to support hiring apprentices in designated trades and occupations,
- ◆ \$100,000 for a marine services training program to help train employees to fill marine engineering positions,
- ◆ \$610,000 to various departments to address pressures on government programs and services associated with the proposed Mackenzie Valley Project and to prepare and implement strategies to maximize benefits and minimize negative impacts,
- ◆ \$3 million in contribution funding to the NWT Energy Corporation for the proposed Taltson Hydro Expansion Project, including development of a Project Development Agreement with the Deze Energy Corporation and Power Purchasing Agreements with the diamond mines,
- ◆ \$500,000 in increased support to NWT arts and culture, including hiring a coordinator to help groups apply for funding,
- ◆ \$67,000 in one-time funding to undertake various activities aimed at promoting the NWT at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver,
- ◆ \$1.6 million in a Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Fund to provide assistance for research to identify market needs and wants, provide funding to individual operators for product development and provide assistance to Northwest Territories Tourism to promote new opportunities and markets,
- ◆ \$1 million for the new *Support to Entrepreneur and Economic Development (SEED) Policy* that will replace the Business Development Fund and grants to small business policies,
- ◆ \$140,000 for parks operations, including a \$50,000 increase in the territorial parks' operations and maintenance budget and \$90,000 for the general parks operating budget, and



- ◆ \$250,000 in additional funds for seasonal contracts for the delivery of regional, cultural and interpretive park programs.

**Maximizing Opportunities**

**Improve skills for living and working**

Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) - Trades	2,810,000	
Additional Support for Apprentices	100,000	
Mobile Trades Training	200,000	
Hiring New Apprentices in Designated Trades and Occupations	1,198,000	
Marine Services Training Program	100,000	
		4,408,000

**Maximize benefits from the MGP and related initiatives**

MGP Strategic Investment	610,000	
Energy Investment - Taltson	3,000,000	
		3,610,000

**Promote NWT as a place to visit and live**

Increased Support for the Arts	500,000	
Promote the NWT at 2010 Olympics	67,000	
		567,000

**Support diversification**

Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Fund	1,560,000	
Acho Dene Koe First Nation Western Harvesters Assistance Program	132,000	
New SEED Policy and Enhanced Funding	1,000,000	
Parks renewal - Operations and Maintenance	140,000	
Cultural Interpretations at Parks	250,000	
		3,082,000

\$ 11,667,000



## Reducing the Cost of Living

The cost of living is very high in the NWT and varies widely across the territory. *Reducing the Cost of Living* is about taking actions to provide long-term solutions to address this reality. The initiative includes implementing strategies that will improve the quality and cost of shelter, improve transportation access to communities, address the factors that impact the cost of goods and support individuals and families.

The 2008-09 Budget includes \$24.7 million in funding initiatives aimed directly at reducing the cost of living including:

- ◆ \$800,000 for energy awareness programs,
- ◆ \$100,000 to develop options to reduce the cost of electricity rates and regulations,
- ◆ \$400,000 to develop an *NWT Hydro Strategy*,
- ◆ \$17.1 million from the *Northern Housing Trust* to build affordable homes,
- ◆ \$200,000 to speed up Dempster Highway ice crossing construction so the highway is open to commercial vehicle traffic sooner in the winter months,
- ◆ \$155,000 in additional funding for the senior citizens supplementary benefit, and
- ◆ \$6 million to fund the change in focus of the income security program from a program of last resort to one that provides adequate financial assistance for basic needs and supports people to achieve self-reliance.

### Reducing the Cost of Living

#### Address factors that impact the cost of goods

EnerGuide for Houses	150,000	
Energy Efficiency Incentive Program	400,000	
Energy Information and Awareness	100,000	
Support for Arctic Energy Alliance	150,000	
Overall Review of Rates and Regulations	100,000	
		900,000

#### Improve quality and cost of shelter

NWT Hydro Strategy	400,000	
Northern Housing Trust	17,100,000	
		17,500,000

#### Improve transportation access to communities

Dempster Highway Ice Bridge Construction Acceleration	200,000	
		200,000

#### Support families and individuals

Income Support - Senior Citizens Supplementary Benefit	155,000	
Income Security Redesign	5,950,000	
		6,105,000

**\$ 24,705,000**





## Refocusing Government

This initiative refocuses government on what is most important to the long-term viability of the NWT and on delivering programs and services in the most efficient way. This includes changes in services and service delivery.

Actions and investments during the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly will focus on undertaking a review of government programs to ensure the effective use of resources, changing the way the Government plans and delivers infrastructure, improving human resource management, implementing changes to GNWT boards and agencies, ensuring effective service delivery in smaller NWT communities and stabilizing the GNWT relationship with non-government organizations.

The 2008-08 Budget includes \$3.8 million in new initiatives including:

- ♦ \$2.65 million to address the need for maintenance to maximize the useful life of government buildings,
- ♦ \$424,000 to establish a program review office,
- ♦ \$175,000 to reduce government energy costs through a capital asset retrofit fund and hiring of an Energy Management Specialist,
- ♦ \$150,000 to improve GNWT services in official languages by piloting single window service centres for French with a planned extension to one or more Aboriginal languages, and
- ♦ \$301,000 to provide satellite time, annual maintenance and translation services for a Legislative Assembly Broadcasting system.

In addition, to new operating funding for the *Refocusing Government* initiative, the 2008-09 Budget includes \$5 million in infrastructure investments to address the need for maintenance to maximize the useful life of government buildings.

### **Refocusing Government**

#### **Change the GNWT's approach to infrastructure**

Focus on Deferred Maintenance	2,650,000	<u>2,650,000</u>
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#### **Conduct Program Review**

	424,000	<u>424,000</u>
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#### **Managing the cost of government**

Capital Asset Retrofit Fund	50,000	
Energy Management Specialist	125,000	<u>175,000</u>

#### **Strengthen service delivery**

Support Official Languages	150,000	
Legislative Assembly Territorial Broadcasting Solution	301,000	<u>451,000</u>

	<u>\$ 3,700,000</u>
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## News Release

R(16)280508062

### **Tentative Collective Agreement Reached Between the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association and the Government of the NWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (28 May 2008)** - Following three very productive sessions of collective bargaining, the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association and the Government of the Northwest Territories have reached a tentative agreement.

"We are very pleased with the progress we have collectively made. This agreement makes a number of important changes that assist us in improving overall administration" said Minister McLeod.

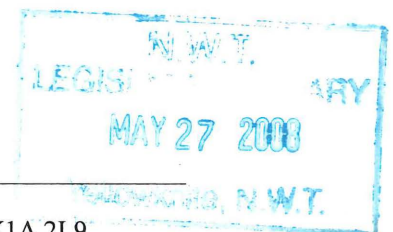
The President of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, Amanda Mallon, was also pleased with the new agreement. "We will be getting the new agreement out to our members as quickly as possible so they can vote on it before the end of the school year."

It is expected that the ratification process will be concluded by June 16, 2008. Details of the tentative agreement will not be publicly released until the ratification process is completed.

For further information please contact:

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873-8501

Ms. Shaleen Woodward  
Director, Human Resources Strategy & Policy  
Department of Human Resources  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
873-7786





R(16)280508063

## Ministers Meet to Increase Physical Activity

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 28, 2008)** - Federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation set targets to increase rates of physical activity among Canada's children and youth at their annual meeting in Victoria, B.C. last week. Ministers also agreed to provide funding to support team travel to the North American Indigenous Games in British Columbia later this summer.

The Honourable Helena Guergis, Secretary of State for Sport, announced that Sport Canada will provide \$1 million in funding to support team travel to the North American Indigenous Games to be held in Duncan, British Columbia in August 2008. The funding will be distributed on a formula basis to all provinces and territories. The announcement will result in additional funding of \$144,000 for Team NWT, according to the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. "When combined with other funding from the Government of the Northwest Territories, this will support more than 250 athletes, coaches and officials to attend the Games," said Minister McLeod.

Ministers heard from representatives of the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute that 90% of Canadian children and youth are not active enough to meet Canada's guidelines for physical activity.

"We agreed that the need to find ways to encourage youth to be more active is a top priority for all jurisdictions in Canada", said Minister McLeod. Ministers have agreed to try to change national trends by seeing all children and youth increase their physical activity levels by 30 minutes per day by 2015.

Ministers will also continue to monitor physical activity levels among adults in every province and territory. Progress is being made towards the goal set by Ministers in 2003, to increase physical activity among adults by 10% by 2010.

For more information: contact:

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Municipal and Community Affairs  
(867) 873-7512







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## News Release

R(16)280508065

### **Northerners Must Manage the North**

**YELLOWKNIFE (28 May, 2008)** -- Northerners must be allowed to make decisions concerning their own economic future, Northwest Territories (NWT) Premier Floyd Roland reiterated today.

Responding to calls from the World Wildlife Federation to postpone the proposed June 2, 2008 issuance of four oil and gas leases in the Beaufort Sea, the NWT Premier emphasized his government's increasing frustration with southern-based, advocacy groups promoting decisions which impact on the lives and economic future of Northerners.

"This call by the World Wildlife Federation speaks to the issue of Northern control over Northern resources. A southern-based group cannot be allowed to influence decisions concerning the future of our Northern economy," said Premier Roland.

\$613 million was committed to oil and gas exploration in the NWT last year including record bids brought forward by Imperial Oil and Exxon Mobil to explore offshore in the Beaufort Sea. The Government of the Northwest Territories supports and encourages responsible and managed development of the NWT's resource sector.

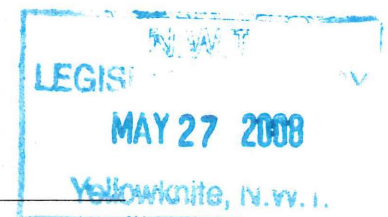
"Investment in oil and gas exploration has enabled residents of the Beaufort Delta to build business capacity and participate fully in our economy," said Premier Roland.

The Premier pointed to federal regulatory regimes and northern regulatory management systems already in place in the Northwest Territories.

"Northern management regimes and systems balance the critical need for economic opportunity and self reliance with traditional and scientific practices that ensure negative impacts on the environment and wildlife are mitigated," Premier Roland said. "They provide a process that meaningfully engages Northerners in the decision-making process."

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R(16)290508066

## AFN National Day of Action

**YELLOWKNIFE (29 May, 2008)** - The 2<sup>nd</sup> National Day of Action organized by the Assembly of First Nations to raise awareness about the concerns and challenges of First Nations citizens, was acknowledged today by Northwest Territories (NWT) Premier Floyd K. Roland. Premier Roland joined other western Premiers in observing the National Day of Action while in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan attending the 2008 Western Premiers' Conference.

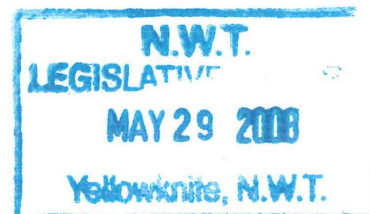
“The GNWT supports the Assembly of First Nations in raising awareness about issues facing First Nations citizens. We encourage all governments to work to improve the lives and living conditions of Aboriginal peoples throughout Canada. Collectively, we can and should, be making progress in improving the quality of life of Aboriginal Canadians,” said Premier Roland.

“In the NWT, we work in partnership and cooperation with Aboriginal governments and organizations. I meet regularly with regional Aboriginal Leaders to discuss a wide range of issues including governance, program and service delivery, and stewardship of land and water,” said Premier Roland. “Successfully concluding land, resource and self-government agreements continues to be a key priority of the Government of the Northwest Territories.”

Premier Roland encouraged Northerners to use the Day of Action as an opportunity to learn more about the challenges facing Aboriginal communities and peoples. “The National Day of Action should be a peaceful and respectful way in which to raise awareness of the challenges being faced by Aboriginal Canadians,” said Premier Roland.

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R(16)290508067

## **Premier Roland welcomes international focus on the Arctic, notes importance of key projects in NWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (29 May, 2008)** - Northwest Territories (NWT) Premier Floyd Roland called for faster work on two major northern projects, as leaders of circumpolar countries met today in Greenland to discuss the future of the Arctic Ocean.

Canada is among the countries meeting to discuss issues regarding the future development and management of the Arctic Ocean. Participants are expected to discuss international claims to the subsea continental shelf, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Premier Roland reaffirmed the need for Canada to continue asserting its arctic sovereignty, and stressed the importance of developing Canada's arctic resources in order to do so.

"The best way to assert sovereignty over our Northern lands and resources is to use them. As the Prime Minister rightly said, "use it or lose it", said Premier Roland. "This means moving forward on key resource and transportation projects that will clearly demonstrate our Northern ownership."

The NWT government is investing in building strong NWT communities where families and communities share the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustainable, and prosperous territory.

An effective way of helping Northerners continue as stewards of Canadian sovereignty is to ensure economically sustainable communities throughout the North. The NWT government is investing in building strong communities where families and communities share the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustainable, and prosperous territory. Premier Roland emphasized how federal support for major projects is essential.

"Investing in key transportation projects like the Mackenzie Valley Highway will help bring people, goods, and investment into the North, and help Canada's Northern communities grow and prosper," said Premier Roland. "And moving forward now on the Mackenzie Gas Project will assert our sovereignty over arctic resources in a significant way."

"I can't imagine a more clear assertion of our country's Northern sovereignty than building these world-class projects."





Premier Roland also stressed that projects must be developed in ways that respect the Northern environment.

“I’m pleased to see that Canada has discussed the need for sustainable development at this week’s meeting,” said Premier Roland. “It’s important to us in the NWT that we balance development with protection, and make appropriate choices as we grow.”

Premier Roland will be discussing economic development and transportation in the NWT when he meets with other Western Premiers this week.

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**Press Release - For Immediate Release**

## **Northwest Territories to Host Second National Aboriginal Women's Summit**

**Yellowknife, NT (May 30, 2008)** — The Northwest Territories (NWT) will host a major intergovernmental and Aboriginal gathering this summer as NWT Premier Floyd Roland partners with Beverley Jacobs, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), in co-hosting the second National Aboriginal Women's Summit. With support from the Government of Canada, this historic gathering is scheduled for July 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> in Yellowknife.

"I am proud to continue the important work needed to address issues critical to Aboriginal women in Canada," said Premier Roland. "Aboriginal women play a vital role in the Northwest Territories and all of the North so I am especially pleased the follow-up Summit will be hosted here in Yellowknife. Delegates from coast to coast to coast will meet to work towards continuing to improve the social and economic conditions of Aboriginal women wherever they live, both on or off reserve or in rural or urban areas."

"The Native Women's Association of Canada is honoured to be able to co-host this significant meeting," said President Jacobs. "We need to embrace the success of the historic first National Aboriginal Women's Summit held last summer in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador to build upon the solid recommendations to pave the way for strong women and strong communities for Aboriginal women across Canada."

The goal during NAWS 2 is to advance the principles and recommendations agreed to at Corner Brook and assist in developing strategic action items.

"The Northwest Territories is continuing to work with the Native Women's Association of Canada, other National Aboriginal Organizations, provinces and territories and Aboriginal governments to ensure that the Summit will be a success," said Premier Roland. "It is important the voices of Aboriginal women are heard. The sharing of their wisdom and experience is essential to the healthy future of our territory and our country."

Details about NAWS 2 along with the final report from the first NAWS can be found at the newly launched website at: [www.naws-sfna.ca](http://www.naws-sfna.ca).

For further details:

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## Les Territoires du Nord-Ouest seront l'hôte du deuxième Sommet national des femmes autochtones

**Yellowknife (TNO), le 30 mai 2008** – Les Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO) seront l'hôte d'un important rassemblement intergouvernemental et autochtone cet été. Le premier ministre des TNO, Floyd Roland, et la présidente de l'Association des femmes autochtones du Canada (AFAC), Beverley Jacobs, seront les hôtes du deuxième Sommet national des femmes autochtones. Cet événement historique, rendu possible grâce à l'aide financière du gouvernement du Canada, se déroulera du 29 au 31 juillet à Yellowknife.

« Je suis heureux de poursuivre l'important travail qui a été amorcé afin de soulever les questions qui sont primordiales pour les femmes autochtones au Canada », a mentionné le premier ministre Roland. « Les femmes autochtones jouent un rôle fondamental aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest et partout dans le Nord. Je suis donc très heureux que le prochain Sommet ait lieu ici à Yellowknife. Des délégués de partout au pays se rencontreront pour tenter d'améliorer les conditions sociales et économiques des femmes autochtones et de leurs familles, qu'elles vivent dans une réserve ou à l'extérieur de celle-ci ou dans une région rurale ou urbaine. »

« L'Association des femmes autochtones du Canada est honorée d'être l'un des hôtes de cet important événement », a indiqué la présidente Beverly Jacobs. « Nous devons profiter du succès obtenu lors du premier Sommet national des femmes autochtones qui a eu lieu l'été dernier à Corner Brook, Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador. Ainsi, nous pourrions tirer parti des solides recommandations qui ont été émises et paver la voie à celles qui font la force des collectivités, particulièrement les femmes autochtones de partout au Canada. »

L'objectif du SNFA II est d'aller de l'avant avec les recommandations et les principes auxquels les intervenants se sont entendus à Corner Brook et d'aider à élaborer des programmes d'action stratégiques.

« Les Territoires du Nord-Ouest continuent de travailler avec l'Association des femmes autochtones du Canada, les associations autochtones nationales, les provinces, les territoires et les gouvernements autochtones afin de s'assurer que le Sommet soit un succès », a ajouté le premier ministre Roland. « Il est important que les voix des femmes autochtones soient entendues. Le partage de leur sagesse et de leur expérience est primordial si l'on veut assurer à notre territoire et à notre pays un avenir sain. »

De l'information détaillée sur le SNFA II et le rapport final du SNFA I sont disponibles sur le site Web [www.naws-sfna.ca](http://www.naws-sfna.ca), qui a été spécialement créé pour l'événement.

Pour plus d'information :

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## News Release

R(16)030608068

### **Traditional Skills Strengthen Cultural Links for Youth**

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 3, 2008)** - Over 100 students from the Kalemi Dene School in N'dilo and the Kaw Tay Whee School in Dettah are learning and applying traditional life skills over the next two weeks in a Government of the Northwest Territories sponsored Traditional Skills Education Project.

The Program, supported under the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment's Take a Kid Trapping Program, is enabling Dene elders to pass on traditional practices for tanning moose hides, preparing food, creating tools and teaching Dene Games. It will also feature the traditional construction of a birch bark canoe.

"The original people of our Territory have a long proud history of self-reliance and self-sufficiency," said Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister Bob McLeod. "The transfer of traditional life skills ensures that these values are sustained – and important social and cultural links are maintained to the land and its resources."

The project is just one of many traditional life skills projects provided annually for school age youth by Industry, Tourism and Investment in partnership with the Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs and Environment and Natural Resources.

Since 2002, over 4000 youth have participated in different components of the Department's Take a Kid Trapping Program.

Additional resources for this week's Traditional Skills Education Project are being provided through cash and "in kind" contributions from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

Government investment in the NWT's Traditional Economy offers NWT residents opportunities and choices to improve their quality of living.

For more information, contact:

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Industry, Tourism and Investment  
(867) 873-7383







R(16)020608069

## Tourism Week June 2-8, 2008

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 2, 2008)** –Tourism Week June 2-8, 2008 is - a nation-wide celebration of Canada's \$71 billion tourism industry and its enormous contributions to the Canadian economy.

In the Northwest Territories, tourism is by far the largest renewable resource based industry and one that Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod says can offer many spin-off benefits. "It is an area of investment that has the potential to establish and grow viable and sustainable ventures in every one of our 33 communities," he said.

Sixty three thousand visitors spent more than \$113 million here in the 2006/2007 tourism season through operators, outfitters and service providers. Business travelers accounted for almost 50% of annual tourism revenue in the NWT last year at \$54.7 million.

The Delta Beaufort area is capitalizing on this significant business travel and for the summer of 2008 will be hosting the Inuvik Petroleum Show, the Canadian Rural Revitalization Conference and the Governor General's Leadership Conference.

Last summer, tourism traffic at the 60<sup>th</sup> Parallel Visitor Information Centre was up by 32% from 2006. Tourism travel by road to Fort Simpson rose almost 20%. Camping permits issued in the NWT increased in 2007 - by 17.5% to the South Slave and 16% in the North Slave Regions.

"Strengthening the links between tourism and other components of our local economies such as our Arts and Fine Crafts sector will help create sustainable and diversified economic opportunities in even the smallest of our communities," Minister McLeod noted.

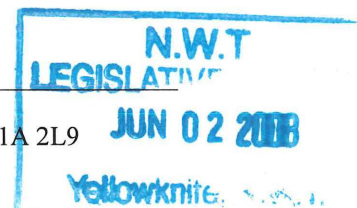
Last year the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment introduced the Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Program to assist NWT tourism operators in recreating or expanding their tourism products and operations to meet an identified and growing market for non-consumptive outdoor adventure.

To date, more than \$1,183,000 has been provided to NWT tourism operators to support business planning, product and product package development, as well as marketing.

For more information contact:

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Industry, Tourism and Investment  
(867) 873-7902

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



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R(16)020608070

## Premier Roland secures support for Key NWT Priorities from Western Premiers

**YELLOWKNIFE (2 June, 2008)** - Northwest Territories (NWT) Premier Floyd Roland promoted his vision for the NWT and secured the support of his fellow Premiers on priority issues for the Northwest Territories – including infrastructure such as the Mackenzie Valley highway, energy, health care and economic development – as he and other Premiers met last week in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan for the 2008 Western Premiers Conference.

### *Transportation*

Premier Roland presented to his fellow Premiers on the key issue of transportation in rural, remote and northern communities. He said investments in Northern transportation corridors will help reduce the cost of living and encourage economic growth, helping to assert Canada's Northern sovereignty.

Western Premiers agreed and gave their support, saying they “recognize that the economic development of the territories is critical to Canada's future.”

Premiers also called on the federal government to work with the territories on infrastructure priorities, citing the Mackenzie Valley Highway specifically as one of the “critical projects [that] are necessary to unlock the economic potential of the North.”

Premier Roland said he appreciates the support of his fellow Western Premiers as the Northwest Territories moved forward on its priorities. “I am pleased that all Western Premiers recognize the many economic opportunities in the Northwest Territories, and the important economic role the Northwest Territories can play in Canada's future,” said Premier Roland.

### *Energy*

Western Premiers also discussed the need for alternative energy sources, such as hydro power, to reduce Northern dependence on diesel. “We have incredible hydroelectric potential in the NWT,” said Premier Roland. “Now we need to seek out public and private partners to unlock this potential with innovative technologies.”

Premier Roland also promoted the important role the NWT has in bolstering Canada's reputation as an energy superpower, with the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project under review and once again called upon the Joint Review Panel to conclude their report quickly and efficiently.





During their discussions Premiers talked about the need to consider alternative energy sources as complementary sources to reduce dependency on diesel as the fuel source for Northern communities. Premiers were receptive to the NWT message about the work being done in our territory to develop our rich hydro potential and to be a leader in the area of wind technology. In considering clean alternative energy, there is widespread recognition that the NWT is sitting on huge resource potential that will eventually be tapped through the development of the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline.

### *Northern Sovereignty*

Western Premiers discussed the “critical role of rural and remote Northern communities in exercising Canadian sovereignty.” Premier Roland talked about the importance of greater economic development in the Northwest Territories to ensure thriving communities who use the land every day will underscore the assertion of Canada’s sovereignty over Northern lands and resources.

“To assert our Northern sovereignty we need to encourage investment and development of the North,” said Premier Roland. “As the Prime Minister has said, we ‘use it or lose it.’”

Along with his fellow Western Premiers, Premier Roland met with U.S. Ambassador to Canada David Wilkins. Serious concerns were raised with Ambassador Wilkins regarding the USA’s addition of polar bears to its list of threatened species. The decision stands to negatively impact northern communities that rely on U.S. tourism.

“The best stewards of the North are Northerners who live there,” said Premier Roland. “Governments need to avoid arbitrary decisions pushed by special interest groups in the south, who don’t have proper regard for the northern communities affected by these decisions.”

Premier Roland said he’s pleased with the outcomes from the Western Premiers Conference. “I appreciated the opportunity to discuss the future of the Northwest Territories with my western and Northern colleagues,” said Premier Roland. “They recognize the North’s tremendous economic potential and I welcome their support on some key priorities. Now with this support in hand, we need to roll up our sleeves and take action.”

The official communiqués are available at [http://www.scics.gc.ca/confer08\\_e.html](http://www.scics.gc.ca/confer08_e.html)

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R(16)050608071

## Services TNO Open for Business

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 6, 2008)** – A one-stop location to access government programs and services in French has opened in Yellowknife and online.

Two full-time bilingual staff will offer non-specialized front-line services and information on Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) department and agency programs and services in French. Services will be provided to francophones outside of Yellowknife through a toll-free number and website.

The centre will be an added point of service delivery, and will not replace any existing service delivery points of any department or agency of the GNWT. In order to better meet the public demand for services and information, the services and information provided at the centre will be flexible and change according to customer needs.

A formal opening is planned for June 18, 2008, but Services TNO is already open for business in the Laing Building, first floor, in offices adjacent to the NWT Human Rights Commission, on Franklin Avenue. Services can also be accessed at [www.servicestno.ca](http://www.servicestno.ca) or toll-free at 1-866-561-1664.

Funding for this pilot project is being provided by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

For more information, contact:

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Education, Culture and Employment  
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R(16)050608071

## Services TNO ouvert au public

**Yellowknife, le 6 juin 2008** – Un endroit unique où l'on peut avoir accès aux programmes et services gouvernementaux en français vient d'ouvrir ses portes à Yellowknife et de lancer son site Web.

Deux employés bilingues à temps plein offriront des services de première ligne non spécialisés et de l'information en français pour les ministères et organismes du GTNO. Des services seront aussi fournis aux francophones à l'extérieur de Yellowknife grâce à un numéro sans frais et un site Web.

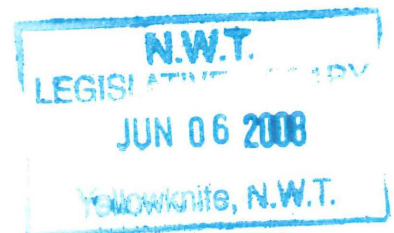
Le Centre de services sera un nouveau centre de prestation de services et ne remplacera pas les points de prestation de services des ministères ou organismes du GTNO. Afin de mieux répondre à la demande du public, l'information et les services offerts au Centre seront flexibles et pourront être modifiés en fonction des besoins de la clientèle.

L'ouverture officielle est prévue pour le 18 juin 2008, mais Services TNO est déjà ouvert. Ses bureaux sont situés au rez-de-chaussée de l'édifice Laing sur l'avenue Franklin, à côté de la Commission des droits de la personne. Pour communiquer avec Services TNO, visitez le [www.servicestno.ca](http://www.servicestno.ca) ou téléphonez sans frais au 1-866-561-1664.

Le financement de ce projet pilote a été fourni par Patrimoine canadien.

Pour plus d'information :

Shawn McCann  
Gestionnaire, Affaires publiques  
Éducation, Culture et Formation  
Tél. : 867-920-6222







R(16)050608072

## ***Drive Alive!* joining forces with BHP Billiton**

**YELLOWKNIFE (5 June, 2008)** - The Department of Transportation's *Drive Alive!* transportation safety information program, is joining forces with BHP Billiton to help keep young bicyclists safe announced the Minister of Transportation Norman Yakeleya in the Legislature today.

BHP Billiton, the owner of the Ekati Diamond Mine, is purchasing 500 helmets for distribution across the Northwest Territories (NWT) as part of *Drive Alive's* helmet safety campaign. Community Health Representatives from Health and Social Services are distributing the helmets in each community outside Yellowknife.

BHP Billiton already supplies 300 bicycle helmets for distribution by Yellowknife Municipal Enforcement. These are to be distributed at the Yellowknife Bike Rodeo on Sunday, June 8. *Drive Alive!* is encouraging the use of bike rodeos to promote safe biking practices, using the very successful Yellowknife Bike Rodeo as a model.

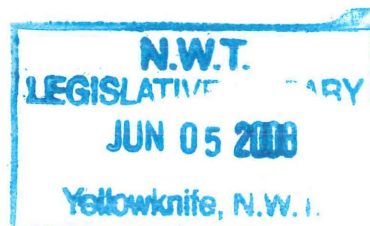
Minister Yakeleya said the collaboration with BHP Billiton is an example of how corporate generosity can benefit people across the NWT. "There is a real need for young people to grow up using helmets," he said. "This will go a long way to making the use of protected equipment accepted in each community, and I applaud BHP Billiton's initiative."

"Promoting zero harm and safety in our operations is a priority of Ekati Diamond Mine," said Ricus Grimbeek, President and Chief Operating Officer of BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc. "Our contribution to the *Drive Alive!* program is our commitment to community safety, and if we can save one person from harm, it will be well worth our investment."

*Drive Alive!* is the transportation safety information program of the Government of Northwest Territories.

For more information contact:

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



10/15/2009

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MVA



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## News Release

R(16)060608073

# NWT Government Supports and Welcomes Significant Investments in Arctic Exploration

**YELLOWKNIFE (6 June 2008)** – Premier Roland welcomed companies tendering bids to explore for oil and gas in the Beaufort Sea and Mackenzie Valley and Central Mackenzie Delta, saying that such significant investment will help foster greater economic development in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

“Residents of the Beaufort Delta have benefited from oil and gas exploration investment which has helped them participate more fully in the economy,” said Premier Roland. “Today’s bids are further proof that we have immense economic opportunities in the NWT that are waiting to be unlocked.”

“We will promote these opportunities and attract the investment needed to turn them into new jobs and opportunities for Northerners,” said Premier Roland. “This investment by industry will complement investments by governments in priorities like the Mackenzie Gas Project and the Mackenzie Valley Highway.”

The Government of the Northwest Territories has placed a priority on encouraging greater economic development in the NWT, including oil and gas development. The NWT’s discovered oil reserves are estimated at 2.8 billion barrels, and its reserves of natural gas are estimated at almost 11 trillion cubic feet.

Premier Roland also said that a key government priority is to ensure that economic development is balanced with environmental protection.

“NWT residents are strongly connected to the land, environment and wildlife,” said the Premier. “It’s important these are protected, and it’s essential that we make Northern decisions about Northern lands so that we can make appropriate choices as we grow.”

For more information contact:

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100-100000



R(16)110608074

## Community Fire Protection Handbook

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 11, 2008)** – The release of the Community Fire Protection Handbook was announced today by the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA). Delegates attending the Northwest Territories Fire Chiefs Association’s Annual General Meeting in Yellowknife were among the first to receive this valuable resource.

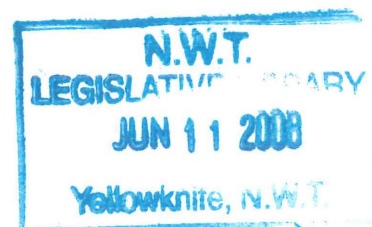
“Local Assistants and Fire Chiefs play an important part in the fire safety of our communities,” said Minister McLeod. “The Community Fire Protection Handbook provides another resource to assist them in this critical function.”

The Community Fire Protection Handbook addresses topics to assist fire officials in making decisions to implement and improve fire services in their community. The Handbook contains fire prevention guidelines and practices as well as the relevant Territorial legislation, regulations and National Fire and Building Codes.

For more information about the Community Fire Prevention Handbook, please contact the Assistant Fire Marshal in your region or visit the MACA website at [www.maca.gov.nt.ca](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca).

For more information contact:

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Manager, Policy and Planning  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
(867) 873-7512







R(16)110608075

## Premier Roland Responds to the Federal Residential School Apology

**YELLOWKNIFE (11 June, 2008)** - This afternoon in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories Premier Floyd Roland responded to Prime Minister Harper's apology to the survivors of residential schools.

Premier Roland said "Earlier this afternoon Prime Minister Stephen Harper provided a statement of apology to former students of Aboriginal residential schools. I would like to offer this government's acknowledgement of the Prime Minister's apology to the Aboriginal people of Canada and the generations of families who have been hurt by the residential school system."

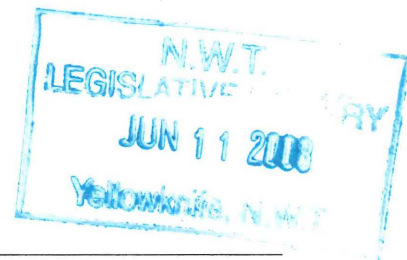
The Premier went on to say that this apology is a necessary step on the healing journey of those who have suffered. Premier Roland said "Let us pause for a moment from our discussions and debates today to remember and pray for those students and family members who have suffered as a result of the residential school system."

Government of the Northwest Territories employees who wished to watch the federal apology to former students of residential schools, or to attend events in their community related to the apology were granted casual leave to do so.

To view Premier Roland's full statement please visit the Government of the Northwest Territories website at <http://www.gov.nt.ca/thisweek/news/index.html>.

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**Government of Canada Residential Schools Apology**

Premier Floyd Roland

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Statement to the Legislative Assembly

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Mr. Speaker, earlier this afternoon Prime Minister Stephen Harper provided a statement of apology to former students of Aboriginal residential schools. I would like to offer this government's acknowledgement of the Prime Minister's apology to the Aboriginal people and their families who have been hurt by their attendance at residential schools.

Most people in this territory have been impacted in some way by the effect of residential schools. Many have family or friends that were affected. Over half of the Members of this Assembly attended residential schools ourselves. All of us have witnessed the loss, sorrow and devastation caused by these schools. Many of the challenges Northerners face, from loss of language, culture and family connection, to addictions and further abuses, stem from the difficult personal and family situations created by the residential school system in our communities.

The Prime Minister's apology is a glimmer of hope for Northern students who passed through a dark part of Canadian history, and finally marks the beginning of a period of healing and recovery. This apology is a necessary step on the healing journey of those who have suffered and suffer still. It does not mean the harm done to them by residential schools will go away, but allows for a new chapter in this sorrowful book. A turning of the page that signals a new beginning and a time of reconciliation and hope for Aboriginal families across our land. Mr. Speaker, we have a great deal of work ahead to help those affected deal with the indignities, degradation and suffering that resulted from residential schools. Much of the planning we do in this legislature is bound to the events of the residential school system.

Some there has been a positive side to their experience. Students met lifelong friends, and received an education that started them on a successful career path, as we witnessed recently at the Yellowknife reunion of one NWT residential school.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT has granted casual leave to employees wishing to watch the apology or attend events marking the occasion. Let us also pause for a moment from our discussions and debates today to remember and pray for those students and family members who have suffered as a result of the residential school system. Let us reflect on their suffering, and also on their strength. Let us honour the culture, language and community that has been retained, even as we mourn what was tragically lost.

Thank you.





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## News Release

R(16)180608076

### **Deh Cho Bridge Information Available on Transportation Website**

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 18, 2008)** - Members of the public who are interested in viewing documents related to the Deh Cho Bridge, as well as updates on the construction of the Deh Cho Bridge, can visit the department's website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca). Posted documents related to the Deh Cho Bridge, including the Concession Agreement and Schedules, can be found on the Deh Cho Bridge page under the Travel tab at the top of the Home page.

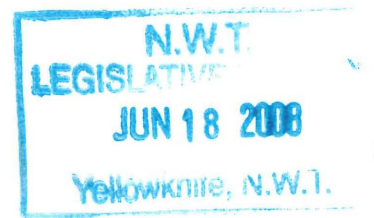
Construction of the Deh Cho Bridge is continuing on schedule. The public is advised to watch for crews and heavy equipment operating near the ferry landings on both sides of the Mackenzie River.

Construction has had a minimal effect on the operations of the Merv Hardie ferry. While traffic volumes on the ferry have increased due to construction activity, average wait times are at normal levels for passenger traffic. The traveling public is reminded to slow down and drive carefully in construction zones.

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For more information, please contact:

Earl Blacklock  
Manager of Public Affairs and Communications  
Department of Transportation  
(867) 873-7712







R(16)190608077

## NWT Water Strategy Framework

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 19, 2008)** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) in collaboration with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) NWT Regional office, is seeking input into the development of a Northwest Territories (NWT) Water Resources Management Strategy to address the current and potential challenges to water resources management in the NWT.

“Wetlands, deltas and water flows throughout northern Alberta and the southern Northwest Territories are changing, and the increased demand for energy and development requires that our concerns about water are heard and acted upon”, said ENR Minister Michael Miltenberger. “A Water Resources Management Strategy should help us ensure that development activities do not substantially alter waters that flow into or through the NWT in quality or quantity.”

A discussion paper entitled *Northern Voices, Northern Waters: Towards A Water Resources Management Strategy for the NWT* presents a sense of what the future management of NWT waters could be. It sets out both the form of a future Water Resources Management Strategy and the kinds of actions that could be undertaken to develop and implement a Strategy.

NWT residents, Aboriginal governments and organizations, and interested stakeholders will all have opportunity to contribute to the development of a Strategy. An NWT Water Resources Management Strategy will incorporate traditional knowledge and recognize and respect Aboriginal and Treaty rights, land claim agreements and self-government agreements.

“*Northern Voices, Northern Waters* is presented in the form of an outline,” said Minister Miltenberger. “It shows what could be included in an NWT Water Resources Management Strategy that should help us facilitate sound water resources management, especially regarding community public water supplies, transboundary waters and aquatic ecosystems.”

Consultations with Aboriginal governments and interested stakeholders will continue into the fall of 2008 and a final Strategy will be completed in March 2009.

For more information, contact:

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Office of the Premier  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
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R(16)190608078

## NWT Deputy Minister of Justice Appointed to the Supreme Court of the NWT

**YELLOWKNIFE (19 June, 2008)** – The Northwest Territories Deputy Minister of Justice, Donald Cooper, has resigned his position with the government. Mr. Cooper has been appointed by the federal government as a judge of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories.

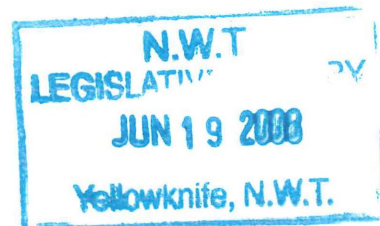
Premier Roland said “I wish Mr. Cooper the best in his new position and thank him for his years of service with the Government of the Northwest Territories. He will certainly be missed.”

Justice Minister Jackson Lafferty said, “I would like to thank Mr. Cooper for his contribution to the Department over the years and for sharing his experience with his colleagues. I wish him well in his future endeavor.”

Mr. Cooper leaves the Government of the Northwest Territories effective immediately. A new deputy minister will be appointed in the coming weeks, in the meantime Premier Roland has appointed Ms. Bronwyn Watters, currently Assistant Deputy Minister, Solicitor General, as Acting Deputy Minister of Justice.

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# News Release

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R(16)190608079

**“BUILDING CANADA” FUNDING  
PASSES FIRST MILESTONE IN NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

*The Governments of Canada and Northwest Territories sign the Provincial-Territorial Base Funding Agreement*

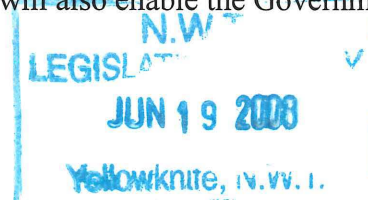
**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, June 19, 2008** — Today, the governments of Canada and Northwest Territories have signed the Provincial-Territorial (PT) Base Funding Agreement under the Building Canada infrastructure plan. The Agreement was announced by the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, and the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Public Works and Services, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, and Minister Responsible for Youth for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The signing of the PT Base Funding Agreement is an important step toward providing federal funding to the Northwest Territories under the Provincial-Territorial Base Funding Initiative (PT Base Fund). Under this Agreement, the Northwest Territories will receive more than \$25 million annually from the Government of Canada, for a total of \$185.8 million through to 2014. These funds will be used to support core infrastructure priorities such as the Kakisa River Bridge Replacement, as well as community priorities such as water and wastewater treatment initiatives. Both governments are working to finalize the plan that will identify the initiatives that will benefit from the PT Base Fund in the first year.

“Through our Building Canada plan, we recognize the unique infrastructure challenges in the North. Today, we are making real progress in delivering upon those infrastructure needs most critical to residents of the Northwest Territories,” said Minister Cannon. “Our Government is pleased to sign the Base Funding Agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories.”

“The Base Funding Agreement clearly demonstrates that governments can work together in the best interests of Northerners,” said the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians. “This is a significant federal investment in infrastructure that will help strengthen communities in the Northwest Territories.”

“This funding will build on the success of other infrastructure partnerships with Canada, like the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund and the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, to support critical infrastructure needs across the Northwest Territories. It will also enable the Government





of the Northwest Territories to further support community governments in addressing their urgent priorities,” said Minister McLeod.

“The signing of this agreement is an important step in helping to address the North’s unique infrastructure needs. It provides stable, long term funding that can be targeted at the NWT’s most pressing transportation system requirements,” added the Honourable Norman Yakeleya, Minister of Transportation, Minister Responsible for Seniors, and Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

Under the PT Base Fund, each jurisdiction will receive \$25 million per year from 2007 to 2014. This amount will be augmented in each of the territories to include their allocations under the Building Canada Fund. In the Northwest Territories, this represents a total allocation of \$185.8 million through to 2014 to help address core infrastructure priorities at both the territorial and community level. Under this agreement, both governments have agreed that a minimum of \$16 million of this funding will be allocated to community-based infrastructure and expect that the final amount will be higher. In recognition of the unique challenges of the North, federal cost-sharing for the PT Base Fund in each of the territories will be up to 75%.

Money from the PT Base Funding Agreement will flow up-front and on a regular, predictable basis. Provinces and territories will be able to pool, bank, borrow against and cash manage these financial resources. Receiving governments will provide a plan of how they will use these federal funds.

In addition, all communities across the Northwest Territories will benefit from \$88.5 million from the Gas Tax Fund between 2007 and 2014. Further, the federal Budget 2008 announced that the Gas Tax Fund will be extended at \$2 billion per year nationally beyond 2014 and become a permanent measure.

Through its unprecedented \$33-billion Building Canada infrastructure plan, the Government of Canada is providing long-term, stable and predictable funding to help meet infrastructure needs across Canada. Building Canada will support a stronger, safer and better country. Under the Building Canada Plan, the Government of Canada will be investing at least \$245.8 million in infrastructure in the Northwest Territories between 2007 and 2014.

-30-

For further information on the Building Canada plan, visit [www.buildingcanada.gc.ca](http://www.buildingcanada.gc.ca)

For media inquiries contact:

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Infrastructure Canada  
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# Communiqué

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R(16)190608079

## LE FINANCEMENT DE « CHANTIERS CANADA » FRANCHIT UNE PREMIÈRE ÉTAPE DANS LES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST

*Les gouvernements du Canada et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest signent l'entente sur le financement de base pour les provinces et les territoires*

**Yellowknife (Territoires du Nord-Ouest), le 19 juin 2008** — Aujourd'hui, les gouvernements du Canada et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest ont signé une entente sur le financement de base pour les provinces et les territoires (P/T) aux termes du plan d'infrastructure Chantiers Canada. L'entente a été annoncée par l'honorable Lawrence Cannon, ministre des Transports, de l'Infrastructure et des Collectivités, et l'honorable Michael McLeod, ministre des Travaux publics et des Services gouvernementaux, ministre des Affaires municipales et communautaires et ministre responsable de la jeunesse pour le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

La signature de l'entente sur le financement de base pour les P/T constitue une étape importante en vue de verser du financement fédéral aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest aux termes de l'Initiative de financement de base pour les provinces et les territoires. Dans le cadre de cette entente, les Territoires du Nord-Ouest recevront plus de 25 millions de dollars par année de la part du gouvernement du Canada, pour un total de 185,8 millions de dollars d'ici 2014. Ces fonds seront utilisés pour appuyer les principales priorités en matière d'infrastructure, comme le remplacement du pont de la rivière Kakisa, ainsi que pour répondre aux besoins prioritaires des collectivités comme les projets de traitement de l'eau et des eaux usées. Les deux gouvernements collaborent en vue de peaufiner un plan établissant les initiatives qui entraîneront des avantages aux termes du financement de base pour les provinces et les territoires dès la première année.

« Grâce à notre plan Chantiers Canada, nous reconnaissons les défis uniques du Nord dans le domaine de l'infrastructure. Aujourd'hui, nous faisons de réels progrès pour ce qui est de répondre aux besoins en matière d'infrastructure des résidents des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, a indiqué le ministre Cannon. Notre gouvernement est très heureux de signer une entente sur le financement de base pour les provinces et les territoires avec le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. »

« L'entente sur le financement de base démontre clairement que les gouvernements peuvent travailler ensemble pour le meilleur intérêt des résidents du Nord, a dit l'honorable Chuck Strahl, ministre des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien et interlocuteur fédéral auprès des Métis et des Indiens non inscrits. Il s'agit aussi d'un investissement important de la part du gouvernement fédéral qui aidera à renforcer les collectivités des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. »





« Ce financement s'appuiera sur la réussite d'autres partenariats en matière d'infrastructure avec le Canada, comme le Fonds canadien sur l'infrastructure stratégique et le Fonds sur l'infrastructure municipale rurale, afin de répondre aux besoins prioritaires en matière d'infrastructure dans l'ensemble des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. De plus, cette mesure permettra au gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest d'aider les administrations municipales à répondre à leurs besoins prioritaires urgents », a indiqué le ministre McLeod.

« La signature de l'entente représente une mesure importante en vue de contribuer à répondre aux besoins uniques du Nord sur le plan de l'infrastructure. L'entente offre un financement stable et à long terme pouvant répondre aux besoins les plus urgents associés au réseau de transport des Territoires du Nord-Ouest », a ajouté l'honorable Norman Yakeleya, ministre des Transports, ministre responsable des aînés et ministre responsable de la Société d'énergie des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

Aux termes du financement de base pour les P/T, chaque province et chaque territoire recevront 25 millions de dollars par année, de 2007 à 2014. Ce montant sera augmenté dans chaque territoire pour comprendre les affectations du Fonds Chantiers Canada. Dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest, cela représente une affectation totale de 185,8 millions de dollars d'ici 2014 pour répondre aux principaux besoins prioritaires en matière d'infrastructure, à l'échelle du territoire et des collectivités. En vertu de cette entente, les gouvernements fédéral et territorial se sont entendus qu'un montant minimum de 16 millions de dollars provenant de ce financement serait dédié aux infrastructures pour les collectivités et ils s'attendent à ce que le montant final soit plus élevé. Compte tenu des défis uniques que doivent relever les collectivités du Nord, le partage des coûts avec le fédéral pour le financement de base pour les P/T dans chaque territoire pourra atteindre 75 p. 100.

Des fonds prévus dans l'entente relative au financement de base pour les P/T seront versés dès le départ, puis ils seront versés de façon régulière et prévisible. Les provinces et les territoires seront autorisés à mettre ces ressources financières en commun, à les accumuler, à les gérer et à emprunter au titre de celles-ci. Les gouvernements bénéficiant de ces fonds fédéraux devront fournir un plan indiquant à quelles fins ils les utiliseront.

De plus, les collectivités des Territoires du Nord-Ouest profiteront d'un montant de 88,5 millions de dollars aux termes du Fonds de la taxe sur l'essence entre 2007 et 2014. Enfin, dans le budget fédéral de 2008, on a annoncé que le fonds de la taxe sur l'essence deviendrait permanent à compter de 2014, à raison de 2 milliards de dollars par année.

Dans le cadre de Chantiers Canada, son plan d'infrastructure sans précédent doté de 33 milliards de dollars, le gouvernement du Canada fournira un financement à long terme, stable et prévisible, destiné à répondre aux besoins en infrastructure à travers le Canada. Chantiers Canada contribuera à rendre le pays plus fort, sécuritaire et meilleur. Aux termes du plan Chantiers Canada, le gouvernement du Canada investira 245,8 millions de dollars dans l'infrastructure des Territoires du Nord-Ouest entre 2007 et 2014.



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Gouvernement des Territoires du  
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867 669-2304





R(16)270608080

## Tsiigehtchic Steppe Bison Discovery Update

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 27, 2008)** – In September of 2007, Tsiigehtchic resident Shane Van Loon discovered animal remains unlike any he had seen before eroding from the side of a hill beside the Arctic Red River.

The remains were of a steppe bison, which became extinct at the end of the last Ice Age about 10,000 years ago. Steppe bison were much larger relatives of modern bison, the Tsiigehtchic steppe bison has a horn-span of about 1 meter across. In addition to being the first undisturbed discovery of a steppe bison in the Northwest Territories (NWT), the remains are exciting because they were well-preserved by the permafrost of the area, and include soft tissues that are not often intact in remains of that age.

“The Tsiigehtchic steppe bison is one of the most interesting fossil discoveries made in the Northwest Territories. It will allow us to better understand what it was like here when glaciers first disappeared from the land.” said Tom Andrews, NWT Territorial Archaeologist with the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC).

Earlier this spring, Mr. Van Loon provided the remains to the PWNHC. The Tsiigehtchic steppe bison is now preserved in Department of Environment and Natural Resources cold storage under the professional care and observation of the PWNHC.

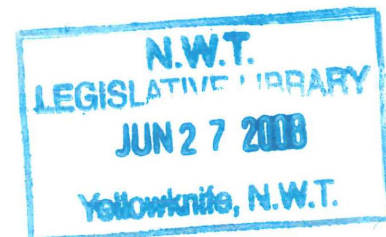
The PWNHC, a division of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, is developing a plan for study and preservation of the remains and for educating Northerners about the discovery, in consultation with the community of Tsiigehtchic and the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute.

Yukon Palaeontologist Dr. Grant Zazula and biologist Dr. Beth Shapiro of Pennsylvania State University, an expert on steppe bison, have both provided advice and expertise on the Tsiigehtchic steppe bison and continue to work with PWNHC to develop the research and study plan surrounding the discovery.

Images of the bison head are available to the media on request.

For more information, contact:

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





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## **The Steppe Bison**

The steppe bison (*Bison priscus*) is an extinct species of bison characterized by their large size and large horns (adult males often have a spread of nearly one meter between the tips of their horns). While their horns were dramatically larger than the wood bison we see near Fort Providence, Northwest Territories today, their bodies were likely only slightly larger than modern wood bison. The steppe bison also had a second hump.

Steppe bison entered North America by crossing the Bering Land Bridge during the last ice age. They thrived in the cool grasslands of Eastern Beringia (unglaciated portions of Alaska, Yukon, and NWT), becoming one of the most abundant large mammals to live in this area during the late Pleistocene period (the final period of the last ice age). Steppe bison ate predominantly grasses, which were abundant in the steppe-like grasslands of Eastern Beringia.

Steppe bison became extinct in northwest North America approximately 10,000 years ago as the last ice age drew to a close. Paleontologists believe that modern wood and plains bison arose from steppe bison in the continental United States at the end of the last ice age. These bison subsequently repopulated post-glacial North America.

Archaeological evidence indicates that people hunted steppe bison throughout Eurasia and northwest North America during the last ice age. The most vivid evidence of human interaction with steppe bison is the images of steppe bison preserved in the Paleolithic cave paintings of Europe. Archaeologists have found steppe bison bones in archaeological sites in Alaska and Yukon Territory that date to the end of the last ice age.



**Premier Roland Announces Cabinet Shuffle****R(16)081** - Monday, June 30, 2008[Print](#)   [Close](#)

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**YELLOWKNIFE (30 June, 2008)** – Northwest Territories (NWT) Premier Floyd Roland announced new Cabinet portfolio assignments today as well as changes to some Deputy Ministers' responsibilities. New portfolio assignments are:

Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger

- Deputy Premier
- Minister of Finance
- Minister Responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat
- Minister of Environment and Natural Resources

In addition to his ministerial portfolio assignments, Minister Miltenberger will remain as Government House Leader.

Minister Miltenberger has been tasked by the Premier, as Chair of the Strategic Initiative Committee for Refocusing Government, to coordinate actions of the Department of Finance and the Financial Management Board Secretariat to responsibly manage the public purse. The lead deputy minister for this initiative is Margaret Melhorn, Deputy Minister of Finance.

Honourable Michael McLeod

- Minister of Public Works and Services
- Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation
- Minister of Transportation

Minister McLeod becomes lead minister responsible for infrastructure and will coordinate the efforts of the three key infrastructure departments. Mike Aumond, Deputy Minister for Public Works and Services, has been appointed lead deputy minister for infrastructure. In addition to his ministerial portfolio assignments, the Premier has appointed Minister McLeod as the Chair of the Strategic Initiative Committee on Building Our Future.

Honourable Norman Yakeleya

- Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs
- Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation
- Minister Responsible for the Workers Safety and Compensation Commission
- Minister Responsible for Seniors
- Minister Responsible for Youth
- 

In addition to his ministerial portfolio assignments Minister Yakeleya is Chair of the Committee on Sustainability of Rural and Remote Communities, and Chair of the Strategic Initiative Committee on Regionalization of Government.

Honourable Sandy Lee



- Minister of Health and Social Services
- Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
- Minister Responsible for Persons With Disabilities

In addition to her ministerial portfolio assignments, Minister Lee has been asked by the Premier to assume lead responsibility for coordinating initiatives to address homelessness, and is Chair of the Strategic Initiative Committee on Reducing the Cost of Living.

Honourable Jackson Lafferty

- Minister of Justice
- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

In addition to his ministerial portfolio assignments Minister Lafferty is Chair of the Strategic Initiative Committee on Maximizing Opportunities for Northerners.

Honourable Bob McLeod

- Minister of Human Resources
- Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board

In addition to his ministerial portfolio assignments Minister McLeod continues to assume lead responsibility for coordinating energy initiatives, and is Chair of the Strategic Initiative Committee on Managing this Land.

Premier Roland will retain the portfolios of:

- Minister of Executive
- Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

"As a government we are pursuing an agenda to build the Northwest Territories into a place where Northerners can fulfill their full potential. These new assignments demonstrate the importance of infrastructure as the key to growth and of continuing to manage public money capably and responsibly for the benefit of all Northerners," said Premier Roland. "It is my intention to work closely with Ministers to ensure a smooth transition and to maintain consultation with regular Members to seek their advice and keep them updated on our progress."

Changes to the senior ranks of the public service are:

- Debbie Delancey, currently Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, becomes Deputy Minister of Human Resources, effective July 10, 2008,
- Tom Williams, currently Chief Operating Officer with the Gwich'in Tribal Council, is appointed Associate Deputy Minister of Human Resources, effective September 2, 2008,
- Jeff Polakoff, currently the President of the NWT Housing Corporation, becomes Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, effective July 10, 2008
- Jeff Anderson, currently Vice President of Finance and Strategic Investments for the NWT Housing Corporation, is appointed acting President of the Corporation, effective July 10, 2008
- Bronwyn Watters is appointed Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice where she is currently acting in that position,
- Gary Bohnet is appointed Deputy Minister of the Department of Environment and Natural





Resources where he is currently acting in that position,

- Margaret Melhorn, Deputy Minister of Finance, is appointed Deputy Minister for the Financial Management Board Secretariat,
- Sandy Kalgutkar, currently Director of Budgeting and Evaluation at the Financial Management Board Secretariat, becomes Deputy Secretary to the Financial Management Board.

All assignments and appointments are effective from 5:00 pm on Monday 30th June, unless otherwise noted.

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R16)020708082

## COMMUNIQUE

### *A Stronger North and a Better Canada*

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (June 28, 2008) – Premiers from the three territories met today in Yellowknife to discuss issues relevant to Northern people, the Northern environment, and Northern economies.

#### **OUR PEOPLE**

##### **National Aboriginal Women's Summit**

In recognition of the significance and complexity of the issues facing Aboriginal women today, Premier Roland will be hosting and co-chairing the 2008 National Aboriginal Women's Summit in Yellowknife on July 28-30 with Ms. Beverley Jacobs, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada. This summit is a follow up to the very important first National Aboriginal Women's Summit hosted by Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams in June of 2007 and an opportunity for jurisdictions, particularly Northern jurisdictions, to share progress and initiatives.

Premiers remain committed to keeping the social, economic and political well-being of Aboriginal women and their families as a priority issue and look forward to receiving the recommendations from the 2008 Summit.

##### **Housing**

Premiers acknowledged that recent federal investments through the Northern Housing Trust have resulted in significant improvements in the quality and availability of housing for Northerners. However, the particular social, geographic and climatic realities of the North continue to present a challenge.

Long-term sustainable investment is needed to ensure that housing built in partnership with the federal government is sustainable as is a commitment from the federal government to sustainable investments toward the high operation and maintenance costs associated with housing delivery in the North. Federal funding





for the operation and maintenance of the Northern public housing stock is currently declining and will lapse completely in 2038.

Premiers call upon the federal government to commit to strengthening its role in housing, including immediately freezing current federal funding levels and renewing its engagement with provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for housing on the broad range of housing issues facing the country. Premiers also called for the renewal of the federal housing programs and trusts set to expire in March 2009.

### **Labour Market**

Premiers stressed the need for education and skills training in communities so that Northerners are better equipped to participate in the emerging employment and economic development opportunities in the North.

Premiers recognized the importance of identifying existing skills within their communities' labour forces and matching those skilled workers to employment, and agreed to examine the opportunities presented by the Nunavut Community Skills Information System.

A balanced approach is required in addressing Northern labour market issues and Premiers agreed to continue to share best practices such as the Yukon Nominee Program and Yukon Immigration Web Portal. Premiers acknowledged the progress the federal government has made in reforming the immigration process to reduce delays in processing applications and encouraged further efforts in this important policy area.

### **Cost of Living**

Premiers discussed the reality that the cost of living in the North is too high and acknowledged that these high costs make it difficult for many Northern families to pay their basic bills, while increasing energy and consumer prices impede local economic development, and stand in the way of achieving a better quality of life.

In recognition of the fact that Northerners living in remote communities have limited options to find alternative means of transport or heat for their homes, territorial governments do not tax home heating fuel.

Premiers called on the federal government to eliminate the GST on fuel for home heating and power generation north of 60 and the transportation of essential goods. Premiers offered to work with the federal government to facilitate implementation of such an exemption.





## **OUR ENVIRONMENT**

### **Climate Change**

Premiers unanimously rejected any proposal for a national carbon tax as a viable solution that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the North. Premiers agreed that a much more productive or sensible solution to combating the impact of climate change is by making strategic investments in alternative energy sources such as hydro electricity, wind power and biomass.

Premiers expressed their concern about the increasing costs of energy and the growing impact of energy use on the environment and had an extensive discussion about the need for alternative energy sources to reduce the dependency on diesel as the single fuel source for many northern communities.

Investing in Northern alternative energy sources is in the national interest. In Yukon, the extension of the hydro grid to the Minto mine and Pelly Crossing will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 24,100 tonnes per year.

Premiers recognize that private and public investment is required to fully develop the territories hydro, wind, and other clean and alternative energy potential. In addition, the federal government could further enable territorial governments to make their own strategic investments in such initiatives by removing current restrictions on debt financing imposed by legislation.

Premiers shared information about the progress their governments are making to develop climate change adaptation strategies tailored to the unique context in each of the territories. Premiers committed to continue to pursue innovative partnerships between the territories, the federal government, Aboriginal governments and organizations, academic institutions and other jurisdictions in order to effectively adapt to climate change.

Once each territory has completed its own Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Premiers will then be in a position to develop a pan-territorial Northern Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

### **Energy Efficiency**

Premiers restated their commitment to reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. They discussed their recently released energy strategies and acknowledged the importance of energy efficiency initiatives in contributing to reducing emissions and realizing savings for government and residents alike.





All three territorial governments have recently launched a number of significant energy efficiency initiatives and conservation measures including home energy audits and retrofits, energy efficiency incentives programs to encourage residents to purchase energy efficient appliances and vehicles, and programs.

## **OUR ECONOMY**

### **Transportation Infrastructure**

Premiers acknowledged the federal government's significant investments in Northern infrastructure through the new long term Building Canada Fund: NWT \$245.8 million, Nunavut \$242.68 million, and Yukon \$242.91 million for a total of \$731.39 million. The territorial and federal governments agree that community infrastructure is one of the priorities for investment under this fund and will work together to address infrastructure priorities, such as water, wastewater, green energy, regional and community airports, community and intercommunity access roads.

Premiers noted that, while this is a very important contribution toward community-based infrastructure projects, there remains a critical transportation infrastructure deficit in Canada's North specifically regarding North-South connections.

Premiers discussed the recently released pan-territorial transportation strategy titled *'Northern Connections'* aimed at strengthening and modernizing the North's transportation system. *Northern Connections* identifies the need for strategic investments in new highway infrastructure in the Northwest Territories, reconstruction and improvements to the highway network in the Yukon, and Arctic marine infrastructure in Nunavut. It provides a common vision for strategic transportation projects across all three territories aimed at making transportation more reliable and less expensive.

Premiers discussed how investments in improved and expanded transportation infrastructure effectively linking Northern communities to markets, services, and businesses promote economic development and diversification, reduce the cost of living, improve the quality of life, and are a key element in ensuring the vitality and sustainability of these communities. The continued presence of sustainable Northern communities throughout the Arctic is an essential element in exercising Canada's sovereignty in the region.

Strategic investments in infrastructure will require partnerships between communities, industry and the federal government. The Premiers call on the federal government to work with them to improve and expand transportation infrastructure in the North to realize tangible benefits for Northerners and all Canadians. The economic development of the territories is critical to Canada's



future and Premiers noted that historically, strategic transportation projects have opened this country up and helped it grow.

## **Devolution**

Premiers firmly believe that Northerners should make decisions about northern lands and resources and reiterated the need for the transfer of province-like powers over public lands and resources in the NWT and Nunavut to the territorial governments.

The transfer of control and administration, referred to as devolution, must ensure northern residents have authority over northern land and the development of northern resources and that revenues realized from the development of northern resources are available to invest in programs and services for Northerners.

Devolution and the accompanying resource revenue sharing agreements with the federal government need to ensure that Northerners are the primary beneficiaries of resource development in the North.

Premiers agreed that fair agreements on devolution and resource revenue sharing for the territories are in the best interests of Canada as such agreements facilitate continued economic gains for all Canadians. Premiers called on the federal government to appoint a negotiator, develop a mandate and initiate formal negotiations with the Government of Nunavut.

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## **OUR RELATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Premiers are encouraged by the federal government's continued focus on Northern issues and acknowledged the federal government's strategic aims for the North: sovereignty, environmental protection, economic/social development and improving/devolving governance, as shared interests between Canada and the three territories.

Premiers discussed the federal government's proposed investment in a High Arctic Research Station. While investments in Northern research are welcome, Premiers placed special emphasis on the need for research to be undertaken in the North, involving Northerners, and that is practical and applicable to solving problems in the North. To that end, Premiers issued a formal request to the federal government to engage in direct discussions on the development of this important research facility.

They expressed their continuing interest in working with the Prime Minister on future collaboration between the federal government and the North on their shared objectives within their respective jurisdictions.



Premiers acknowledged the significant contribution the federal government has made and continues to make through key strategic investments in Northern health care and economic development.

Premiers noted that a number of important funding initiatives are due to expire over the next couple of years and reiterated their desire to work with the federal government to identify continuing Northern strategic investments. In particular, Premiers called on the federal government to provide economic development funding directly to territorial governments.

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# News Release    Communiqué

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R(16)150708083

## **CANADA AND NWT PARTNER TO IMPROVE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Hay River, NWT** - (July 15, 2008) — Today the Governments of Canada and Northwest Territories (NWT) announced funding to upgrade water treatment and sewage projects in Hay River, Fort Simpson and Fort Smith, NWT.

“Canada is proud to help important projects like these get completed, and to ensure these communities have the long-lasting infrastructure they need,” said the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians. “This investment is one of the measures we’ve announced to support a strengthened quality of life in the Northwest Territories. For example, in March Prime Minister Harper announced \$4.2 million to assist NWT communities and workers who have suffered from economic hardship.”

To make today’s announcement, Minister Strahl joined the Honourable Norman Yakeleya, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Government of the Northwest Territories.

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“The Municipal and Rural Infrastructure Fund provided an excellent opportunity to address the growing infrastructure deficit faced by communities in the Northwest Territories,” said the Honourable Norman Yakeleya, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. “The ability of communities to cost share key “green” infrastructure priorities such as water and waste infrastructure has enhanced their ability to implement their priority projects and ensure their success.”

The Canada-Northwest Territories Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) is a cost-sharing program between Infrastructure Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. The Government of Canada’s contribution to municipal water-related projects includes:

- \$684,767 towards a \$2.5 million project to upgrade sewage treatment infrastructure in Hay River; Government of the Northwest Territories - \$973,564;
- \$471,650 for water and sewer main replacement in Fort Simpson; Government of the Northwest Territories - \$392,228; and
- \$433,333 for intake ground stabilization, a geophysical assessment and upgrades to the water treatment plant in Fort Smith; Government of the Northwest Territories - \$603,333.



Under the Canada-Northwest Territories MRIF Agreement, the federal and territorial governments each committed \$16 million to the fund, with an additional \$3.2 million announced in May 2007.

Through MRIF, the Government of Canada continues to work in partnership with provinces, territories, and municipalities, First Nations and the private sector to invest in local infrastructure projects. Improvements to municipal systems also encourage economic and social development that benefits Northerners, in keeping with our Northern Strategy.

This release is also available in electronic format at [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca)

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# Backgrounder

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The Canada-Northwest Territories Municipal Rural Infrastructure (MRIF) Fund agreement was signed by Infrastructure Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), January 18, 2005. The Government of Canada provided \$16 million in federal funding for rural and municipal infrastructure projects in the NWT. These funds were matched by the Government of the Northwest Territories, Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA).

In 2007, the federal government invested an additional \$3,203,000 in MRIF in the Northwest Territories for a total federal contribution of \$19,203,000. Combined with the territorial government's contributions, the fund's total value is \$38,406,000.

In the NWT, the territorial government's matching contribution was identified primarily through its capital plan. In the tax based communities funding was provided by the GNWT's water sewer cost share program and a community contribution. The investments enabled the communities to move forward with upgraded facilities and current technology.

MRIF focuses on water, waste water, cultural and recreational projects that meet local infrastructure needs which benefit a community and its residents. Projects selection for MRIF is guided by joint federal-territorial Management Committees. The Government of Canada has invested in a variety of infrastructure projects throughout the NWT that support community development.

## Project Summaries:

- Hay River – upgrade to sewage treatment cells. Government of Canada - \$684,767; Government of the Northwest Territories - \$973,564; Town of Hay River - \$841,669.
- Fort Simpson – water and sewer main replacement and enhanced chopper pump technology. Government of Canada - \$471,650; Government of the Northwest Territories - \$392,228; Village of Fort Simpson - \$496,212.
- Fort Smith – intake ground stabilization, a geophysical assessment, and upgrades to the water treatment plant. Government of Canada - \$433,333; Government of the Northwest Territories - \$603,333; Town of Fort Smith – \$433,334.





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# Communiqué News Release

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R(16)150708083

## **LE CANADA ET LES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST UNISSENT LEURS EFFORTS POUR AMÉLIORER L'INFRASTRUCTURE DES SERVICES D'EAU**

**Hay River (Territoires du Nord-Ouest)**, le 15 juillet 2008 – Les gouvernements du Canada et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest ont annoncé aujourd'hui le financement de projets d'amélioration des réseaux d'aqueduc et d'égout de Hay River, de Fort Simpson et de Fort Smith.

« Le Canada est fier d'appuyer des projets de cette importance et de faire en sorte que les localités en question puissent compter, pendant longtemps, sur l'infrastructure dont elles ont besoin, a déclaré l'honorable Chuck Strahl, ministre des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien et interlocuteur fédéral auprès des Métis et des Indiens non inscrits. Cet investissement est l'une des mesures que nous avons annoncées dans le cadre de notre engagement à améliorer la qualité de vie dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. On se rappellera également qu'en mars dernier, le premier ministre Harper a annoncé le versement de 4,2 millions de dollars pour aider les collectivités et les travailleurs d'ici qui sont aux prises avec des difficultés économiques. »

Le ministre Strahl a fait l'annonce en compagnie de l'honorable Norman Yakeleya, ministre des Affaires municipales et communautaires des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

« Le Fonds sur l'infrastructure municipale rurale représente une excellente occasion de combler les lacunes de plus en plus importantes en matière d'infrastructure auxquelles sont aux prises les collectivités des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, a expliqué le ministre Yakeleya. La capacité des collectivités à payer leur part des coûts liés à l'infrastructure écologique primordiale, comme la distribution de l'eau et l'élimination des déchets, a permis d'améliorer leur capacité à mettre en œuvre leurs projets prioritaires et à assurer leur succès. »

Le Fond sur l'infrastructure municipale rurale Canada-Territoires du Nord-Ouest est un programme fondé sur le partage des coûts entre Infrastructure Canada et le ministère des Affaires municipales et communautaires des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Les contributions du gouvernement du Canada pour les projets liés à l'eau dans les municipalités comprennent :

- 684 767 \$ pour un projet de 2,5 millions de dollars visant à moderniser l'infrastructure de traitement de l'eau à Hay River; gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest : 973 564 \$;





- 471 650 \$ pour remplacer les conduites d'eau principales et les égouts collecteurs à Fort Simpson; gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest : 392 228 \$;
- 433 333 \$ dans le but de stabiliser le sol pour la prise d'eau, ainsi que d'effectuer l'évaluation géophysique de l'usine de traitement de l'eau de Fort Smith et d'y apporter des améliorations; gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest : 603 333 \$.

Dans le cadre de l'accord relatif au Fonds sur l'infrastructure municipale rurale Canada-Territoires du Nord-Ouest, les gouvernements fédéral et territorial se sont engagés à verser chacun 16 millions de dollars dans le Fonds. De plus, un supplément de 3,2 millions a été annoncé en mai 2007.

Par l'intermédiaire du Fonds, le gouvernement du Canada continue de travailler en partenariat avec les provinces, les territoires, les municipalités, les Premières nations et le secteur privé pour investir dans des projets d'infrastructure locale. Les améliorations apportées aux systèmes municipaux confirment notre engagement à l'égard de la santé et de la sécurité des résidents des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, ce qui s'inscrit dans les objectifs de notre Stratégie pour le Nord.

Ce communiqué est également disponible sur Internet : [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca)

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# Document d'information

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Infrastructure Canada et le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest ont signé l'accord relatif au Fonds sur l'infrastructure municipale rurale Canada-Territoires du Nord-Ouest le 18 janvier 2005. Le gouvernement du Canada a fourni 16 millions de dollars pour la réalisation de projets d'infrastructure municipale et rurale dans cette région, et le ministère des Affaires municipales et communautaires des Territoires du Nord-Ouest a égalé ce montant.

En 2007, le gouvernement fédéral a versé un financement additionnel de 3 203 000 \$ dans le Fonds, ce qui a porté sa contribution à 19 203 000 \$. Avec la contribution du gouvernement territorial, le budget du Fonds s'élève à 38 406 000 \$ au total.

Le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest a axé sa contribution principalement sur les immobilisations. Dans les collectivités ayant un pouvoir d'imposition foncière, le financement a été fourni dans le cadre du programme de partage des coûts liés à l'eau et aux égouts ainsi que d'une contribution communautaire. Ces investissements ont permis aux collectivités d'améliorer leurs installations et de se doter de meilleures technologies.

Le Fonds vise principalement les investissements dans des projets culturels et récréatifs, ainsi que dans des projets de distribution et de traitement de l'eau qui répondent aux besoins locaux en matière d'infrastructure et profitent aux collectivités et à leurs résidents. Des comités de gestion fédéraux-territoriaux sélectionnent conjointement les projets qui seront financés dans le cadre du Fonds. Le gouvernement du Canada a investi partout dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest dans divers projets d'infrastructure qui soutiennent le développement communautaire.

## Résumé des projets :

- Hay River – moderniser les stations de traitement de l'eau; gouvernement du Canada : 684 767 \$; gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest : 973 564 \$; Hay River : 841 669 \$.
- Fort Simpson – remplacer les conduites d'eau principales et les égouts collecteurs et moderniser la technologie de pompe sécatrice; gouvernement du Canada : 471 650 \$; gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest : 392 228 \$; Fort Simpson : 496 212 \$.
- Fort Smith – stabiliser le sol pour la prise d'eau ainsi qu'effectuer l'évaluation géophysique de l'usine de traitement de l'eau et y apporter des améliorations; gouvernement du Canada : 433 333 \$; gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest : 603 333 \$; Fort Smith : 433 334 \$.



R(16)180708084

## Premier Roland welcomes McCrank report

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 18, 2008)** - Premier Roland today acknowledged the release of the report by Mr. Neil McCrank, the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development's Special Representative for the Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative.

The Premier thanked the Prime Minister and the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for the process.

"This process is long overdue and I am very glad the Prime Minister had the foresight to move on this important issue and that Minister Strahl acted as quickly as he did," said Premier Roland. "I also want to thank Mr. McCrank for his thorough, honest and accurate report."

The McCrank report sets out a series of recommendations for improving the regulatory regime in the North. Eighteen of the report's 22 recommendations, plus those dealing with restructuring the regulatory framework, were directed to the Northwest Territories.

Premier Roland said the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) focus will be on increasing responsibility for Northerners.

The Premier noted that many of the GNWT's recommendations to Mr. McCrank were included in the report, particularly the cumulative impact monitoring program, performance measures and legislative amendments to the MVRMA that set out criteria for more extensive review levels.

Premier Roland said, "It is now my plan to talk with Northerners, Aboriginal leaders and stakeholders in the weeks ahead about the McCrank Report recommendations."

Premier Roland indicated that he will place the report on the agenda for his next meeting with Northern regional Aboriginal leaders, and will prepare a response for Minister Strahl following discussions with all parties involved.

A copy of the report can be viewed at <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nr/prs/m-a2008/ri08-eng.pdf>.

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## News Release

R(16)280708085

### **Minister Norman Yakeleya's Portfolios Removed**

**YELLOWKNIFE (28 July, 2008)** - Premier Floyd K. Roland removed all portfolios from Minister Norman Yakeleya late last Friday giving the Minister the opportunity to address a personal matter requiring his full attention. Premier Roland will not comment on the nature of the matter.

On an interim basis, Premier Roland reassigned the affected portfolios effective noon today:

Premier Roland assumes responsibility for Northwest Territories' Power Corporation.

Minister Sandy Lee assumes responsibility for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and for Youth and Seniors.

Minister Bob McLeod assumes responsibility for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

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## News Release

R(16)070808086

### **Premier Floyd K. Roland offers his Condolences on the Death of Daniel L. Norris**

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 7, 2008)** – Premier Floyd K. Roland, on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories (NWT), extended his condolences to the family and friends of former Commissioner Daniel L. Norris.

Premier Roland said, “I am saddened to hear about the passing of Danny Norris. He was a personal acquaintance and his loss will be felt by many across the Northwest Territories. Danny was Commissioner during an extremely important time in the North and will be deeply missed.”

Daniel L. Norris, born Southwest of Inuvik in the Mackenzie Delta, was sworn in as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories on October 2, 1989, where he served the people of the Northwest Territories for 5 years. Prior to becoming Commissioner, Daniel spent 33 years working at various levels of government. He started his career at the department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and worked his way to become Regional Superintendent of Personnel.

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Out of respect for Mr. Norris, flags on Government of the Northwest Territories buildings across the NWT will be flown at half-mast until the evening of Thursday, August 7, 2008.

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R(16)110808087

## **Roland to North America: Secure supplies of energy are in NWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 11, 2008)** - Premier Floyd K. Roland waded into the increasing public debate about North American energy supply today, issuing a pointed reminder that Northwest Territories (NWT) energy supplies can supply the needs of Canada and the United States for decades and should be developed.

Concerns have been raised recently about the need for secure supplies of oil and gas, particularly in the context of the American presidential election. Some have suggested that Canadians should help fund the construction of the Alaska gas pipeline to help bring American gas assets to the American market.

Premier Roland emphasized the importance of developing oil and gas assets in Canada in order to provide a secure supply of energy for Canada and the U.S.

“The NWT has a recoverable resource of over 75 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, which can provide secure supply to the continent for decades,” said Premier Roland. “It is vital that this resource be developed as quickly as possible to serve Canada’s interests, and North America’s energy needs.”

The proposed Mackenzie Gas Project will transport natural gas from three major fields in NWT’s Mackenzie Delta through 1220 km of new pipeline to connect with the existing natural gas system that feeds Canada and the United States.

The Project would bring an additional 1.2 billion cubic feet of gas per day to North American markets. It would also spur exploration, development and recovery of additional oil and gas fields in NWT, bringing further energy supplies to market.

Premier Roland noted the immense opportunity that NWT oil and natural gas resources can offer, adding over \$86 billion to the Canadian economy and thousands of jobs in NWT and across the country.

“This is a project of national significance, national collaboration, and national pride, and will bolster Canada’s reputation as a world energy superpower.”

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# News Release Communiqué

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R(16)280808088

## NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS' FORUM HIGHLIGHTS SUCCESSES

**YELLOWKNIFE, Northwest Territories** (August 28, 2008) – Federal, provincial and territorial development Ministers representing Canada's northern jurisdictions met this week in Yellowknife for their annual two-day meeting. This is the first time the Northern Development Ministers Forum (NDMF) has been held in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The Forum's purpose is to advance the diverse and common interests of Northern Canadians while raising awareness, among decision-makers and the public, of the accomplishments, contributions and potential of the North.

The theme of this year's Forum hosted by the Government of the Northwest Territories Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Robert R. McLeod, was: *Developing the Tourism Potential of Canada's North*.

"It has been my pleasure to facilitate these important discussions about the future of tourism in Canada's North, and also to have this opportunity to showcase elements of the NWT's extraordinary and spectacular tourism product," Minister McLeod said.

"Prime Minister Stephen Harper and our Government are putting Canada's North higher on the domestic policy agenda than any other government has for half a century," said the Honourable Chuck Strahl. "The North has a lot to offer Canadians and people around the world. We are working on many initiatives that will help the North realize its full potential, which include creating opportunities for economic development, protecting the North's environment, and asserting Canada's sovereignty in the High North."

"This Forum is a positive collective effort among governments to help support a stronger northern economy through tourism growth," noted the Honourable Diane Ablonczy, Secretary of State (Small Business and Tourism). "Tourism plays a vital part in the economic development of the North while respecting and protecting our unique northern environment."

The Forum's theme was supported by the tabling of a Report on Northern Tourism in Canada, which detailed the challenges and identified the opportunities and best practices of northern tourism in all jurisdictions. The Report will be provided for consideration by respective tourism Ministers and the Canadian Tourism Commission.







Guest speakers at the Forum provided varying perspectives on the global, national and local tourism sectors and discussions centred on raising the awareness of opportunities and common challenges faced by northern tourism operators.

Ministers at this year's meeting affirmed the role of their Forum - agreeing that its mandate to provide a focus on northern issues continues to be a required and important element of raising awareness among Canada's decision makers to the unique needs of Canada's northern regions.

Ministers also received updates on priority projects that have been advanced in the past year including "Initiatives to Maximize Economic and Social Impacts from Major Projects in the North", "Knowledge North" and the Focus North Website, which can be accessed at [www.focusnorth.ca](http://www.focusnorth.ca). In response to a directive at the 2007 Forum in Ottawa, Ministers also tabled a Priority Project Report on Climate Change. "This year has highlighted global climate and energy concerns," Minister McLeod noted. "Canada's northern regions are on the front line of these struggles: witnessing and experiencing, directly, the effects of global warming and dealing with the impacts of both climate change and rising energy costs."

Ministers approved the theme of "Changing Northern Economies" for the 2009 Forum, which will be hosted by the Government of British Columbia.

"Each of our provinces and territories recognized the importance of building strong rural and northern communities and British Columbia looks forward to welcoming our colleagues from across the country in Dawson Creek B.C. in 2009 to build on the discussions we've had over the past two days," said Dennis MacKay, British Columbia MLA for Bulkley Valley – Stikine, attending the Forum on behalf of the Honourable Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Community Development.

## **Observations by Ministers in Attendance**

### **Ontario**

"Ontario's Far North has the potential to become a major player in the growing tourism sector," said the Honourable Michael Gravelle, Ontario's Minister of Northern Development and Mines. "Participating in these important deliberations allows us to share views and policies on how to strengthen the Far North's tourism potential in an environmentally sustainable way."

### **Québec**

"Québec's participation in the Northern Development Ministers' Forum is in line with our government's objective to further develop the natural resources and tourism activity in Northern Québec. This will increase prosperity and will enhance the quality of life of Northern residents while supporting sustainable development," said Geoffrey Kelley, Québec MNA for Jacques-Cartier, speaking on behalf of the Québec Minister of



Municipal Affairs and Regions. "In that context, I am pleased that we have contributed to the development of a framework that will make it possible to better monitor the social and economic impacts of major projects in the North, including as it relates to northern residents living conditions."

### **Manitoba**

"As home to Canada's only arctic seaport at Churchill, Northern Development including northern tourism is growing in importance in our province. Northern Manitoba has a skills shortage which provides an historic opportunity to address the high unemployment facing many northern communities," noted Oscar Lathlin, Manitoba Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.

### **Yukon**

"Working together, we have achieved progress on issues of shared interest, such as tourism in the North and climate change," Yukon Economic Development Minister and Minister responsible for the Yukon Energy Corp. Jim Kenyon said. "It is this united approach that allows us to move forward on matters of critical importance to northern development."

### **Saskatchewan**

"Saskatchewan's economy is on a roll, both north and south, and we are working to ensure that all Saskatchewan people benefit from our economic momentum in a sustainable way," said the Honourable June Draude, Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs. "Reflecting the theme of this year's Forum, the growth potential for tourism as well as for northern resource development has all Saskatchewan people seeing a bright future and, from what we have discussed these past two days, for all of northern Canada."

### **Newfoundland and Labrador**

"It is clear that the tourism market in northern Canada has enormous potential. This forum is an excellent opportunity to explore possibilities that will benefit all northern jurisdictions," said the Honourable John Hickey, Minister of Labrador Affairs, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. "As we continue to move forward with our tourism developments, we will need to be cognizant of global climate conditions and how they specifically affect the North."

### **Nunavut**

Patterk Netser, Nunavut's Minister of Economic Development & Transportation, said, "The theme for this year's forum is very relevant to Nunavut. Tourism is a key emerging sector in Nunavut with many opportunities for our people. Investment to support the development of tourism products and capacity is critically needed."



Minister Netser added, "It is also important we consider the impacts of tourism on the northern environment. We want to maintain the pristine qualities of our land and our traditional values while working towards local economic benefit."

This release is also available on the internet at [www.inac.gc.ca](http://www.inac.gc.ca) and at [www.focusnorth.ca](http://www.focusnorth.ca).

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# News Release Communiqué

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R(16)280808088

## **LE FORUM DES MINISTRES RESPONSABLES DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DU NORD SOULIGNE DES EXEMPLES DE RÉUSSITES**

**YELLOWKNIFE (Territoires du Nord-Ouest)**, le 28 août 2008 – Le ministre fédéral ainsi que les ministres provinciaux et territoriaux responsables du développement du Nord se sont rencontrés cette semaine à Yellowknife à l'occasion de leur réunion annuelle de deux jours. C'est la première fois que le Forum des ministres responsables du développement du Nord se tient dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

Le Forum a pour mandat de promouvoir les intérêts communs et divers des habitants du Nord, tout en sensibilisant le public et les décideurs aux réalisations, aux contributions et au potentiel du Nord canadien.

Cette année, le ministre de l'Industrie, du Tourisme et de l'Investissement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, Robert R. McLeod, a accueilli le Forum, dont le thème était *Développer le potentiel touristique du Nord*.

« C'est avec plaisir que j'ai animé ces discussions importantes sur l'avenir du tourisme dans le Nord canadien. Je suis aussi heureux d'avoir eu l'occasion de mettre en valeur certains produits touristiques extraordinaires et spectaculaires des Territoires du Nord-Ouest », a souligné le ministre McLeod.

« Pour le Premier ministre Stephen Harper et notre gouvernement, le Nord canadien représente un enjeu national plus important que pour aucun autre gouvernement depuis cinquante ans, a déclaré l'honorable Chuck Strahl. Le Nord a beaucoup à offrir aux Canadiens et au reste du monde. Nous avons entrepris de nombreuses initiatives qui aideront la région à pleinement réaliser son potentiel, notamment en matière de développement économique, de protection environnementale et d'affirmation de la souveraineté canadienne dans le Grand Nord. »

« Ce forum est une action collective entreprise par les gouvernements participants pour aider à renforcer l'économie du Nord en favorisant la croissance de l'industrie touristique, a souligné l'honorable Diane Ablonczy, secrétaire d'État (Petite entreprise et Tourisme). Le tourisme joue un rôle vital dans le développement économique du Nord tout en respectant et en protégeant l'environnement unique du milieu nordique. »

Le thème du Forum a été appuyé par la présentation d'un rapport qui portait sur l'industrie touristique dans le Nord, rapport dans lequel sont décrits les défis, les



possibilités et les pratiques exemplaires de ce secteur dans les provinces et territoires concernés. Ce rapport sera soumis aux ministres du Tourisme et à la Commission canadienne du tourisme.

Les conférenciers invités ont exposé divers points de vue sur le tourisme mondial, national et local. Les discussions qui ont suivi ont principalement porté sur la nécessité de mieux faire connaître les opportunités touristiques qu'offre le Nord et sur les défis que les voyageurs doivent relever.

Les ministres ont confirmé le rôle essentiel du Forum dans la promotion des enjeux du Nord et dans la sensibilisation des décideurs du pays aux besoins particuliers des régions du nord du Canada.

Les ministres ont également pris connaissance des progrès accomplis dans les projets prioritaires au cours de la dernière année, notamment en ce qui concerne les Initiatives de maximisation des retombées économiques et sociales des projets majeurs dans le Nord, Connaissance Nord et le site web du Forum, dont l'adresse est [www.objectifnord.ca](http://www.objectifnord.ca). En réponse à une directive formulée lors du Forum de 2007, qui a eu lieu à Ottawa, les ministres ont également présenté un rapport sur les projets prioritaires liés aux changements climatiques. « On s'attend à une année fortement axée sur les questions touchant le climat mondial et l'énergie. Les régions du nord du Canada sont les premières concernées par ces questions : témoins directs des effets du réchauffement de la planète, elles font face aux impacts des changements climatiques et à l'augmentation des coûts de l'énergie », a fait remarquer le ministre McLeod.

Les ministres ont approuvé le thème « Les économies du Nord : cap sur le changement » proposé pour le Forum de 2009, dont l'hôte sera le gouvernement de la Colombie-Britannique.

« Chacune de nos administrations provinciales et territoriales reconnaît l'importance de créer des communautés rurales et nordiques prospères et vigoureuses, et la Colombie-Britannique se réjouit de pouvoir accueillir ses collègues de partout au pays l'an prochain à Dawson Creek, pour poursuivre les discussions engagées au cours des deux dernières années », a déclaré Dennis MacKay, député de la circonscription de Bulkley Valley-Stikine pour la Colombie-Britannique, qui représentait l'honorable Blair Lekstrom, ministre du Développement des communautés de la Colombie-Britannique. »

## **Observations des ministres présents**

### **Ontario**

« Le Grand nord ontarien pourrait devenir un important acteur du secteur de croissance qu'est l'industrie touristique, a déclaré l'honorable Michael Gravelle, ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines de l'Ontario. Notre participation à ces importantes discussions nous permet d'échanger sur les moyens et les politiques qui





permettront de renforcer le potentiel touristique du Grand Nord, dans le respect de l'impératif environnemental. »

### **Québec**

« La participation du Québec au Forum des ministres responsables du Nord s'inscrit dans l'objectif de notre gouvernement de développer davantage les ressources naturelles et le tourisme du Nord québécois. Ceci contribuera à créer davantage de prospérité, pour la plus grande qualité de vie des résidents du Nord, dans le respect des impératifs du développement durable, a indiqué Geoffrey Kelley, député de la circonscription de Jacques-Cartier, qui représentait la ministre des Affaires municipales et des Régions. Dans ce contexte, je me réjouis que notre contribution ait permis l'élaboration d'un cadre de référence qui permet d'assurer un meilleur suivi des impacts sociaux et économiques des grands projets dans le Nord, notamment en ce qui concerne les conditions de vie des populations locales. »

### **Manitoba**

« Pour notre province, qui compte le seul port canadien situé dans l'Arctique, à Churchill, le développement du Nord et du tourisme revêt de plus en plus d'importance. Les régions du nord du Manitoba manquent de main-d'œuvre. C'est une occasion unique de s'attaquer au chômage, très élevé dans de nombreuses communautés », a indiqué Oscar Lathlin, ministre des Affaires autochtones et du Nord du Manitoba.

### **Yukon**

« Notre collaboration a permis de faire avancer les questions d'intérêt commun, comme le tourisme dans le Nord et les changements climatiques. C'est ainsi que nous pouvons faire progresser les dossiers qui sont d'une importance critique pour le développement du Nord », a déclaré pour sa part Jim Kenyon, ministre du Développement économique du Yukon et ministre responsable de la Yukon Energy Corporation.

### **Saskatchewan**

« L'économie de la Saskatchewan a le vent dans les voiles, au nord comme au sud, et nous mettons tout en œuvre pour que les citoyens de la province profitent de cet essor économique dans le respect du développement durable, a déclaré l'honorable June Draude, ministre responsable des Affaires du Nord de la Saskatchewan. Le thème du Forum de cette année n'aurait pas pu être mieux choisi : le potentiel de croissance du tourisme et du développement des ressources du Nord nous permet de nous montrer extrêmement optimistes pour l'avenir des régions du nord de la Saskatchewan et, si j'en juge d'après nos discussions des deux derniers jours, pour celui de tout le nord du Canada.

### **Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador**

« Il est clair que le marché du tourisme dans le nord du Canada a un très grand potentiel. Ce forum est l'occasion rêvée d'examiner les possibilités qui profiteront à tous les responsables du Nord, a souligné l'honorable John Hickey, ministre des Affaires du Labrador de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador. Nous continuerons de développer le secteur



touristique, mais nous devons tenir compte des changements climatiques et de leurs répercussions sur les régions du Nord ».

### **Nunavut**

Selon le ministre du Développement économique et des Transports du Nunavut, Patterk Netser : « Le thème du Forum de cette année est très pertinent pour le Nunavut. Le tourisme est un secteur émergent d'une très grande importance ici. Il offre de nombreuses occasions pour notre population, et nous avons grandement besoin de fonds pour développer les produits touristiques et les capacités. »

« Il est également important de tenir compte des répercussions du tourisme sur l'environnement. Nous allons tirer des avantages économiques du tourisme, mais nous ne devons pas compromettre pour autant nos terres et nos valeurs traditionnelles », a ajouté le ministre Netser.

Ce communiqué peut être consulté sur les sites Web [www.inac.gc.ca](http://www.inac.gc.ca) et [www.objectifnord.ca](http://www.objectifnord.ca).

### **Pour de plus amples renseignements :**

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R(16)050908089

## NWT Revenue Options

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 5, 2008)** – Two discussion documents on Northwest Territories (NWT) revenue options, to guide discussions on how the Northwest Territories can best increase its revenues, were released today by the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Finance.

In Budget 2008, the Government of the Northwest Territories announced its commitment to putting its fiscal house in order, including raising new revenue, starting in the 2009-10 fiscal year. This money will provide additional resources to fund investments in programs and services and infrastructure for NWT residents.

“It’s important that we carefully examine our options, and take a measured and balanced approach that is consistent with the NWT’s long-term vision and goals”, said Minister Miltenberger. “Because the results will affect all NWT residents, having the input of Northerners is vital. No decisions have been made yet. I hope all NWT residents will provide their comments.”

The discussion documents are available on the Department of Finance’s web site at [www.fin.gov.nt.ca](http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca). In addition, Minister Miltenberger will be inviting representatives from a wide spectrum of NWT organizations to a 2-day round table meeting to be held in late September.

NWT residents are encouraged to provide comments to the Minister by October 15, 2008 so their views can be incorporated into the Government’s 2009-10 budget process. Comments can be sent electronically to [Revenue\\_Options@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Revenue_Options@gov.nt.ca) or by mailing:

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Fiscal Policy Division  
Department of Finance  
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R(16)090908090

## **Opportunity to Raise Profile of FASD and Work Being Done Across Jurisdictions**

**YELLOWKNIFE (9 September, 2008)** – The Northwest Territories Minister of Health and Social Services, Honourable Sandy Lee today joined her colleagues in the Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (CNFASD) Partnership in recognizing the importance of September 9 in raising the awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in the jurisdictions.

The CNFASD partnership is an alliance of seven jurisdictions, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, and Yukon, that works towards the development and promotion of an interprovincial/territorial approach to prevention, intervention, care and support of individuals affected by FASD. In addition, the partnership funds the Canada Northwest FASD Research Network, the only research network working in this area in the northern and western regions of Canada.

“Today, each minister responsible for FASD in the partnership is taking the opportunity to speak out about the work being done in the area of FASD,” said Minister Lee. “United, we can deliver a strong message about the importance of continuing our focus on FASD. The research network that we fund is providing us with some excellent results after only three years and we are making inroads in gaining recognition for our work by the federal government.”

At the local level, Minister Lee said much work is also being done.

In addition to our involvement with the Canada Northwest FASD Partnership, the NWT Department of Health and Social Services is developing an NWT FASD Strategy including a five year action plan. Both documents take an integrated approach and are being developed in close conjunction with regional partners and stakeholders. The completion of the Strategy will provide a base from which to deliver programming and will lead to more strategic and coordinated service delivery across the NWT.

In addition, we are working collaboratively with a number of partners such as Health Canada and NWT community governments and organizations to ensure the delivery of community based programs that can better respond to the local needs of children and their families. Last year in the NWT, the Department supported eleven (11) community based projects targeting FASD including, awareness workshops in the Sahtu Region, life skills sessions for affected youth in Yellowknife, a Family Outreach Support Worker in Fort. Simpson, and a Traditional Parenting Train-the-Trainer course in the Beaufort Delta Region.



The NWT is also partnering with the Yukon and the Nunavut governments in the development of pan-territorial mass media initiatives. As part of a multi-year agreement, the three northern territories are working together to use shared mass media campaigns to have a stronger, more relevant impact on northern residents and the health choices they make. The FASD campaign is one example of how work will be done collaboratively in this way.

There is much to do in the NWT to help children and families affected by this disability. FASD has life long implications and affects all areas of functioning.

“As ministers we agree that individually and collectively, we have done a lot of good. but we know that we can achieve more by working in partnership with other jurisdictions by sharing resources and information and creating a stronger voice at the National level,” said Minister Lee. The partnership hosts international conferences throughout the west; as well as educational symposiums for individual jurisdictions.

“We will continue to lead the way in this area and stand proud about the work that we have done and continue to do,” said Minister Lee.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)120908091

Sept. 12, 2008

## Alberta, NWT Premiers renew cooperation agreement

*Calgary...* Alberta and the Northwest Territories have signed an agreement to work cooperatively for mutual benefit in areas such as economic and infrastructure development, business and trade, as well as social and community development.

Premier Ed Stelmach and Northwest Territories Premier Floyd Roland renewed the Northwest Territories – Alberta Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation and Development, originally signed in 1998.

“The NWT appreciates the strong ties we have with our closest provincial neighbour and good friend, Alberta,” Premier Roland said. “The renewal of this MOU represents an agreement to continue to work together on issues of importance to our constituents, and I look forward to having the opportunity to further enhance this important partnership.”

“Alberta and the Northwest Territories have a long history of cooperation and the people of both have benefited from our mutual efforts. I am pleased to extend our commitment to continuing this understanding,” Premier Stelmach said.

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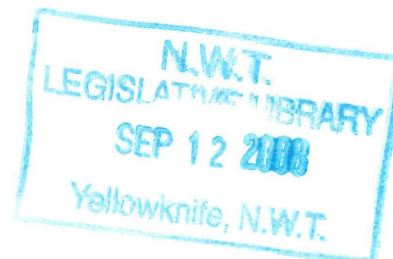
**Attachment:** Northwest Territories – Alberta Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation and Development

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# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES – ALBERTA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

## **BETWEEN:**

The Government of the **Northwest Territories** (represented by the Premier) hereinafter referred to as the “GNWT”,

And

The Government of the Province of **Alberta** (represented by the Premier) hereinafter referred to as the “Government of Alberta”.

**Whereas** the GNWT and the Government of Alberta, as well as specific communities within each jurisdiction, have a history of cooperation in a broad range of services, inter-jurisdictional commerce and other areas of human and economic development.

**Whereas** the GNWT and the Government of Alberta understand that there is potential for development in northern communities which could enhance economic conditions in or affecting these communities.

**Whereas** the GNWT and the Government of Alberta understand that the development of northern communities is hampered by a wide range of obstacles heightened by economic, climatic, demographic, social and logistical conditions present or affecting these communities which differ greatly from southern Canadian communities.

**Whereas** through cooperation and a coordinated approach in addressing northern circumstances, governments can make more effective use of resources, develop and expand sources of opportunity and implement programs and joint means of fostering economic growth.

**Whereas** a cooperative approach to development could have a fundamental impact especially on the regional development of Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

**Whereas** a blended developmental approach which considers both government programs and policies, as well as private sector activities, services and opportunities, is required if Northern Alberta and Northwest Territories residents are to share in the development of improved regional economies.

**Whereas** long term planning of cooperative development initiatives is essential if regional and inter-jurisdictional initiatives are to respond to emerging opportunities and the ongoing needs to regions, communities, and residents.

The GNWT and the Government of Alberta therefore understand as follows:



**PURPOSE:**

1. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to confirm the commitments between the jurisdictions to develop cooperative measures and agreements to:
  - Develop communities, services and infrastructure of Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories;
  - Jointly focus on increased participation by residents in the economic life of Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories;
  - Maintain and improve cooperation, consultation and joint planning in areas of mutual concern and priority in Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories;
  - Investigate the potential for joint initiatives directed at the strategic development of specific sectors, areas of joint endeavour and/or inter-jurisdictional cooperation; and to
  - Investigate the potential for and to develop options directed at economic collaborations with the private sector.

**OBJECTIVES:**

2. The Government of Alberta and the GNWT understand that the following objectives will guide the development of measures and agreements incorporating strategy and sector specific development initiatives:
  - a) Improved Government of Alberta-GNWT coordination of programs, opportunities and initiatives as they relate to both economic and human development;
  - b) Increased and improved provision and usage of community, regional, institutional and transportation infrastructure;
  - c) Coordinated development of the human resource base through focused development in the areas of training, education, and youth development;
  - d) Developmental strategies based on priority needs as expressed by northern residents, as well as the Government of Alberta and the GNWT;
  - e) Recognition of the principles of sustainable development capable of incorporation into development strategies; and





- f) Flexibility to respond in an ongoing manner to changing Northwest Territories and Northern Alberta development circumstances.

**PRIORITIES FOR GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA/GNWT  
COOPERATION:**

3. It is recognized between the jurisdictions that programs and policies which affect the economic development of Northern Alberta and Northwest Territories residents and communities fall under the responsibility of many different Ministers of both the GNWT and the Government of Alberta. Targeted policies and programs need to be reviewed in order to ensure maximum benefit and effectiveness to residents of the Northwest Territories and Alberta and reflect changing economic circumstances.
4. The parties will incorporate environmental stewardship, based on the principles of sustainable development, as an integral part of economic activity.
5. The jurisdictions will work together and, where applicable, will coordinate initiatives through the Ministers responsible for various programs and policies affecting development in agreed upon priority areas. These priority areas represent sectors of common interest to the jurisdictions and will form the basis of their joint collaboration under this Memorandum. Effort will be made: to build on opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation and coordination; to analyze gaps and barriers in existing programs and services; and to study potential areas of cooperation.
6. The GNWT and the Government of Alberta will cooperate in the investigation of opportunities aimed at pursuing specific measures and preparing more detailed development agreements which may include, but may not be limited to the following sectors:
  - 1) Trade
  - 2) Transportation
  - 3) Tourism
  - 4) Regional and Community Economic Development
  - 5) Resource Development
  - 6) Energy
  - 7) Environment
  - 8) Health
  - 9) Education Training and Skill Development
  - 10) Research and Innovation
7. For the five-year period identified in this Memorandum of Understanding, the GNWT and Government of Alberta have identified that priority areas shall include, but are not limited to the following:





- a) Rail Transportation services
- b) Arctic Gateway;
- c) Water Management; and
- d) Wildlife Management, including, but not limited to, Bison Management and Woodland Caribou Management.

**JOINT ACTION AND COOPERATION:**

- 8. The GNWT and the Government of Alberta will agree on programming responsibilities, overall resource levels and areas of common focus prior to the signing of any additional proposed agreements. The GNWT and the Government of Alberta will cooperate in the identification of areas of mutual priority and related areas of jurisdictional focus as well as sources of support which may be used in implementation strategies aimed at long term development.
- 9. The GNWT and the Government of Alberta will pursue discussions with a view to signing more detailed agreements where appropriate.

**EFFECT OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:**

- 10. This Memorandum of Understanding is not a legally binding agreement, but is only a definite expression and record of the purpose and intention of the parties, to which each honourably pledge themselves.
- 11. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be construed so as to affect the jurisdictional responsibility of either party.

**COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION:**

- 12. A GNWT/Government of Alberta Steering Committee, co-chaired by representatives, approved by the Premiers, will be responsible for ensuring the intent of the Memorandum of Understanding is fulfilled and for recommending any subsequent agreements to Ministers and Premiers.
- 13. The Steering Committee will recommend management procedures for the implementation of the agreement.
- 14. The extension of the Memorandum of Understanding comes into effect on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2008 and shall terminate on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2013. The Memorandum of Understanding may be renewed or amended by mutual consent of the parties.



Signed:

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The Honourable Ed Stelmach  
Premier  
Government of Alberta

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The Honourable Floyd. K. Roland  
Premier  
Government of the Northwest Territories



R(16)190908092

## Increased Support for the Arts and Culture

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 19, 2008)** - As part of ongoing activities in support of arts and culture, Minister Jackson Lafferty made several announcements today including details of \$500,000 in additional funding, included in the 2008/09 Budget, and three new appointments to the Northwest Territories (NWT) Arts Council. The 2008 NWT Arts Council award winners and recipients of funding under the Northern Performers program were also announced.

The \$500,000 increase in funding to the arts will benefit both existing and new programs. Included among existing programs and organizations benefiting from this funding are the NWT Arts Council (\$49,000), the Support for Northern Performers Program (\$16,000), and the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre (\$80,000). Community heritage centres and cultural organizations will receive an additional \$220,000, and various cultural projects around the territory will receive a \$35,000 increase in recognition of the important role they play in supporting and presenting arts and culture.

Minister Lafferty also announced a new Northern Theatre Arts funding program with a focus on NWT youth. \$50,000 has been set aside for this program.

“I am pleased to be announcing details of this additional investment in arts and culture. I am particularly happy that it includes a new project for youth. Encouraging creativity and stimulating positive thought and ideas in our youth is critical to them being productive and healthy members of our communities and taking time to enjoy their formative years,” said Minister Lafferty.

As well, the Minister has appointed three new members to the NWT Arts Council: Lee Mandeville of Yellowknife, a well-known and respected performing artist; Julia Tsetso of Fort Simpson, a potter and community volunteer in the arts; and Peggy Pouw of Norman Wells, a public gallery manager. The NWT Arts Council provides recommendations to the Minister on financial awards for creative artistic projects in the visual, literary, media and performing arts, and on issues and policies associated with the arts and artists.

Minister Lafferty also announced NWT Arts Council and Support for Northern Performers recipients for the 2008/2009 funding year. Funding is provided each year for developing and promoting NWT artists through the NWT Arts Council. The Support for Northern Performers Program contributes to the development and promotion of performing arts in the NWT, and encourages local and regional festivals and events to feature local performers.





The NWT Arts Council allocated a total of \$355,000 to 77 recipients for the 2008/2009 year, while the Support for Northern Performers Program contributed \$87,000 to 19 festivals and events. Please see the attached backgrounder for details of recipients.

For more information contact:

Rachel MacNeill  
Public Affairs Officer  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Phone: (867) 920-3059  
[Rachel\\_Macneill@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Rachel_Macneill@gov.nt.ca)



For R(16)190908092

## **NWT Arts Council Funding Recipients 2008/2009**

### **Aklavik**

Robert Buckle – Aklavik (crafts)

### **All NWT**

Western Arctic Moving Pictures (film/media)

### **Deline**

Deline Learning Centre – Deline (2 projects) (crafts)

### **Fort Good Hope**

K'asho Got'ine Charter Community Council – Fort Good Hope (visual arts)

### **Fort Resolution**

Lillian Mandeville – Fort Resolution (crafts)

### **Fort Simpson**

Open Sky Creative Society – Fort Simpson (visual arts)

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### **Fort Smith**

Gerald Poitras – Fort Smith (audio recording)

Boreal Piecemakers – Fort Smith (crafts)

Colette Labine – Fort Smith (crafts)

Michel Labine – Fort Smith (crafts)

Nicole Labine – Fort Smith (crafts)

Laurie Young – Fort Smith (crafts)

Fort Smith Community Choir – Fort Smith (performing – music)

PWK HS Concert Band – Fort Smith (performing – music)

South Slave Friendship Festival – Fort Smith (performing – music)

Holly Darkes – Fort Smith (performing – music)

Karen Zaidan – Fort Smith (performing – music)

Northern Life Museum – Fort Smith (visual arts)

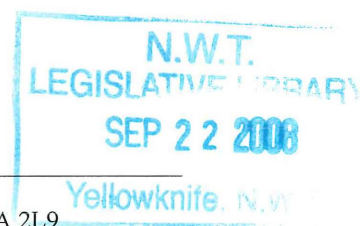
Marie-Christine Aubrey – Fort Smith (visual arts)

Chris DeWolf – Fort Smith (visual arts)

### **Hay River**

Gypsy Raven – Hay River (audio recording)

Tyler Hawkins – Hay River (audio recording)





Karen Lafferty – Hay River (audio recording)  
Terry Wood – Hay River (audio recording)  
Kelvin Redvers – Hay River (film/media)  
Hay River Artist Coop (Naaka Festival) – Hay River (visual arts)  
Rodger Blake – Hay River (writing/publishing)

### **Inuvik**

Great Northern Arts Festival – Inuvik (crafts)  
Inuvik Quilting Guild – Inuvik (crafts)  
Margaret Nazon – Inuvik (crafts)  
Marnie Hilash – Inuvik (visual arts)

### **Tsiigehtchic**

Hummingbirds – Tsiigehtchic (audio recording)

### **Wha Ti**

Lisa Mantla – Wha Ti (visual arts)

### **Yellowknife**

3-Across-Dee-Eye – Yellowknife (audio recording)  
Abel Mervyn – Lutsel K'e/Yellowknife (audio recording)  
Raven Bedingfield – Yellowknife (audio recording)  
Mary Cox – Yellowknife (audio recording)  
Jesse James Gon – Yellowknife (audio recording)  
Sophie Leger – Yellowknife (audio recording)  
Jasmine Netsena – Yellowknife (audio recording)  
Stephen Pretty – Yellowknife (audio recording)  
Association franco-culturelle de Yellowknife – Yellowknife (crafts)  
YK Guild of Arts and Crafts – Yellowknife (crafts)  
YK Quilt Guild – Yellowknife (crafts)  
Efrain Perdomo – Yellowknife (crafts)  
John Sabourin – Yellowknife (crafts)  
Erin Suliak – Yellowknife (crafts)  
France Benoit – Yellowknife (film/media)  
Crazy Legs Dance - Yellowknife (performing – dance)  
Aurora Fiddle Society – Yellowknife (performing – music)  
Carmen Braden – Yellowknife (performing – music)  
Classics on Stage (COSY) – Yellowknife (performing – music)  
Folk on the Rocks – Yellowknife (performing – music)  
Kole Crook Fiddle Association – Yellowknife (performing – music)  
YK Choral Society – Yellowknife (performing – music)  
Eva Apsimik – Yellowknife (performing – storytelling)  
Pat Braden – Yellowknife (performing – storytelling)  
Joyce Caines – Yellowknife (performing – storytelling)  
Northern Arts & Cultural Centre – Yellowknife (performing - theatre)  
Kirsten Carthew – Yellowknife (performing - theatre)



Reneltha Marie- Yellowknife (performing - theatre)  
Aurora Arts Society – Yellowknife (visual arts)  
Centre for Northern Families – Yellowknife (visual arts)  
NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities – Yellowknife (visual arts)  
Taiga Adventure Camp – Yellowknife (visual arts)  
Tom Andrews – Yellowknife (visual arts)  
Diane Boudreau – Yellowknife (visual arts)  
Courtney Chetwynd – Yellowknife (visual arts)  
Ozgur Culha – Yellowknife (visual arts)  
Sheila Hodgkinson – Yellowknife (visual arts)  
Diane Mercredi – Yellowknife (visual arts)  
Ann Timmins – Yellowknife (visual arts)  
NorthWords Festival – Yellowknife (writing/publishing)  
Edwin Kolausok – Yellowknife (writing/publishing)  
Erika Wallbridge – Yellowknife (writing/publishing)

**Yellowknife/Fort Good Hope**

NACC & FOTR – Yellowknife/Fort Good Hope (performing – music)

## **Support for Northern Performers 2008/2009**

**South Slave/Deh Cho Regions**

South Slave Friendship Festival - Fort Smith  
Open Sky Festival - Fort Simpson  
Enterprise Gateway Jamboree - Enterprise  
Yellowknife Choral Society Age of Aquarius Concert – Fort Smith  
Kole Crook Fiddle Association - Hay River Reserve Fiddle Camp  
Pat Braden Storytelling Concert – Fort Simpson  
Sacred Circle Project / NCS NWT, Sundance Ceremony – Fort Smith

**Beaufort/Inuvik/Sahtu Regions**

Razzamajazz! – Inuvik  
The Great Northern Arts Festival - Inuvik  
Midway Lake Festival - Ft. McPherson  
State of the Art: Concert Tour - Inuvik, Fort Smith, YK

**North Slave/Tlicho Regions**

Solstice Festival - Yellowknife  
Folk on the Rocks - Yellowknife  
NACC Festival of Stories - YK, Ft. Smith, Enterprise, Hay River  
Dene Nation Aboriginal Day - Yellowknife  
Aurora Fiddle Association – Behchoko Fiddle Camps  
Foster Family Coalition NWT, Camp Connections – Yellowknife  
North Words Literary Festival – Yellowknife  
Crazy Legs Contemporary Dance - Yellowknife





R(16)190908093



## JOINT NEWS RELEASE

### Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre opening exhibit of *Pihuaqtiuyugut: We are the long distance walkers*

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 19, 2008)** - Please join the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) on September 21<sup>st</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 pm for the opening of its latest exhibit, *Pihuaqtiuyugut: We are the long distance walkers*. The exhibit will be on display at the PWNHC from September 21 to the end of February 2009.

This exhibit comes from the Ulukhaktok Literacies Project, a collaboration of the NWT Literacy Council, the University of Lethbridge, the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre, and the people of Ulukhaktok. These groups joined together to learn about the land routes and literacies of the Kangiryuarmiut (the Inuit of Prince Albert Sound, Victoria Island). The land route studied was used by the Kangiryuarmiut to travel from the sea ice inland to caribou calving grounds. Along the way, the people used multiple literacies: they marked the land with stone formations; they read the weather; they told stories; performed dances and songs; and created clothing and art.

"I've always been really excited about this project because I've learned so much from it," said Emily Kudlak, community researcher for the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre. "We've been able to document the knowledge that our Elders hold about our language, and the literacies that go along with our language and culture. It helps us to understand our own literacies. This is important information that we can now pass on to the next generation."

"This exhibit is a great opportunity for people to retrace the footsteps of our elders and experience life as they did," said Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "I encourage residents to come and see this important cultural display."

Visitors can follow the route and learn traditional names of places along the way, or read elders' recollections of traditional activities. Artwork from Ulukhaktok depicting the region, and traditional tools and cultural materials will be on display. Traditional drum dance clothing is on loan from the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Come out to the PWNHC on September 21<sup>st</sup> between 2:00 and 4:00 pm for the opening event for *Pihuaqtiuyugut: We are the long distance walkers*. The event will feature live drum songs, and interactive activities like string games, printmaking, and sewing felt cut-outs with artists from the region. Refreshments will be available.

For more information, please contact:

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





R(16)260908094

## September 27, 2008 – World Tourism Day

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 26, 2008)** – Tomorrow is World Tourism Day. This annual recognition is sponsored by the United Nations World Tourism Organization to foster awareness of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic values.

This worldwide acknowledgment of the tourism sector is a reminder of how important the tourism industry is to the Northwest Territories economy, contributing over \$110 million per year.

“The rugged, pristine and isolated nature of our Arctic environment gives us a strong competitive edge to attract travelers from around the world,” said Robert R. McLeod, Minister of Industry Tourism and Investment.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Program was introduced this year to Northwest Territories (NWT) operators to capitalize on changing tourism trends – specifically, an increase in worldwide demand for travel experiences that focus on nature and outdoor adventure.

The GNWT has committed to investing \$5.6 million into the tourism industry through this program over the next five years.

The GNWT works with NWT Tourism, in its role as a Destination Marketing Organization, to promote the NWT as a premier destination for travelers from around the world.

For more information on World Tourism Day visit: [www.unwto.org](http://www.unwto.org)

For more information, contact:

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Manager, Public Affairs and Communications  
Industry Tourism and Investment  
Tel: (867) 920-8696  
Cell: (867) 445-3739





R(16)300908095

## **Congratulations to the 2008 Council of the Federation and NWT Ministerial Literacy Award Winners**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 30, 2008)** – Recipients of the 2008 Council of the Federation Award for Literacy, and the Northwest Territories (NWT) Ministerial Awards for Literacy, were celebrated at the Adult Learner’s Luncheon in Yellowknife today.

Mardy Voudrach of Tuktoyaktuk was awarded the 2008 Council of the Federation Literacy Award for the NWT. Ms Voudrach was honoured for her determination to learn and improve her literacy while dealing with a disability.

Hilary Gemmell of Fort Smith received the Ministerial Literacy Award for Educators, for her work at Aurora College and abroad. She has worked very hard for Adult Literacy in the NWT, and even in retirement continues to volunteer teaching learners with disabilities.

The Hay River Literacy Society was also honoured with the Ministerial Literacy Award for Organizations. This group of volunteers hosts literacy events for all ages and sponsors literacy programs in Hay River. They help make literacy support available for all learners.

“It is important to celebrate our successes in learning,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty. “These people have worked hard, and become role models in education.”

NWT Literacy Week is celebrated across the territory at local events, and through the NWT Literacy Council’s ‘Read for 15’ challenge, which gets Northerners thinking about the time they spend reading.

For more information, contact:

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Department of Education, Culture and Employment  
867-920-6222







R(16)290908096

## Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification Review and Action Plan

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 29, 2008)** – Results of the Northwest Territories Review of the Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification Program are now available to the public.

In 2007, a review of the program was initiated by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE). This review was commissioned to ensure the system remained responsive to the demand for tradespeople in the North, and across Canada. 22 specific recommendations resulted from the review. ECE has also released an Action Plan which sets out the planned actions stemming from each recommendation, as well as target completion dates.

“Many of the actions that the recommendations called for have already been initiated,” said Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education Culture and Employment. “An efficient and effective Apprenticeship system that responds to the needs of Northerners is vital to maximizing the opportunities available in the coming years. I am pleased with the results of the review, and the plans that have developed for the future.”

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The Executive Summary, Action Plan and technical report are all available on the Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification section at [www.ece.gov.nt.ca](http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca).

The Minister would like to thank all of the stakeholders who participated in the Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification Review, including employers, tradespeople and our many other partners, including other government departments, Aboriginal and community governments, and Aurora College.

For more information, contact:

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





R(16)300908097

## Harvester Grubstakes signal beginning of Trapping Season

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 30, 2008)** – Grubstake cheques totaling \$117,470 have been sent to eligible Northwest Territories (NWT) fur harvesters in advance of the 2008-09 trapping season. These payments are an important component of the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) support to the traditional economy and provide trappers with funds to defray a portion of their start up costs for the upcoming season.

In 2007/08, NWT trappers tallied \$1.3 million dollars in fur sales. “Wild fur from the Northwest Territories is considered among the very best in the world,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “We are one of very few governments in the world that actively supports the harvesting and marketing of wild fur as a fundamental component of a modern and thriving economy.”

The GNWT-sponsored Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs Program (GMVF) provides NWT Trappers with “one window” access to international fur auctions and provides a brand under which furs harvested in the NWT are actively marketed and promoted at international venues.

“Our programs and partnerships continue to be successful in increasing the value and demand for NWT fur,” said Minister McLeod. “This success is being reflected in benefits that are being returned to our trappers and their communities.”

Heading into the 2008/09 trapping season, GMVF marten, lynx, cross and white fox pelts are still very much in demand and expected to fetch good prices for NWT trappers. Interest in properly handled wolverine and wolf pelts continues to be very strong while Chinese buyers are expected to drive price increases for both wild mink and muskrat.

For more information, contact:

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Industry Tourism and Investment  
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Cell: (867) 445-3739





For R(16)300908097

## **Benefits - Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs (GMVF) Program**

Through the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs Program, the Government of the Northwest Territories works in partnership with NWT harvesters and the fur industry to support and promote the NWT's traditional fur economy.

The GMVF Program provides the following benefits to trappers:

**Guaranteed Advance:** Trappers who ship their fur through the GMVF Program are eligible to receive a guaranteed advance payment. Fur needs to be in good condition in order to be eligible for consideration. Advances are reconciled when the fur is sold. If the fur sells for less than the advance the program bears the cost. In the event the fur sells for more than the advance, the trapper receives the additional proceeds.

**Prime Fur Bonus:** Where a trapper's fur sells for an amount equal to or greater than the advance, the trapper is entitled to receive a Prime Fur Bonus payment.

**Grub Stake:** Trappers who have shipped a minimum of 20 to a maximum of 200 pelts to auction through the GMVF Program during the previous trapping season are eligible to receive a Grubstake Payment of five dollars per pelt for up to 200 pelts.

**Commissions and Handling Fees:** All commissions and handling fees for all fur sold at auction, up to a maximum of eight percent of gross value, are paid by GMVF.

The following results are based on sales taking place at Fur Harvesters Auction Incorporated and benefits to be directed to trappers based on these sales.

Year	Total Value Sold	Prime Fur Bonus	Grubstake	Total \$ to NWT Trappers
2007/08	\$1,301,289.00	\$247,699.00	\$117,470.00	\$1,666,458.00
2006/07	\$1,268,318.00	\$265,467.00	\$109,000.00	\$1,675,952.00

Commissions paid by GMVF on behalf of NWT trappers for the 2007/2008 season totaled \$104,072.00.

(Trappers shipping fur outside of GMVF are also entitled to all program benefits with the exception of the Guaranteed Advance.)





## NWT Fur Harvest 2007/2008

Through the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs (GMVF) Program, the Government of the Northwest Territories works in partnership with NWT harvesters and the fur industry to support and promote the NWT's traditional fur economy.

This Program continues to be successful in increasing the value and demand for NWT fur. Fur from the Northwest Territories is now recognized as some of the finest wild fur in North America.

Annual Harvest Totals for 2007-08 show continued improvement:

Annual Harvest Total (2007-2008)			Annual Sold Total (2007-2008)	
<i>Species</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>#Sold</i>	<i>Sold\$</i>	<i>*PFBS</i>
Bear, Black	7	12	945.00	200
Bear, Grizzly	3	2	1,750.00	100
Bear, Polar	1	1	2,300.00	50
Beaver	1,399	1,277	24,914.00	7,580
Coyote	3	2	60.00	20
Fisher	27	32	2,004.00	330
Fox, Cross	110	115	4,090.23	1,020
Fox, Red	136	145	3,642.00	930
Fox, Silver	13	12	327.00	105
Fox, White (Arctic)	193	346	7,180.75	2,445
Lynx	723	725	171,499.58	17,300
Marten	11,282	11,093	1,019,223.97	211,522
Mink	704	675	10,817.00	1,030
Moose Hide	4	4	3,350.00	0
Muskrat	10,736	4,768	13,885.96	623
Otter	22	40	1,475.00	50
Seal, Ringed	309	42	2,489.00	725
Squirrel	645	678	1,202.90	255
Weasel	814	268	1,821.30	214
Wolf, Boreal	51	44	5,946.00	250
Wolf, Arctic	3	3	850.00	0
Wolf, Tundra	3	7	1,768.00	200
Wolverine	78	76	19,747.00	2,750
	<b>27,269</b>	<b>20,367</b>	<b>\$1,301,288.69</b>	<b>\$247,699</b>

**\*Prime Fur Bonus:** Where a trapper's fur sells for an amount equal to or greater than the advance, the trapper is entitled to receive a Prime Fur Bonus payment.





R(16)031008098

## Fines Increase to Protect Children, Workers, and Road Users

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 3, 2008)** – In a statement in the Legislature today, Michael McLeod Minister of Transportation, informed Members that penalties for specified offences under the NWT *Motor Vehicles Act* have changed. Under the changes:

- Fines for speeding in school and construction zones have doubled;
- Fines for driving without proper insurance have risen to \$1,700; and
- Fines for driving without an authorized Drivers Licence have risen to \$300

The higher penalties for speeding in school and construction zones will be combined with enforcement to reduce the risk of our children and road workers being injured. Minister McLeod said, “Driving at a slower speed provides for a greater driver reaction time.”

The higher penalties for driving without proper insurance will help protect other highway users. In his statement Minister McLeod said that increasing the fine will be an incentive to purchase insurance and ensure that everyone is adequately insured and protected.

“Driving without a valid Drivers Licence is unacceptable behaviour, and increasing the fine for this offense will be a deterrent to those who do so,” said Minister McLeod. “Driving a motor vehicle is a privilege that is only authorized while holding a valid Drivers Licence”.

“All of us have a responsibility to drive responsibly so that we aren’t putting our families and others in danger. And we all have a responsibility to be properly licensed and adequately insured to reduce the risk to others on our roads and trails,” said Minister McLeod.

For more information, please contact:

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Department of Transportation  
Tel: 867-873-7712  
earl\_blacklock@gov.nt.ca





R(16)061008099

## Driving Too Fast, Inattentiveness Major Causes of Collisions

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 6, 2008)** – The *2007 NWT Traffic Collisions Facts* report is now available. The report, which compiles information on collisions on the roads, streets, and trails of the Northwest Territories (NWT), shows an increase in the number of collisions in 2007 over the previous year. Some highlights:

- The number of collisions in 2007 was higher than the 10 year average.
- Five people lost their lives in 2007 in five separate collisions. The 10 year average number of fatalities each year is three.
- Two of the five fatalities were linked to being under the influence of alcohol. The other three fatalities occurred when a driver lost control of the vehicle.

Most collisions are preventable. The principal human actions contributing to collisions were:

- driving too fast for conditions or losing control (39%);
- unsafe backing (28%); and
- being distracted or inattentive (16%)

The principal human actions contributing to personal injuries were:

- driving too fast for conditions or losing control (54%)
- being distracted or inattentive (17%)
- failing to yield right-of-way (13%)

Transportation Minister Michael McLeod is concerned with the large number of preventable collisions. He said “We have to stop thinking of these as accidents and call them what they are – a needless collision that in almost every instance could have been prevented.”

Drive Alive is the transportation information program of the Northwest Territories. In the coming months, the program will focus on the need to reduce the number of collisions, injuries, and fatalities by increasing attentiveness and reducing speed when travelling.

For more information about the Drive Alive program, or to obtain a copy of the 2007 NWT Traffic Collision Facts report, please visit the Department of Transportation website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca).

For more information, please contact:

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R(16)031008100

## FSC Named as One of Canada's Top Employers

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 6, 2008)** - Out of a field of 2000 Canadian companies, FSC Architects and Engineers have been selected as one of Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2009.

In a competition, organized by Mediacorp Canada Inc., a publisher specializing in employment, FSC Architects and Engineers was named as a leader in its field for attracting and retaining quality employees. This northern company has been involved in building and infrastructure projects across the Northwest Territories (NWT), Yukon and Nunavut. Proven leaders and innovators in cold climate and remote location building, FSC are now also proven leaders in employment.

"I commend FSC for its forward planning in developing human resource policies that meet and exceed industry standards," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod. "This initiative addresses one of the major difficulties for business in the NWT - that of drawing and retaining top level employees to the North. The success of FSC should be praised and used as an example for keeping skilled employees in the NWT."

The management philosophy at FSC is to provide top-level service to both their clients and their employees. This commitment ensures that the firm continues to attract and keep top talent for the Company and the north, while providing an attractive working environment for its employees.

FSC polled its employees to see what kind of benefits interested them and to find out what they liked and disliked about the firm. This provided management with the basis to make the decisions that would help retain staff.

This year the contest for Canada's Best Employer was the most competitive since the inception of this project. The field of 2000 included large and small employers from a wide range of industries, offering varying benefits and working conditions. Criteria included: physical workplace; work atmosphere and social; health, financial and family benefits, vacation and time off, employee communications, performance management, training and skills development and community involvement.

A detailed feature showcasing the Top 100 Employers in Canada will be available in Maclean's magazine.

For more information, contact:

Brad Poulter  
Cabinet Communications  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
Office of the Premier  
867-669-2302









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## News Release

R(16)071008101

### **Premier Roland Assigns Portfolios to New Minister**

**YELLOWKNIFE (07 October, 2008)** – Premier Roland has assigned portfolios to Robert C. McLeod, who was sworn into office as a Member of Executive Council this morning.

The new Minister leads the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, and becomes the Minister Responsible for Youth and the Minister Responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, effective immediately.

Premier Roland said, "I am very pleased to welcome Minister McLeod to the Cabinet. He brings with him a history of hard work, reliability and conscientiousness. I have no doubt he will do a good job for the people of the Northwest Territories in this new role."

For more information, contact:

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Government of the Northwest Territories  
867-669-2304  
(867) 445-5669 cell  
Julia\_mott@gov.nt.ca







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## News Release

R(16)071008102

### **Premier Roland Posts Federal Leaders Responses to Northern Questions**

**YELLOWKNIFE (07 October, 2008)** - Premier Floyd Roland has posted responses to questions he posed to leaders of the national political parties on his website at <http://www.premier.gov.nt.ca/>.

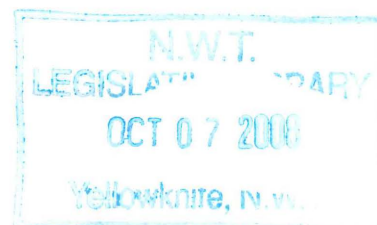
The Premier asked leaders to explain their party platform on such issues as devolution, climate change, high cost of living, infrastructure investment, the environment, energy and the Mackenzie Gas Project.

“I am pleased all parties have responded to these critical questions,” said Premier Roland. “It is important for Northerners to have as much information as possible when heading to the polls to select a candidate to represent the Western Arctic.”

For more information, contact:

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(867) 445-5669 cell  
[Julia\\_mott@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Julia_mott@gov.nt.ca)







[GNWT Home](#) > [Office of the Premier](#) > [Strategic Initiatives](#)

## Strategic Initiatives

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### Responses from the Federal Leaders to Important Northern Questions

Premier Roland recently wrote to each national party leader to ascertain their position on issues important to Northerners. The Premier posed some critical questions the answers to which will help Northerners decide which party to support in the federal election. The answers to those questions are reproduced below (note: contact was not made with the *Partie Quebecois* as they are not running a Western Arctic candidate):

#### New Democrat Party of Canada

Response from Jack Layton 

Response from Dennis Bevington 

#### Conservative Party of Canada

Response from Brendan Bell 

#### First Peoples' National Party of Canada

FPNPC Response 

#### Green Party of Canada

Response from Sam Gamble 

#### Liberal Party of Canada

Liberal Response 

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Last Updated: 2008-10-07 (Y/M/D)



Office of Jack Layton  
Leader of Canada's New Democrats



Bureau de Jack Layton  
Chef du Nouveau parti démocratique du Canada

September 28, 2008

Honourable Floyd Roland, Premier  
Government of The Northwest Territories  
P.O Box 1320  
Yellowknife NT  
X1A 2L9

Dear Premier Roland:

Thank you for your letter inquiring about Canada's New Democrats' position on issues of importance to the people of the Northwest Territories.

I'm pleased to have the opportunity to present our party's views on these important questions. As we progress through this federal election, we want Northerners to be aware of our position on the Mackenzie Gas Project, infrastructure investment, the high cost of living in the North, housing, devolution and land, resources and self-government implementation and the other important issues you raise in your letter.

### **Questions 1 & 2**

New Democrats believe the Mackenzie Gas Project holds enormous potential for the people of the Northwest Territories as long as it proceeds in a manner which protects the environment, respects land, resources and self-government agreements and provides significant benefits to Northerners. We believe the best way to ensure the project proceeds in a timely manner is to ensure the North's regulatory boards and agencies have the appropriate capacity to complete their vital work without unnecessary delays due to staffing levels or resources.

The first step to ensuring Northerners receive the maximum benefits from the Mackenzie Gas Project is providing pre-employment training and creating a business environment which provides Northern businesses with the support needed to participate as equals in the project.

Jack Layton and the New Democrats will take action to increase skills training, apprenticeship and job opportunities for all Northern families.

An NDP government will create more opportunities for training by broadening eligibility for EI training benefits. To make it easier for workers to access full- and part-time training programs we will:



- Open the doors to employed Northerners who take leaves from their jobs to participate.
- Extend opportunities to employed Northerners engaged in full-time training and retraining programs who do not otherwise qualify for EI.
- Waive the eligibility waiting period for E.I. benefits when tradespeople are entering courses.
- Develop partnerships with provincial and territorial governments, and labour and management organizations, to make EI a key resource for public training strategies and programs.

New Democrats will also:

- make the employment of certified apprentices and journeypersons a condition in federal government construction contracts; and
- support tradespeople and others who are forced to travel and work away from home with new tax deductions that recognize these expenses.

### Questions 3& 4

My team of New Democrats and I are committed to dealing with the North's Infrastructure deficit. Later in this campaign we will be announcing a comprehensive plan to build Canada's North.

Speaking in Iqaluit last year I highlighted the need to improve Northern infrastructure. I believe protecting our northern sovereignty means investing in our northern communities' infrastructure. We have the fiscal capacity in Canada. All that is needed is the leadership to get the job done. Unfortunately, Stephen Harper doesn't have that kind of leadership. For example, when Stephen Harper came to the NWT this August I felt he missed a golden opportunity by failing supporting communities and investing in much-needed northern roads and ports.

In our platform we commit to making significant investments in Northern Infrastructure such as:

- highways;
- water plants;
- small craft harbours; and
- airstrips.

We also commit to investing in community infrastructure through an **Investment of the equivalent of one cent of the GST** (a fifth of the GST) in increased funding for our cities and communities by 2011. This will address the massive infrastructure deficit facing our cities and communities and will protect families and individuals from massive property tax increases.

## Questions 5 & 6

Alternative energy sources, like hydroelectric, wind, solar, biomass and geothermal will play an important role not only in the fight against climate change but also in helping Canadians, particularly those in the North, deal with increasing energy costs. The Northwest Territories is particularly well suited for the development of alternative energy. Hydroelectric can be used to complement wind power resulting in a reliable source of electricity created completely with renewable sources.

In our platform we commit to supporting the development of appropriate local renewable energy sources for Northern communities. We look forward to working with the people of the North to develop their energy needs through alternative sources and will consider all proposals including wind, biomass and geothermal.

## Question 7

The high cost of living in Canada's North creates a significant drag on territorial economic development. In our plan for Building the North we commit to:

- increasing the Northern Resident's Tax Deduction;
- creating an economic development agency for the North;
- phase in a new Child Benefit. This benefit, modelled on the existing Canada Child Tax Benefit, will expand in phases to \$5000 a year per child, and consolidate the current piecemeal system of benefits and tax credits for children into a single, better, non-taxable monthly cheque to parents; and
- make substantial investments in affordable, accessible, child care for all Canadians.

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## Question 8

No where else in Canada is the need for affordable housing more acute than in the North. New Democrats believe regardless of income, Canadians have a right to safe and decent housing. That's why New Democrats helped create a world-class public housing program in the 1970s. Efforts to address the North's critical need for affordable housing were severely damaged when the Liberals cancelled the national public housing program.

The New Democrat plan for affordable housing is to implement a durable, comprehensive and fully-funded affordable housing strategy that meets Canada's international obligations, as set out by the United Nations. We will build towards the 10-year goal of the One Percent Solution – with one percent of federal spending allocated for truly affordable housing. We will implement the following programmes:

- **New homes:** Non-profit and co-operative homes for families and single individuals, including students. Specific housing targets will be set for Aboriginals, seniors, women and others who currently bear the biggest burden of housing insecurity and homelessness.
- **Special needs:** Funding for supportive housing for people with special physical and mental health needs.
- **Upgrading homes:** Funding to expand federal housing rehabilitation programs to maintain and retrofit existing substandard homes.

- **Homelessness services and transitions:** Funding to extend federal homelessness programs to ensure that services and transitional housing are available across Canada.
- We will fund the “**Bring Canada Home**” strategy with a combination of new revenues and partial reinvestment of the net income from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, excluding contributions from provinces and territories in cost-shared initiatives.

### **Question 9**

New Democrats believe that NWT governments (public and Aboriginal) deserve a larger share of resource revenues. These revenues will substantially enhance the capacity of Aboriginal governments and the GNWT to invest in and provide the programs and services so urgently needed by the residents here. However resource revenues form part of a larger devolution package which must include enhanced jurisdictional powers giving NWT governments more say over the terms and conditions of future resource developments. In the NDP’s view, a more equitable share of resource revenues goes hand in hand with greater northern control over development.

For too long the NWT and the other territories have been treated as less than full partners in Canada. New Democrats believe Northerners are more than ready to take their place as equals in Canada. In our platform we commit to ensuring Arctic communities are full partners within Canada. We will negotiate governance structures and devolution of authority and resources from Ottawa to the territories.

A New Democratic government would begin negotiations, with the explicit aim of reaching an agreement, for a full and fair devolution of the remaining province like powers still retained by the federal government. However, rather than starting over as the Harper government has done, New Democrats would use the work already completed as a base for completion of a devolution agreement.

### **Questions 10 & 11**

It is not tolerable that the Auditor General of Canada in report after report has highlighted how Liberal and Conservative governments have short changed land, resources and self-government agreement implementation. Instead, governments from both of these parties have followed a narrow line of nickel and diming not only the governmental structures set-up under these agreements but the incremental funding for the Government of the Northwest Territories to implement its side of the bargain. New Democrats believe this must stop.

Agreements like the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the Gwich’in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and the Tlicho Agreement are meant to restore the rights and dignity of Aboriginal people. However, by consistently underfunding the implementation of these agreements Ottawa has prevented Aboriginal governments from successfully developing to their full potential.

New Democrats believe that these agreements must receive implementation funding in sufficient amounts to ensure the spirit of these agreements is met, rather than just the most narrow interpretation of the letter of the law.

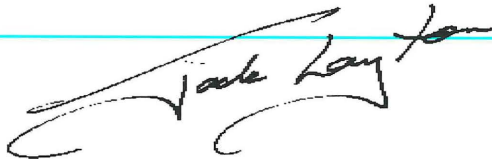
In our platform we commit to completing the negotiations and fully implement Aboriginal Land and Self-Government Agreements, and follow Justice Thomas Berger's 2006 recommendations concerning the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

New Democrats would review the implementation plans of existing agreements to determine if they address the spirit of these modern day treaties and in full cooperation with all parties make an necessary improvements to these plans so that their maximum potential can be realized. An NDP government would also change the way these agreements are negotiated from the current system. Under the current system, before negotiations begin, Ottawa determines the costs then tries to fit an agreement into this box. This current approach is a recipe for underfunding. New Democrats would do a costing after the agreements have been finalized to ensure Canada lives up to its obligations.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to share New Democrats' views on these important matters. Please be assured of our understanding of the difficulties faced by the Northwest Territories as it pursues greater economic and social progress.

I firmly believe that Northerners and all Canadians would benefit greatly with the implementation of our policies and programs for the North. I recommend taking a look at our full Northern Platform which aims to Build The North which we believe is the best way to also protect Arctic Sovereignty. We look forward to continuing to deliver concrete results for the people of the Northwest Territories and all Northerners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jack Layton". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jack Layton  
Leader, Canada's New Democratic Party





Response to Premier Floyd Roland

From Dennis Bevington, NDP incumbent,  
Western Arctic Riding

Dear Premier Roland

Thank you for the opportunity to share some exciting aspects of the New Democrat Northern Platform. It is notable that New Democrats care enough about northern Canada to develop a platform that deals with issues of great relevance to the people of the Northwest Territories.

**What measures will you and your party put in place to assist the Northwest Territories in dealing with the effects of climate change?**

New Democrats recognize that climate change is already impacting the Northwest Territories and threatens to increase the infrastructure deficit of the North. Of course the first step to mitigating the impact of climate change is to try to reduce or eliminate the effects by producing less greenhouse gas emissions both within Canada and internationally. Canada needs to fully implement its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. We will do this by making big polluters pay for the real costs of pollution through a cap-and-trade system that rewards big polluters who reduce emissions, and punishes those who don't. We will also halt new tar sands development until emissions are capped and we understand the downstream impacts.

In our Northern Platform, New Democrats commit to making significant investments in Northern Infrastructure including highways, water plants, small craft harbours and airstrips. Further, to protect the Arctic Ocean and all of Canada's waters, New Democrats will reduce the oil spill response times in the Arctic by completing a response gap analysis and investing in federal and private sector capacity speed up response times.

Nationally, we commit to investing in community infrastructure through an **Investment of the equivalent of one cent of the GST** (a fifth of the GST) in increased funding for our cities and communities by 2011. This increased commitment, phased in over five years, will include investment in roads and highways, expanded public transit,

affordable housing and building retrofits. This will help to address the massive infrastructure deficit of the North and other parts of Canada and allow communities to more meaningfully address the impacts of climate change.

Questions 2 and 3

**What will you and your party do to ensure the continuation of key federal investments in important programs such as the Territorial Health Access Fund, the Northern Housing Trusts, and the Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development fund.**

**As a general principle, do you and your party support base-plus funding arrangements between the federal government and the territories that recognize the higher costs and unique circumstances of the North in delivering programs and services?**

These questions rightfully raise the important issues of health care, housing and economic development for the NWT and specifically the issue of funding programs in the NWT.

The New Democratic Party supports, in principle, the negotiation of inter-governmental financing agreements for the Northwest Territories and the other territories and provinces, 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. This was something that NDP leader Jack Layton fought hard for when he was President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Jurisdictions with small population bases need extra assistance in delivering those programs and services through a set funding allocation for each jurisdiction, and then additional funding based on population and need.

We plan to invest in essential services – such as health care – based on the true cost of delivering these services in the North, rather than the Liberal and Conservative approach of using pan-Canadian benchmarks that short-change Northern people and communities. In order to improve health care delivery, we will implement a program designed to increase the number of doctors and nurses trained in Canada by 50%.

Furthermore, Jack Layton and the New Democrats will invest \$5 billion over 5 years in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities. This will

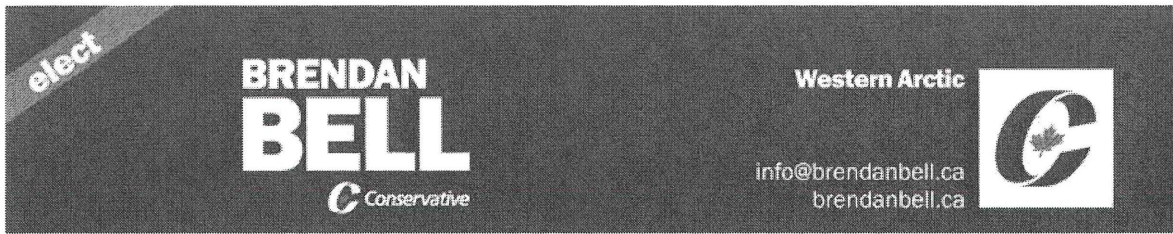


improve health services, help provide adequate housing, water, and infrastructure to include traditional healing, nutrition, fitness, addiction treatment and suicide prevention. This commitment alone will meet the standard set by the Kelowna Accord. It will build the foundation to end poverty.

New Democrats will provide support to the people of the Arctic so they can build communities which are on par with those elsewhere in Canada. We will create a federal economic development agency for the North to focus on sustainable development. We will also establish the Canadian Renewable Energy Agency. The agency will be responsible for encouraging and developing renewable energy in Canada, including the NWT.

To help ensure Northerners will have adequate and affordable housing, Jack Layton and the New Democrats will implement a durable, comprehensive and fully-funded affordable housing strategy that meets Canada's international obligations, as set out by the United Nations. We will build towards the 10-year goal of the One Percent Solution – with one percent of federal spending allocated for truly affordable housing. The strategy will have programs aimed at building new homes, accommodating special needs, upgrading homes and dealing with homelessness services and transitions. We will set specific housing targets for Aboriginals, seniors, women and others who currently bear the biggest burden of housing insecurity and homelessness.





October 3, 2008

The Honourable Floyd K. Roland  
Premier of the Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320  
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Premier Roland:

Prime Minister Harper has asked that I respond to your letter of September 16, 2008 requesting our party's position on key issues affecting the Northwest Territories. First, on behalf of the Prime Minister I want to thank you for raising these important northern issues. I have also included responses to the questions you posed in your September 24<sup>th</sup> letter to me. I hope to work closely with your government to deal with these issues as a member of a re-elected Conservative Government following the October 14<sup>th</sup> election.

As you rightly point out in your letter, our actions today will have profound implications for future generations. That is why our Government supports a vision of a new North that realizes its full social and economic potential and secures its future, for the benefit of all Canadians. Our Northern Strategy supports this vision by focusing on four integrated priorities: economic and social development, governance, environmental protection, and sovereignty.

In response to the questions posed in your letter, I would like to offer our views as follows:

**1. Do you and your party support the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline project and how will you enable the project to proceed in a timely manner?**

Our Government fully supports the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline project moving forward, subject to the completion of a thorough environmental assessment, a regulatory review and an appropriate economic framework.

This is why our Government committed to provide \$500 million in funding in Budget 2006, to establish the Mackenzie Gas Project Impact Fund. This fund is intended to support regional projects that help to alleviate the socio-economic impact on Northwest Territories communities affected by the proposed project.

It is also why our Government has consistently supported the participation of Aboriginal people as equity partners in this project through the Aboriginal Pipeline Group.

**2. Furthermore, how will you and your party ensure Northerners participate fully in opportunities for employment, training, and business involvement resulting from NWT resource development?**

A critical element of our northern vision is to ensure that northerners benefit from the development of their resources. A strong north is partially defined by strong, economically sustainable communities.

Our Government has committed \$105 million over 5 years to more than double the size of the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership Initiative which is an important initiative for the North providing people with access to training to take jobs in the oil and gas and mining industries.

As well, last month the Prime Minister made an important commitment to establish a new stand-alone regional development agency for Northern Canada, bringing together existing northern development activities into one agency with one focused vision for the economic future of the North: a prosperous future for those who call the North home.

**3. What steps will your party take to make investments in critical infrastructure in the NWT a reality?**

It is clear that our Government is committed to ensuring the NWT has funding to address critical infrastructure requirements. As part of the Building Canada Plan, Canada and the Northwest Territories signed a \$245 million infrastructure agreement last year. This agreement will result in significant infrastructure initiatives to strengthen the territory's economy and communities.

As part of this agreement, the GNWT and our government signed the territorial base funding agreement. Under this agreement, the Northwest Territories will receive more than \$25 million annually from the Government of Canada, for a total of \$185.8 million through to 2014. These funds will be used to support core infrastructure priorities such as the Kakisa River Bridge Replacement, as well as community priorities such as water and wastewater treatment facilities.

All communities across the Northwest Territories will also benefit from the \$88.5 million from the Gas Tax Fund between 2007 and 2014.

**4. What are you and your party intending to do in the support of the construction of a Mackenzie Valley Highway?**

Our Government is committed to working with other governments, including the Government of the Northwest Territories, in support of infrastructure projects in the North. We understand that highways to remote regions help bring a more diversified economy to communities, lower the cost of goods and services and promote economic development, including new tourism opportunities. As a first step, we were pleased that significant new funding was provided under the Building Canada Plan to begin work on the road south from Tuktoyaktuk.

**5. What are you and your party willing to do in support of developing the NWT's huge hydro potential?**

The Northwest Territories has tremendous undeveloped hydroelectric generation potential. I believe the development of this cleaner, greener energy holds great promise for our residents, for small businesses and for industries across our territory. The strategic development of the North's hydro resources is integral to the development of the North. As well, we can make substantial reductions in our own greenhouse gas emissions through the displacement of imported diesel fuel for industrial developments and communities.

As MP, I would be committed to working with your government and northern stakeholders to move forward with these important projects to realize the north's vast hydro potential.

**6. Given the long-term nature of hydro-electric development, in the short to medium term, what is your party intending to do to advance the development of alternative energy sources, such as wind, biomass, and geothermal?**

In January 2007, the Conservative government launched its ecoENERGY Initiatives. This consists of three components:

- the ecoENERGY Technology Initiative - a targeted investment of \$230 million to support the development of next-generation clean energy technologies;
- the ecoENERGY Efficiency Initiative - a \$300 million investment over four years to promote smarter energy use and reduce harmful emissions that affect the health of Canadians;
- the ecoENERGY Renewable Initiative – a \$1.5 billion to boost Canada's supply of clean electricity from renewable sources like wind, biomass, small hydro and ocean energy.



In addition to the ecoENERGY initiatives above, the ecoENERGY for Aboriginal and Northern Communities Program will provide \$15 million in new funding over four years to support Aboriginal and Northern communities working on clean energy projects, including remote communities that rely on diesel power generation. The program will focus on three key areas to address climate change challenges facing Northern and Aboriginal communities: community energy planning and management; renewable energy and energy efficiency projects; and, capacity building, training and tools.

**7. What concrete steps will you and your party take to help to mitigate the high cost of living in the NWT?**

Our Government believes in cutting taxes and lowering the cost of living for all, including the cost of living for Northerners. Since taking office we have increased the daily Northern Residents Tax Deduction by 10 per cent; reduced the GST from 7 to 5 per cent; provided a \$100 per month Child Care Benefit for every child under the age of six; reduced the lowest personal income tax rate; raised the personal income tax threshold to \$9,600; and provided targeted tax cuts for apprentices' tools and children's fitness.

A re-elected Conservative government will continue to lower taxes by implementing modest and affordable initiatives to help Canadian families. This includes cutting the excise tax on diesel and aviation fuel which will lower fuel costs for all forms of transportation - including air travel and personal vehicles; and lowering transportation costs for everything we buy - including groceries, clothes, home heating fuel and gasoline.

Our government will further raise the personal income tax threshold to \$10,100 in 2009; we will provide a tax credit for up to \$5000 of the closing costs on the purchase of a new home for first-time homebuyers; we will increase the Senior Age Credit Amount by an additional \$1000, on top of already planned increases; and we will introduce important financial changes to benefit families that care for family members with disabilities.

**8. How will you and your party help to address the critical shortage of social and affordable housing in the NWT?**

In Budget 2006, our Government provided a \$300 million transfer to the territories over three years towards the Northern Housing Trust to help meet pressures with regard to the supply of affordable housing in the North. The GNWT received \$50 million of the \$300 million. This Trust supports investments to increase the supply of affordable housing, including rental, transitional and supportive housing in the territories.

Aboriginal people in the North can also access funding through the Affordable Housing Initiative, as well as housing renovation programs offered through CMHC.

**9. How will you and your party ensure that the GNWT has the ability to develop the Northern economy for the future of Northern residents and Canadians through a finalized devolution agreement?**

As Conservatives, we fundamentally believe that land and resource management should be the responsibility of those affected most by development. Our Government remains committed to a fair and equitable Devolution Agreement for the Northwest Territories. One of the four pillars of our Northern Strategy is to provide Northerners with more control over their own economic and political destiny.

Working with northern governments to conclude a final deal to ensure the NWT has more financial resources and greater control of Northern lands to better create economic development opportunities for Northerners will be a priority for me as MP.

**10. What will you and your party do to ensure that Canada meets its obligations under existing land, resource and self-government agreements in the NWT?**

Our Government will continue to work with the GNWT and with Aboriginal governments to implement current Aboriginal Rights agreements. An important part of this work is ensuring the necessary resources are in place to meet our obligations and we will do this in an expeditious manner.

Great progress has been made in the NWT on Aboriginal Rights agreements, as evidenced by the handshake agreement recently concluded in Deline and the Agreement-in-Principle signed with the Acho Dene Koe of Fort Liard.



**11. What will you and your party do to ensure that emerging self-governments will have the necessary resources to fully implement their self-government agreements?**

As noted in the previous answer, we have made great progress in working to resolve Aboriginal Rights agreements across the territory. At the same time, we are committed to working closely with your government to provide emerging self-governments with the necessary capacity to fully implement these agreements.

**12. What measures will you and your party put in place to assist the Northwest Territories in dealing with the effects of climate change?**

Canadians and Northerners want action on the environment; action that reduces green house gases while preserving our standard of living and way of life. Our government is turning the corner with a practical, achievable plan to clean up this country's air, land and water and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Our Government introduced a plan to reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2020 and cut air pollution in half by 2015. Our Government also created a \$2 billion dollar eco-Energy initiative to promote smarter energy use and a greater use of clean energy sources.

**13. What will you and your party do to ensure the continuation of key federal investments in important programs such as the territorial Health Access Fund, the Northwest Housing Trusts, and the Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development Fund?**

Our party remains committed to investing in new and existing programs that help address the challenges facing the North. I am particularly pleased to reiterate the commitment of the Prime Minister to establish a new stand-alone regional development agency to cover Northern Canada. This is a commitment I long sought from the federal government during my time as the Minister responsible for Economic Development for the GNWT.

This agency would consolidate existing northern development activities from Indian and Northern Affairs and other federal departments into one agency giving the North its own development agency, just like the agencies that already serve the Western provinces, Northern Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada. The establishment of a new Northern Development Agency will make federal development work in the North more effective.

**14. As a general principle, do you and your party support base-plus funding arrangements between the federal government and the territories that recognize the higher costs and unique circumstances of the North in delivering programs and services?**

Our Government fully recognizes the higher costs and unique circumstances of delivering programs and services in the North. This is why we developed a Building Canada Plan that ensured the all jurisdictions would receive at least \$25 million annually in base funding. We are committed to working with your government to design programs that meets the needs of the North.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide our views on these important issues facing our Territory. I look forward to working with your Government to release the potential of Canada's North in the best interests of those who live, work and support their families here.

Sincerely,

Brendan Bell  
Conservative Candidate,  
Western Arctic



- 1) The measures I have taken so far and what the FPNPOC can do is continue educating and making aware the issues faced by Dene and all Northerners. I help create an international forum such as "Arctic Day within the Climate, Organic, Pollutant World Conference. Arctic Day brings attention to the issues of climate change on people, animals, water, air, land in the North affecting the people. I will continue to lobby to bring International Forums to our Land to share information with the people. I attended various and participated either as a Keynote speaker, Presenter, at Water Conferences across Canada along with presenting at Forums such as World Ecological Conference on Sustainable Development.

I would lobby for more funds to continue with the education and awareness and prevention on climate change. As Vice Chair International of the Arctic Athabaskan Council produced a video called "Climate Change in Denendeh" with special guest speaker "David Suzuki". I am also featured in the newest documentary called "Tu Bata Sayna" produced by Akaitcho Territory Government being introduced on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Northern United Place.

- 2) The FPNPOC can work and strategize with all Governments and Agencies involved in ensuring all Northerners have a safe and healthy, viable economic environment which would help enhance all peoples lives in the North.

- 3) Governments and Funding Agencies have been made aware over the years of the remoteness of the North and of our huge land mass compared to other areas. These are the factors in trying to deliver and implement programs and services effectively in the north. Another issue is the programs that are successful are cut. This defeats the purpose of finding solutions and recommendations on effective delivery for services and puts the people in a disadvantage. This is where the costs is a lot higher than the southern provinces.



October 2, 2008

The Honourable Floyd Roland  
Premier of the Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9

Dear Premier Roland:

Thank you for the further opportunity to communicate my thoughts on the challenges and solutions found in the Northwest Territories. Please find my answers to your questions below:

**Adapting to Climate Change**

One of the binding commitments of nations signing on to the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was to prepare adaptation strategies to cope with that level of climatic disruption that is no longer avoidable. If anything, this commitment has been ignored by Canada even more than the obligation to reduce emissions. Protecting vulnerable areas and population also needs to be addressed. Failure to act to reduce climatic impacts has already cost the Canadian economy billions of dollars.

*The Green Party Vision*

The Green Party believes that the federal government must show leadership in developing an adaptation strategy in collaboration with the provincial/territorial governments and municipalities that aims to mitigate and reduce the impacts of climate change. Even with significant global GHG reductions to stabilize the climate, it will take decades, perhaps centuries, to arrest climate change.

We must improve infrastructure across Canada, especially water treatment facilities, to meet a changing water regime. We are already experiencing increased deluge precipitation patterns in which current systems allow raw sewage to bypass treatment. We must start curtailing developments in areas of high vulnerability (for example floodplains, low-elevation coastal areas, regions of permafrost, and places adjacent to forests at risk of increased fires). We must undertake greater flood control measures like raising dykes in areas made more prone to flooding because of climate change.

The most urgent crises are in the Canadian Arctic where peoples of the North face losing their hunting culture, potential relocation of their communities, sinking and destabilizing infrastructure and negative effects on plant and wildlife species.

We must act to reduce emissions and we must prepare for the “new normal” of a destabilized climate. These are not, as often presented, mutually exclusive goals. We need both and we needed them yesterday.

### *Green Solutions*

As MP, along with all my Green Party colleagues, I will:

- \* Establish special task forces involving all stakeholders, all levels of government and scientific experts to prepare over the next two years area-specific climate change adaptive strategies. The first such task forces shall be set up in places particularly vulnerable to climate shift and disruptions and specifically include the Canadian Arctic.

- \* Set up a Climate Change Adaptation Fund to assist those areas hard hit by “natural” disasters linked to global warming.

### **Continued Investment in the North**

I completely agree with your statement linking arctic sovereignty to continued investment in the North. Northern News Services asked each federal candidate to respond to a question on arctic sovereignty and my answer, printed in the September 15, 2008 edition of News North mirrors your position:

Arctic sovereignty and military dominance are not the same thing. If Ottawa wants to “own” the North, it needs to demonstrate that we are full partners in Canada.

Instead of marching about and firing rounds into the Arctic Ocean, let’s start thinking about what makes us Canadian. Investing in the people, the environment and the economy will ensure that the Canadian Arctic is seen as an active part of our nation. Ottawa needs to take a real interest in Northern issues, not just Northern resources. This is how sovereignty is ultimately recognized.

As MP I will work hard to ensure that the federal government’s priorities are the people, economy and environment of the arctic.

### **Base-Plus Funding**

One size fits all solutions are rarely designed for the North and very rarely work for the North.

I absolutely support the general principle of arrangements between the federal government and the territories recognizing higher costs and unique circumstances of delivering programs and services in the North.



The Green Party also understands this principle and as an MP and a spokesperson for the Green Party, I will make sure my party and southern Canada continue to understand the unique circumstances of the North.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at (867) 445-7264.

Sincerely,

Sam Gamble  
Green Party candidate  
Western Arctic riding



## **A Liberal Response to the Premiere of the Northwest Territories**

### **Do you and your party support the Mackenzie Gas Project and how will you enable the project to proceed in a timely manner?**

The Liberal Party is generally supportive of the Mackenzie Gas Project, and funds from our infrastructure commitment may be available to support its construction.

However, support from a Liberal government would be contingent on ensuring that the project is environmentally sustainable, protects First Nations' rights, and is of economic benefit to the communities involved.

### **Furthermore, how will you and your party ensure Northerners participate fully in opportunities for employment, training, and business involvement resulting from NWT resource development?**

The Liberal Party platform will create opportunities with measures that will contribute to increased rural economic development.

Our economic plan includes specific policies for rural and Northern Canada. The Liberal Green Shift plan and incentives for renewable power will encourage new investments in renewable energy throughout rural Canada, from bio-fuels to wind to solar power. In addition to all other income tax reductions in the Liberal plan, rural Canadians will receive an additional \$150 per tax filer every year- called the Green Rural Credit- whether or not they pay taxes.

In addition to the Green Rural Credit, for those Canadians who live in Canada's North, we will immediately boost the northern residents deduction (NRD) to a new maximum of \$7,000 per year from just over \$6,000, and index it going forward. This represents an immediate tax savings of nearly \$150 per year and over \$200 per year within four years for those who fully benefit from the NRD.

Also important for economic development, we will complete the job of making broadband Internet service available to rural communities. And equally important, a Liberal government will help rural communities attract more doctors by forgiving \$10,000 of student debt for doctors in exchange for each year of practice in a rural or under-serviced area for a minimum of 5 years.

These measures, in addition to continued dialogue with rural and northern communities, will strengthen the economy of Canada's North.

**What steps will your party take to make investments in critical infrastructure in the NWT a reality?**

We are looking forward to working with the premier of NWT to implement the territory's share of the Liberal government's 10-year \$70-billion infrastructure plan. Unlike the Conservative party, we see the territorial and municipal governments of the north as full partners in building critical infrastructure. Before we set priorities for the north we will consult with the governments there.

**What are you and your party intending to do in support of the construction of a Mackenzie Valley Highway?**

The Liberal party is generally supportive of the Mackenzie Valley Highway, and funds from our infrastructure commitment may be available to support its construction. However, before any determination on that is made there would have to be a thorough evaluation of the proposal. As well, support from a Liberal government would be contingent on the project's environmental sustainability, protection of first nations rights, and economic benefit to the communities that it travels through.

**What are you and your party willing to do in support of developing the NWT's huge hydroelectric potential?**

Today, less than five per cent of Canada's power comes from renewable energy. We need to do dramatically better. A Liberal government will ensure that Canada embraces green energy solutions, helping us make the shift from polluting energy to cleaner sources, in order to remain competitive in the carbon-constrained global economy of the future.

A Liberal government will ensure that Canada has access to the technologies it needs to become a clean energy superpower. We will provide a Renewable Power Production Incentive that will more than double the non-emitting energy sources available to Canadians with a goal of having 12,000 Megawatts – that's 10 per cent of Canada's total electricity output – come from low-impact renewable sources by 2015 and 15 per cent by 2020. These incentives will generate more than \$25 billion in clean energy investment and tens of thousands of new, well-paid jobs for Canadians.

A portion of this incentive will be directed to support renewable energy in Northern and remote communities, which currently rely on diesel generators. With projects that could meet about 10 per cent of all electricity demand in remote communities, we will eliminate the need for hundreds of millions of litres of imported diesel fuel.

**Given the long-term nature of hydro-electric development, in the short to medium term, what is your party intending to do to advance the development of alternative energy sources, such as wind, biomass, and geothermal?**

Please see previous answer.

**What concrete steps will you and your party take to help to mitigate the high cost of living in the NWT?**

We will provide additional assistance to rural Canadians to help them adjust to higher fuel prices. Every rural Canadian tax filer will receive an annual Green Rural Credit of \$150, whether or not they pay taxes.

In addition to the Green Rural Credit, for those Canadians who live in Canada's North, we will immediately boost the northern residents deduction (NRD) to a new maximum of \$7,000 per year from just over \$6,000, and index it going forward. This represents an immediate tax savings of nearly \$150 per year and over \$200 per year within four years for those who fully benefit from the NRD.

**How will you and your party help to address the critical shortage of social and affordable housing in the NWT?**

A Liberal government will tackle the housing crisis nationwide by helping to provide for 30,000 new social housing units, and refurbishing another 30,000 existing units to make them more liveable. As part of this commitment, we will look to expand subsidies for dedicated units for low-income Canadians in federally funded co-operative housing. We will renew both the Residential Rehabilitation Program and the Homelessness Partnering Initiative. And a Liberal government will help low-income families pay less on their energy bills: we will support the building and upgrading of affordable housing for low-income Canadians, to help them reduce their energy costs through high environmental standards — because every Canadian deserves to share the benefits of a greener economy.

**How will you and your party ensure that the GNWT has the ability to develop the Northern economy for the future of Northern residents and Canadians through a finalized devolution agreement?**

The Liberal Party fully supports a finalized devolution agreement with the Northwest Territories. Devolution of control over public lands and resources to the NWT is a natural evolution of the territory. We were proud to have signed the Framework Agreement in Principle in 2004, and were disappointed when the process was not completed in March 2007 by the Conservative government. A new Liberal government would work with territorial leadership to find consensus on the major issues of natural resources management and regulation; public land use; and the ability to collect resource royalties, and will finalize the devolution process.

**What will you and your party do to ensure that Canada meets its obligations under existing land, resource and self-government agreements in the NWT?**

Self-government is an inherent right entrenched under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. A Liberal government will consult and work with First Nations on the establishment of an independent body to resolve comprehensive claims and to ensure that self-government agreements are respected and fully implemented. Where modern land

claims agreements exist, a Liberal government will respect and uphold the spirit and intent of these agreements.

**What will you and your party do to ensure that emerging self-governments will have the necessary resources to fully implement their self-government agreements?**

A new Liberal government will work towards establishment of an independent body to resolve comprehensive claims and to ensure that self-government agreements are respected and fully implemented.

We will also work jointly with First Nations, Inuit and Métis to establish an open and transparent process for the joint development of a federal policy for consultation and accommodation. As the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled, the federal and provincial Crown has a legal duty to consult, and, where appropriate, accommodate when Crown conduct may adversely impact established or potential aboriginal and treaty rights.



R(16)151008103

## Premier Roland Congratulates Prime Minister-elect Harper and joins call for Economic Summit

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 15, 2008)** – Northwest Territories Premier Floyd Roland offered his congratulations to Prime Minister-elect Stephen Harper today.

Premier Roland said “The North has received more attention under the Conservative government than at any other time in recent memory. I look forward to continuing this positive relationship with Mr. Harper and his government, to concluding the good work we have achieved already on such issues as devolution and the Mackenzie gas project and to making significant progress on infrastructure projects like the Mackenzie Highway and the development of our clean energy potential.”

Premier Roland also joined in calling for a meeting of Premiers to discuss the state of Canada’s economy, saying that provinces and territories must show leadership in the face of market volatility.

“Canadians know that our country is heavily influenced by the state of the American economy. As an export-driven economy we are affected by volatility in the United States,” said Premier Roland. “Canadians need to know that their governments are paying attention and are prepared to respond as required. And Northerners want to be assured that their investments and savings are as safe as possible.”

Premier Roland said he supports the meeting of the Council of the Federation to share perspectives in light of recent challenges in world markets, as suggested by Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach, and Quebec Premier Jean Charest. Premier Roland also recommended that Prime Minister Harper meet with Premiers on this critical issue to Canadians as soon as possible.

“Northerners are concerned that economic troubles abroad stand to create challenging conditions at home. Future investment in the NWT is critical to creating opportunities for our people. We mean to protect our citizens and ensure the federal government is doing the same,” said Premier Roland.

“It’s important we look at ways of reinforcing Canada’s economic stability and competitiveness, and how we can ensure future economic growth.”







The Northwest Territories is a major exporter of natural resources. The territory is home to three world-class diamond mines, which in full operation will supply 15 percent of the world's diamonds. NWT also boasts abundant oil, natural gas, and hydroelectric potential.

Fostering responsible development of these resources is a priority of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

For more information, contact:

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(867) 445-5669 cell  
Julia\_mott@gov.nt.ca







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## News Release

R(16)151008104

### Premier Roland Congratulates Dennis Bevington

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 15, 2008)** – Northwest Territories Premier Floyd Roland offered his congratulations to Dennis Bevington today on his re-election as the Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic.

“The Northwest Territories has an ambitious and important agenda,” said Premier Roland “We look forward to working cooperatively with Mr. Bevington on our priorities and to ensuring Northerners continue to receive the excellent level of attention we have recently enjoyed from the federal government.”

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Julia\_mott@gov.nt.ca





R(16)161008105

## GNWT Set to Realize NWT's Hydro Potential

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 16, 2008)** - A draft Hydro Strategy to advance the long-term development of the Northwest Territories (NWT) world class hydro potential was introduced by Bob McLeod, Minister of Industry Tourism and Investment.

“The NWT has some of the best undeveloped hydroelectric resources in Canada,” said Minister McLeod. “The growing impacts of fossil-fuel use on the environment — and the pressure of rising prices — continue to underscore the importance of developing these resources.”

The draft Strategy is comprised of 13 actions focused in four strategic areas: preparing for hydro development; protecting our environment; financing future hydroelectric projects and the development of the necessary policy framework.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is seeking the input of NWT residents and stakeholders on the Strategy to ensure its plans reflect the vision, principles and values of all NWT residents.

Hydro facilities in the NWT could provide communities and resource development with clean reliable energy, insulated from rising oil prices, for over 100 years.

Minister McLeod said that while the development of the NWT's hydro potential will require significant time, effort and capital investment, it reflects the GNWT's commitment to reduce the use of imported diesel, and, lower the overall cost of living in the NWT.

“The proposed Taltson River Hydro Expansion alone has the potential to save the purchase of more than 100 million litres of diesel fuel and eliminate up to 300,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually,” said Minister McLeod.

In addition to providing clean and secure energy for communities and extending the anticipated lifetime of NWT diamond mines, NWT hydro projects have the potential to stimulate an estimated \$1 billion of investment and near-continuous hydro planning and construction for the next ten to fifteen years.

The introduction of the draft Hydro Strategy is the latest step in the GNWT's comprehensive and strategic approach to energy planning. On October 7<sup>th</sup>, the government released the Energy Priorities Framework.

“We are balancing our efforts to address immediate energy challenges with the responsibility for investing in longer term energy solutions,” said Minister McLeod.

The Government will finalize its Hydro Strategy by April 2009.

For more information, contact:

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(867) 445-5669 cell







R(16)201008106

## Housing Ministers Meet with Housing Organizations and Aboriginal Groups

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 20, 2008)** - Minister Michael McLeod, Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories (NWT) Housing Corporation, along with provincial and territorial housing ministers met with representatives of national housing organizations and Aboriginal leaders in Ottawa, October 8th, to make the case for long-term federal engagement in housing.

This meeting helped make Canadians aware of the serious housing needs across the country. The meeting was designed to encourage the federal government to commit to work with provinces and territories on long-term, pan-Canadian housing solutions.

“Despite a recent federal announcement extending funding to several key housing programs, I believe that only a long-term federal commitment to housing can provide the stable and predictable funding needed to meet Canada’s housing needs. This is certainly the case for the Northwest Territories” said Minister McLeod.

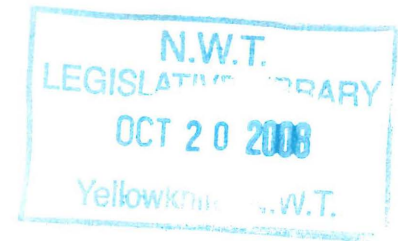
Ministers met with groups including the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Ministers are also expected to meet later this year or in early 2009 to further state their position on the need for Federal engagement on housing. It is hoped that a newly appointed Minister Responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation will be in attendance at that time.

Minister McLeod said, “There are communities in the NWT where social housing makes up the vast majority of our housing stock. It is critically important that we ensure that adequate resources are available to invest in and operate our housing stock, or risk the well-being of families in many communities.”

Minister McLeod is also expected to meet with the Ministers Responsible for Housing in the Yukon and Nunavut later this year, and together they will be seeking a meeting with the Federal Housing Minister to discuss the unique housing needs of the North.

For more information, contact:

Stephen Pretty  
Manager, Strategic Planning, Policy and Communications  
Northwest Territories Housing Corporation  
(867) 920-6533







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## News Release

R(16)211008107

### Arctic Red River Ferry End of Season Closures

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 21, 2008)** – The portion of the Louis Cardinal ferry's route that provides service to the town of Tsiighetchic will end mid- to late afternoon today due to ice conditions. Notice is given that the remainder of the Louis Cardinal's operations will end for the season as early as 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 23. The Louis Cardinal crosses the Arctic Red River on Highway 8 (the Dempster Highway). These will be the first closures of the 2008 ferry season.

Ferry service over the Peel River near Fort McPherson (Abraham Francis) is expected to close for the season early in the week of October 26. The ten year average closing date for the Louis Cardinal and Abraham Francis ferries is October 24.

Other Northwest Territories (NWT) ferries on Highway 1 (Johnny Berens, Lafferty) and Highway 3 (Merv Hardie) are operating normally. The 10 year average closing date for the Johnny Berens is October 30, for the Lafferty is November 4, and for the Merv Hardie is January 20. However, weather and ice conditions can cause earlier short term or seasonal closures with little or no notice.

All drivers are advised to use extra caution on ferry approaches, which are expected to be slippery.

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

For more information, contact:

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



R(16)311008108

## New NWT Liquor Act

**YELLOWKNIFE (31 October 2008)** - The new NWT *Liquor Act* takes effect on October 31, 2008. The new Act improves liquor legislation by making it more flexible and adaptable to the needs and priorities of Northwest Territories (NWT) residents.

“The new *Liquor Act* represents the culmination of almost four years of work, which included widespread consultation with NWT residents, community governments and other stakeholders”, said Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger. “NWT residents expressed a strong preference for increased control over liquor by communities and improved measures to protect youth and guard against bootlegging. This legislation reflects those priorities”.

The revised *Liquor Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in August 2007 but was not brought into force until the associated regulations were completed.

The new *Liquor Act* contains several important changes. The new legislation:

- Strengthens the control that communities have on liquor within their boundaries. Communities can make bylaws respecting hours of operation, Sunday and holiday openings and the type of entertainment that can take place in licensed premises.
- Protects youth, controls the illegal sale of liquor, and provides for safer conditions in licensed establishments.
- Recognizes the ability of communities operating under self-government agreements and exercising jurisdiction in this area, to pass their own bylaws with regard to liquor control.
- Strengthens the penalties for bootlegging, particularly bootlegging to minors. Maximum fines for bootlegging will increase from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for an individual and from \$10,000 to \$50,000 for corporations. In addition, it will be an offence for minors to use false or altered ID to enter licensed premises or attempt to purchase liquor.
- Introduces a new inspection regime to provide for improved monitoring of liquor stores.
- Simplifies administration of the liquor system by, among other things, reducing the number of license classes from 12 to 4 and simplifying other compliance requirements for licensees.

More detailed information on the new *Liquor Act* can be obtained at  
[http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/liquor\\_act\\_review](http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/liquor_act_review)

For further information, contact:

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R(16)031008109

## **NWT Youth Centres Receive Funding**

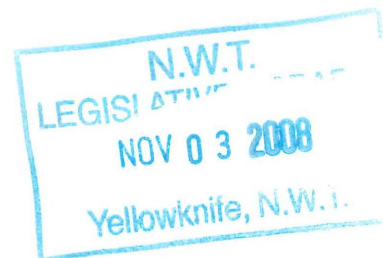
**YELLOWKNIFE (November 3, 2008)** - Recipients of the Youth Centres Initiative funding were announced today by the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA).

"There are many community youth centres in the Northwest Territories (NWT) that are offering positive programming for youth. One of the challenges that they face is limited operational funding," said Minister McLeod. "This initiative helps with these costs so that organizations and community governments can focus more attention on delivering quality programs."

The Youth Centres Initiative provides financial support to assist with operating costs of youth centers and community based facilities offering positive youth programs in the NWT. Attached is a summary showing the 2008-2009 funding recipients and their respective projects. More details on the Youth Centre Initiative can be found on the MACA website at [www.maca.gov.nt.ca](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca).

For more information, contact:

Kevin Brezinski  
Manager, Corporate Affairs  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 873 7512







For R(16)031008109

## Youth Centres Initiative - 2008-2009 Funding Recipients

Each of the following communities will receive \$10,869.57 to help support youth centers:

### **Inuvik Region**

Aklavik	Aklavik Youth Centre
Inuvik	Inuvik Youth Centre Society
Tuktoyaktuk	Tuktoyaktuk Community Corporation Youth Centre
Fort McPherson	Hamlet of Fort McPherson Youth Centre
Tsiigehtchic	Tsiigehtchic Youth Centre

### **Dehcho Region**

Fort Liard	Hamlet of Fort Liard Youth Centre
Jean Marie River	Jean Marie River Youth Facility
Fort Simpson	Dehcho Friendship Centre
Trout Lake	Sambaa K'e Dene Band Youth Centre
Wrigley	Pehdzeh Ki First Nation Youth Centre

### **North Slave Region**

Whati	Wha Ti Youth Centre
Yellowknife	Side Door Youth Centre
Wekweeti	Community Government of Wekweeti Youth Centre
Gameti	Community Government of Gameti Youth Centre

### **South Slave Region**

Fort Providence	Zhati Koe Friendship Centre
Fort Smith	Town of Fort Smith Recreation and Community Centre
Hay River	Hay River Community Youth Centre
Hay River Reserve	K'atlodeechee First Nations Youth Centre
Fort Smith	Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre
Fort Resolution	Antoine Beaulieu Memorial Hall Youth Centre

### **Sahtu Region**

Tulita	Tulita Dene Band Youth Centre
Norman Wells	Norman Wells Youth and Elder Centre
Fort Good Hope	Fort Good Hope Youth Centre







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## News Release

R(16)141108110

### **NWT Premier Congratulates Nunavut Premier-elect Eva Aariak**

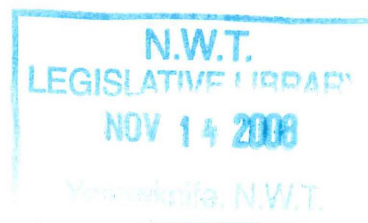
**YELLOWKNIFE (14 November, 2008)** – Northwest Territories Premier Floyd K. Roland offered congratulations to Nunavut Premier-elect Eva Aariak today.

Premier Roland said, “I congratulate Premier-elect Aariak and look forward to continuing a positive working relationship with our friends in Nunavut. We have many issues in common that we can work on together towards a positive result for all Northerners. I hope to meet with Premier-elect Aariak in the coming weeks to discuss matter of mutual interest.”

Premier Roland went on to say “I have appreciated the good working relationship we have enjoyed with outgoing Premier Paul Okalik and wish him the best for his future in the Nunavut Legislature.”

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R(16)181108111

## National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims

**YELLOWKNIFE (18 November, 2008)** – Residents of the Northwest Territories are asked today to observe the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims on Wednesday November 19. The Day of Remembrance is being marked across the country to remember those who have been severely injured or died as a result of a collision on Canada's streets and highways. This is the first annual Day of Remembrance.

The Hon. Michael McLeod, Minister of Transportation, called on residents to remember those who have lost their lives or who have been injured due to a preventable traffic collision. "It is important to acknowledge that lives are affected, families are devastated, and communities suffer loss every time someone is injured or killed on our roads," Minister McLeod said. "It is appropriate to remember the part we all play in making our roads safer by making safer choices."

The Department of Transportation website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca) contains a number of tips for safe driving under the Drive Alive drop down menu. The National Day of Remembrance website can be found at <http://cmmta.ca/english/dayofremembrance/index.html>.

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For more information contact:

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[earl\\_blacklock@gov.nt.ca](mailto:earl_blacklock@gov.nt.ca)







R(16)211108112

## NWT Communities Included in 2010 Olympic Torch Relay

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 21, 2008)** – The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) today announced the Northwest Territories (NWT) route for the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay.

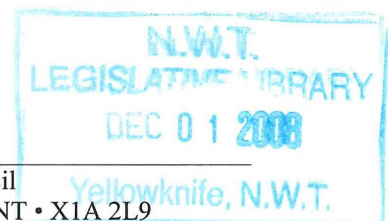
“We are extremely pleased to learn that Inuvik and Yellowknife will be part of the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay as the flame tours all of Canada,” said Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. “The Torch Relay offers NWT residents a unique opportunity to share in the excitement leading up to the 2010 Winter Games.”

Over the course of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay, there will be nearly 200 community celebrations from coast to coast to coast. Each of these celebrations will draw attention to the people, places and pride of that community. VANOC has selected the City of Yellowknife and the Town of Inuvik to host Torch Relay celebrations. The Government of the Northwest Territories looks forward to supporting the host communities as they develop plans for community celebrations in November 2009.

For more details on the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay please visit the VANOC website at [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com).

For more information, contact:

Kevin Brezinski  
Manager, Policy and Planning  
Corporate Affairs  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 873-7512





R(16) 261108113

## 2008 Minister's Awards of Academic Excellence

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 26, 2008)** – Recipients of the 2008 Minister's Awards for Academic Achievement were announced today by the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. These awards are given to the students who receive the highest diploma examination mark, 80% or above, in each diploma examination subject that is administered in the Northwest Territories.

“Northern students are showing that they are able to reach a top level of academic excellence,” said Minister Lafferty. “Congratulations to all of these students on their hard work and dedication to learning.”

A list of the 2008 recipients is attached.

For more information, contact:

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





For R(16)261108113

## **Minister's Awards of Academic Excellence 2008**

### **Applied Mathematics 30**

Won Yong Kim

Aurora College, Yellowknife

### **Pure Mathematics 30**

Matthew Gordon Devitt

Ecole St. Patrick High School, Yellowknife

### **Biology 30**

Karissa Giraldi

Diamond Jenness Secondary School, Hay River

### **Chemistry 30 (tied)**

Nimisha Sara Bastedo

Ecole Sir John Franklin High School, Yellowknife

Tyler William Heal

Ecole Sir John Franklin High School, Yellowknife

### **English Language Arts 30-1**

Nick Hurst

Ecole Sir John Franklin High School, Yellowknife

### **English Language Arts 30-2**

Violca Memedi

Aurora College, Yellowknife

### **Francais 30**

Marilyne Fisette

Ecole Allain St-Cyr, Yellowknife

### **French Language Arts 30**

Meika Anne Stewart

Ecole Sir John Franklin High School, Yellowknife

### **Physics 30**

Peter Martin Tutt Boggis

Ecole St. Patrick High School, Yellowknife

### **Social Studies 30**

Jessica Ann Hopkins

Ecole Sir John Franklin High School, Yellowknife

### **Social Studies 33**

Colton Martin

Ecole Sir John Franklin High School, Yellowknife







# MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

November 21, 2008

## **Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay to reach four communities in Northwest Territories** *Residents can apply to be torchbearers through Coca-Cola and RBC programs*

**Yellowknife, NWT** – The land where the dancing, undulating waves of the northern lights mesmerize during the long, cold winter months will add a new light to its night sky when the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay arrives in the Northwest Territories on November 4, 2009. The national 106-day event counting down to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games will spend two days in the region, involve 90 torchbearers and visit four communities — three of which are Aboriginal. The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay is presented by Coca-Cola and RBC and proudly supported by the Government of Canada. The 2010 Olympic Torch Relay route is available at [vancouver2010.com](http://vancouver2010.com). Information on how residents can apply to be torchbearers can be found at [iCoke.ca](http://iCoke.ca), [sogoactive.com](http://sogoactive.com) or [rbc.com/carrythetorch](http://rbc.com/carrythetorch).

The Olympic Flame will travel 1,540 kilometres by land and air, and be within a one-hour drive of over half of the territory's population. The flame will fly into Inuvik, the first planned town north of the Arctic Circle, best known for Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church or the Igloo Church. The torch relay will also visit Yellowknife, the diamond capital of North America, and the home of the T'atsaot'ine in Dettah and N'dilo.

"The Olympic Torch Relay is a tremendous opportunity to unite the country and make the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games Canada's Games," said the Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of State (Sport). "This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to bring together millions of Canadians, in every province and territory, as we celebrate and welcome the passing of the Olympic Flame. As it makes its way across Canada, it will touch the soul of this great nation and inspire the world."

Residents interested in applying for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to carry the Olympic Flame can apply at [iCoke.ca](http://iCoke.ca), [sogoactive.com](http://sogoactive.com) or [rbc.com/carrythetorch](http://rbc.com/carrythetorch). Canadians who commit to live more active lives or are inspired to create a better Canada could win the chance to carry the flame through 2010 Olympic Torchbearer programs run by Coca-Cola and RBC. Coca-Cola and RBC, the relay's presenting partners, have the exclusive rights for the public to enter the Olympic Torchbearer program. There will be several opportunities to apply for torchbearer spots beginning today.

"The 2010 Olympic Torch Relay allows all residents of the Northwest Territories to join Canadians in a unique celebration of national pride," said the Honourable Floyd Roland, Northwest Territories Premier. "This is an opportunity to embrace the spirit of the Games and to highlight the North's truly unique culture and people."

The 2010 Olympic Torch Relay will begin in Victoria, British Columbia on October 30, 2009 before heading to the Far North, becoming the first relay to bring the Olympic Flame within 900 kilometres of the North Pole through its stop in Alert. The relay will then head to North America's easternmost tip, historic Cape Spear in St. John's, Newfoundland before making a cross-Canada journey west to Vancouver.

Designed to reach the greatest number of Canadians, the relay will begin the countdown to the XXI Olympic Winter Games, spanning Canada to engage and inspire through the power of the Olympic Flame.

**vancouver 2010**™/MC

XXI OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES | X PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES  
XXI<sup>es</sup> JEUX OLYMPIQUES D'HIVER | X<sup>es</sup> JEUX PARALYMPIQUES D'HIVER

[vancouver2010.com](http://vancouver2010.com)

VANCOUVER 778 328 2010 WHISTLER 604 932 2010  
SANS FRAIS 1 877 408 2010 TÉLÉCOPIEUR 778 328 2011

DEC 01 2008  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.





# MEDIA RELEASE



"When designing this route, we wanted to include as many Canadians as possible," said John Furlong, Chief Executive Officer, Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC). "It is our hope and dream to unite this country and bring Canadians closer together to discover the many cultures and perspectives that make up our nation. We will share the Olympic Flame with young and old, northern and southern, eastern and western — and everyone in between — in order to make these truly Canada's Games and ones where everyone can celebrate with glowing hearts."

The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay route will be the longest domestic torch relay in Olympic history, stretching 45,000 kilometres within Canada. Upon its conclusion, the Olympic Flame will have been welcomed in 1,020 communities and places of interest or passed within a one-hour drive from nearby cities and towns, making it accessible to more than 90 per cent of the Canadian population.

The Government of Canada is a major contributor to the Olympic Torch Relay helping to bring the Olympic Flame to as many Canadians as possible. The torch, designed and manufactured by Bombardier, and the torchbearer uniform, designed by Hbc, will be unveiled later this winter.

Extensive additional torch relay media materials, including maps, videos, audio files and backgrounders are available in the media centre at [vancouver2010.com](http://vancouver2010.com).

-2010-

## About VANOC

VANOC is responsible for the planning, organizing, financing and staging of the XXI Olympic Winter Games and the X Paralympic Winter Games in 2010. The 2010 Olympic Winter Games will be staged in Vancouver and Whistler from February 12 to 28, 2010. Vancouver and Whistler will host the Paralympic Winter Games from March 12 to 21, 2010. Visit [vancouver2010.com](http://vancouver2010.com) for further details on programs and schedules.

## Coca-Cola and the Olympic Movement

The Coca-Cola Co. has been associated with the Olympic Games since 1928 and is the longest continuous corporate supporter of the Olympic Movement. Through the Olympic Games, Coca-Cola encourages people to create their own path of "positivity" in everyday life by believing that anything is possible. The company's sponsorship supports national Olympic committees in more than 200 countries to help athletes train and compete. The Coca-Cola Co. is the exclusive non-alcoholic beverage provider to the Olympic Games through 2020. For information on Coca-Cola's Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torchbearer programs go to [icoke.ca](http://icoke.ca) or [sogoactive.com](http://sogoactive.com).

## RBC and Amateur Sport

As part of our commitment to helping create a better Canada, RBC sponsors amateur sport, from grassroots programs in local communities to national sport associations that support the development of amateur athletes who compete at home and abroad. Canada's longest-standing supporter of the Canadian Olympic Team since 1947, RBC continues its sponsorship through the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and is proud to bring the Olympic Spirit to communities across Canada as co-presenting sponsor of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay. RBC is also a premier sponsor of Hockey Canada, the Canadian Snowboard Team, the Canadian Freestyle Ski Team, Athletics Canada and the Canadian Paralympic Committee. Visit [rbc.com/sponsorship](http://rbc.com/sponsorship).

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# COMMUNIQUÉ



Pour diffusion immédiate

Le 21 novembre 2008

## Le relais de la flamme olympique de Vancouver 2010 visitera quatre communautés aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest

*Les résidents peuvent poser leur candidature comme porteurs de flambeau grâce aux programmes de Coca-Cola et de RBC*

**Yellowknife, T.N.-O.** — Une nouvelle lumière illuminera un ciel qui voit normalement danser des aurores boréales pendant les longs et froids mois d'hiver, lorsque le relais de la flamme olympique de Vancouver 2010 arrivera aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest le 4 novembre 2009. L'événement national d'une durée de 106 jours, qui marque le début du compte à rebours jusqu'aux Jeux olympiques d'hiver de 2010 à Vancouver, s'arrêtera dans la région pendant deux jours et fera la visite de quatre communautés, dont trois sont des communautés autochtones. La participation de 90 porteurs de flambeau sera nécessaire pour ce tronçon du relais. Le relais de la flamme olympique de Vancouver 2010 est présenté par Coca-Cola et RBC et fièrement appuyé par le gouvernement du Canada. Le parcours du relais de la flamme olympique de Vancouver 2010 est diffusé dans le site [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com). Les résidents trouveront de plus amples renseignements sur comment devenir porteur du flambeau dans les sites [iCoke.ca](http://iCoke.ca), [sogoactive.com](http://sogoactive.com) et [rbc.com/portezleflambeau](http://rbc.com/portezleflambeau).

Aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest, la flamme olympique parcourra une distance de 1 540 kilomètres au sol et en vol et plus de 50 p. cent de la population sera à une heure de conduite d'un des arrêts du relais. La flamme s'envolera jusqu'à Inuvik, première ville planifiée au nord du cercle arctique, mieux connue en raison de l'église catholique Our Lady of Victory nommée aussi Igloo Church. Le relais visitera aussi Yellowknife, la capitale du diamant de l'Amérique du Nord, et Dettah et N'dilo, lieu de résidence de la Première nation T'atsaot'ine.

« Le relais de la flamme olympique constitue une occasion sans pareille d'unir tous les Canadiens et de faire des Jeux olympiques et paralympiques d'hiver de 2010 à Vancouver des Jeux pour tout le Canada », a dit l'honorable Gary Lunn, ministre d'État (Sports). « Il s'agit d'une chance unique de rassembler des millions de Canadiens, dans chaque province et territoire, pour accueillir la flamme olympique et célébrer son passage. Au fur et à mesure qu'il traversera le Canada, le relais saura exalter l'âme de cette grande nation et inspirer le monde entier. »

Les résidents qui sont intéressés à poser leur candidature pour avoir la chance de transporter la flamme olympique peuvent s'inscrire dans le site [iCoke.ca](http://iCoke.ca), [sogoactive.com](http://sogoactive.com) ou [rbc.com/portezleflambeau](http://rbc.com/portezleflambeau). Les Canadiens qui s'efforcent de mener une vie plus active ou qui sont inspirés à créer un Canada meilleur, pourraient remporter la chance de transporter la flamme par l'intermédiaire des programmes de porteurs de flambeau organisés par Coca-Cola et RBC. Coca-Cola et RBC, les partenaires principaux du relais, sont les détenteurs exclusifs des droits de participation publique en ce qui concerne les programmes de porteurs de flambeau olympique. À partir d'aujourd'hui, il y aura plusieurs occasions de poser sa candidature comme porteur du flambeau.

« Le relais de la flamme olympique de Vancouver 2010 permet à tous les résidents des Territoires du Nord-Ouest de s'unir aux Canadiens dans le cadre d'une célébration unique de la fierté nationale », a expliqué l'honorable Floyd Roland, premier ministre des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. « C'est une occasion sans pareille de ressentir l'esprit des Jeux et de mettre au premier plan la culture et les peuples uniques du Nord. »

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Yellowknife, N.W.T.





# COMMUNIQUÉ



Le relais de la flamme olympique de Vancouver 2010 commencera à Victoria en Colombie-Britannique, le 30 octobre 2009, avant de se diriger très au nord, à Alert, et ainsi devenir le premier relais à transporter la flamme olympique à 900 kilomètres du Pôle Nord. Par la suite, le relais se rendra dans le lieu historique national du Cap-Spear à St-John's, à Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador, soit la pointe la plus à l'est en Amérique du Nord, avant de reprendre son chemin pancanadien en direction ouest, vers Vancouver.

Le relais de la flamme a été conçu de façon à visiter le plus grand nombre de Canadiens possible. Il marquera le début du compte à rebours des XXI<sup>es</sup> Jeux olympiques d'hiver. Il parcourra ensuite tout le Canada dans le but de faire participer les gens et de les inspirer grâce au symbolisme de la flamme olympique.

« On a élaboré ce parcours afin d'y inclure le plus grand nombre de Canadiens possible », a affirmé John Furlong, directeur général du Comité d'organisation des Jeux olympiques et paralympiques d'hiver de 2010 à Vancouver (COVAN). « Unir ce pays et rapprocher les Canadiens pour permettre la découverte des nombreuses cultures et perspectives qui forgent la nation représente notre rêve et nos espoirs. Afin de faire de ces Jeux Des Jeux pour tout le Canada, on partagera la flamme olympique avec des gens de tous les âges, du Nord et du Sud, de l'Est et de l'Ouest sans oublier tous ceux qui se trouvent au milieu, et ainsi tout le monde pourra célébrer des plus brillants exploits. »

Le parcours du relais de la flamme olympique de Vancouver 2010 sera le plus long relais national de toute l'histoire des Jeux. Il parcourra une distance de 45 000 kilomètres dans tout le pays. Lorsqu'il sera terminé, le relais de la flamme olympique aura été accueilli dans 1 020 communautés et endroits d'intérêt ou aura passé à une heure de conduite de villes et des communautés environnantes, le rendant ainsi accessible à plus de 90 p. cent de la population canadienne.

Le gouvernement du Canada est un contributeur important au relais de la flamme olympique puisqu'il a aidé à rendre le relais accessible au plus grand nombre de Canadiens possible. On dévoilera plus tard cet hiver le flambeau, qui sera conçu et fabriqué par Bombardier, et l'uniforme des porteurs de flambeau, qui sera conçu par Hbc.

Plus de matériel médiatique sur le relais de la flamme, y compris des cartes, des vidéos, des fichiers audio et des documents d'information seront disponibles au centre des médias du site [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com).

-2010-

## À propos du COVAN

Le COVAN est responsable de la planification, de l'organisation, du financement et de la tenue des XXI<sup>es</sup> Jeux olympiques d'hiver et des X<sup>es</sup> Jeux paralympiques d'hiver en 2010. Les Jeux olympiques d'hiver de 2010 auront lieu à Vancouver et à Whistler du 12 au 28 février 2010. Vancouver et Whistler accueilleront les Jeux paralympiques d'hiver du 12 au 21 mars 2010. Visiter [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com).

## Coca-Cola et le Mouvement olympique

La compagnie Coca-Cola est associée aux Jeux olympiques depuis 1928 et est le partenaire corporatif de plus longue date à offrir son soutien au Mouvement olympique. À travers les Jeux olympiques, Coca-Cola encourage les gens à nourrir au quotidien leur « positivisme », en se convainquant que tout est possible. La commandite offerte par la Compagnie permet d'appuyer les comités nationaux olympiques de plus de 200 pays dans le but d'aider les athlètes à s'entraîner et à participer aux compétitions. La compagnie

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Coca-Cola est fournisseur exclusif de boissons non alcoolisées aux Jeux olympiques jusqu'en 2020. Pour obtenir plus de renseignements sur les programmes de porteurs de flambeau olympique de Vancouver 2010 de Coca-Cola, visiter le site [toicoke.ca](http://toicoke.ca) ou [sogoactive.com](http://sogoactive.com).

## RBC et le sport amateur

RBC commandite le sport amateur, autant les manifestations sportives locales que les associations nationales qui soutiennent le développement de sportifs amateurs et leur permettent de participer à des compétitions au Canada et à l'étranger. RBC commandite l'équipe olympique canadienne depuis 1947 - ce qui en fait son plus ancien commanditaire - et a étendu ce partenariat aux Jeux olympiques et paralympiques d'hiver 2010 à Vancouver en plus d'être fier de son rôle de partenaire principal du relais de la flamme olympique de Vancouver 2010 qui lui permet d'apporter l'esprit olympique au sein des communautés canadiennes. RBC est également un commanditaire principal de Hockey Canada, de l'équipe canadienne de surf des neiges, de l'équipe canadienne de ski acrobatique, d'Athlétisme Canada et du Comité paralympique canadien. Visiter le site [rbc.com/commandites](http://rbc.com/commandites)

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## GNWT, Diamond Mines to Take Collaborative Approach to Building Northern Mining Workforce in the NWT



SHARE

R(16)114 - Thursday, November 27, 2008

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 27, 2008)** – A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Northwest Territories (NWT) three diamond mines has been established to further the development and retention of a diamond mining workforce in the NWT.

The Agreement was signed in Yellowknife today by the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, the Hon. Bob McLeod, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Hon. Jackson Lafferty; the President of BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc., Ricus Grimbeek, the President of Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. Kim Truter and the Senior Vice-President of Operations for De Beers Canada, Chantal Lavoie.

Under the MOU, the diamond mines together with the GNWT will work cooperatively to advance a Northwest Territories Mining Workforce Initiative to develop the necessary skills, training, and travel initiatives to allow more NWT residents to be employed in the mines; and identify strategies to attract skilled workers and their families to become residents of the Northwest Territories.

“The NWT’s diamond mines are valued partners in our efforts to maximize benefits for NWT residents in the development of our diamond industry,” said Minister Bob McLeod. “This initiative allows us to build on this history of success and sustain the growth of our northern economy by supporting training, jobs and business opportunities, and by creating even more local benefits from mining.”

“Through partnerships such as this one, this Government is maximizing opportunities for Northerners to improve skills for living and working,” said Minister Jackson Lafferty. “This agreement will provide Northerners even greater opportunities to take advantage of training and develop the right skills for existing or future jobs in the diamond mining industry.”

“At EKATI Diamond Mine, we have just celebrated our 10-year Anniversary where 15 percent of our employees and contractors have worked with us since opening day”, said Ricus Grimbeek, President of BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc. “We’d like to expand our Northern talent and invest our collaborative efforts into developing an even stronger northern mining workforce to ensure the NWT has a great future.”

“As a member of the Rio Tinto group of companies, Diavik remains firmly committed to working with and providing benefits to local communities. We are pleased with the significant success we have had. With the added



strength of our combined industry and government efforts, the north should benefit even more from our work, as should each of our companies," said Kim Truter Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. President.

"Diamonds have long been associated with promise and commitment and so it makes perfect sense that our diamond industry is taking such an unprecedented leadership position with the Government of the Northwest Territories," said Chantal Lavoie, Senior Vice President Operations for De Beers Canada. "This will ensure long term delivery on our collective commitments to the North and that we are growing the significant benefits we are already bringing to northerners."

Since the establishment of the GNWT's first Socio-economic Agreement (SEA) with BHP Billiton in 1996, the combined operations of Ekati, Diavik and Snap Lake Mines have provided in excess of 10,000 jobs for Northerners.

Approximately 60 percent of operations jobs in NWT Diamond Mines are currently held by Northerners.

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R(16) 011208115

## GNWT and RCMP G Division to Collaborate on Road Safety

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 1, 2008)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and G Division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) today announced that they are collaborating on the planning and delivery of road safety programs in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The two organizations are partnering to support Drive Alive, the transportation safety information program of the NWT and to support their commitment to Road Safety 2010, which aims to make Canadian roads the safest in the world.

The announcement coincides with the first day of National Safe Driving Week, which runs from December 1 – 7. The first seven days of December are set aside each year as an opportunity to recognize, reflect upon, and respond to the need to make safe driving choices, particularly when travelling over the holiday period.

Transportation Minister Michael McLeod welcomed the opportunity for the Department of Transportation (DoT) to work together on transportation safety with the RCMP. “This is an important opportunity to build on an existing positive relationship with the RCMP to help reduce the number of traffic collisions in the NWT through Drive Alive,” Minister McLeod said. “This collaboration will help us reduce the number of injuries and fatalities on NWT streets and highways, and I welcome this agreement to work together.”

Chief Superintendent Tom Middleton, Commanding Officer of G Division said “We are pleased to see partnerships grow with the Department of Transportation. Our challenge is to reduce injury and fatal collisions by developing effective strategies with our communities and government partners. The Drive Alive program exemplifies this, and highlights the dedication of the DoT and the RCMP to improve public safety on our roadways.”

Minister McLeod and Chief Superintendent Middleton are also pleased to announce the creation of a new Drive Alive initiative called the NWT Survivors Club to recognize those who escaped serious injury or death through their use of safety belts and properly installed child restraints; lifejackets when boating, or helmets when bicycling, motorcycling, snowmobiling, or ATVing. Members of the RCMP and members of the NWT health community will nominate recipients, who will be recognized in their community for supporting safe choices when travelling.

Further information about National Safe Driving Week and the NWT Survivors Club can be found on the Department of Transportation website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca).



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"Dedicated to Improving Public Safety on Our Roadways".



R(16) 261108116

## **Discussion Paper on Electricity Regulation, Rates and Subsidy Programs Released**

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 4, 2008)** – Northwest Territories (NWT) Residents, Aboriginal Governments and key stakeholders are being asked to provide input into a NWT-wide discussion on electricity regulation, rates and subsidy programs.

The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod, says the time has come to review the NWT's electricity system. "As a Government, we have been clear that we believe reliable and affordable energy should be available in all of our communities."

Minister Bob McLeod, who chairs the Government's Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee (MECC) released a public discussion paper today to provide the basis for detailed discussions with communities, Aboriginal governments, and NWT residents over the coming months.

"This dialogue is necessary to ensure we have explored all opportunities and avenues to reduce the cost of living, and specifically electricity, to NWT residents and businesses," said Minister Bob McLeod.

The Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee which includes the GNWT's Minister Responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, Premier Floyd Roland; Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Michael Miltenberger; and the Minister of Public Works and Services, Michael McLeod released an Energy Priorities Framework in October providing the foundation for a number of identified initiatives including the Electricity Review.

"The Government of the NWT is tackling high energy costs on a number of fronts, and this includes looking at opportunities to renew our electricity system" said Minister Miltenberger. "We have also made a significant level of investment in energy conservation and efficiency initiatives and the development of alternative and renewable energy that will help reduce our reliance on imported diesel."

"People in the NWT are very aware that the price of electricity continues to be a significant factor in the high cost of living in our Territory" said Premier Roland. "Our goal is to build sustainable, vibrant and safe communities, and one of our key priorities in this regard is to reduce the cost of living, and in particular, energy costs."





“We are asking Northerners to help shape the vision of our electricity system in the NWT” said Minister Michael McLeod. “If people believe there are changes we could make to the system while maintaining the same degree of safety and reliability, we would like to hear about them.”

The public discussion on Electricity Regulation, Rates and Subsidy Programs in the Northwest Territories will be lead by the Energy Planning division of the Department of Industry Tourism and Investment. It will begin in January 2009.

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# ELECTRICITY REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION

## ESTABLISHING THE VISION:

- 1) What should be our vision for the future of electricity in the NWT?
- 2) What problems must we overcome to make this vision a reality?

## REDUCING COSTS AND ENSURING AFFORDABILITY:

- 1) Are there opportunities to reduce costs through changes to the structure of our electricity sector?
- 2) What areas need to be examined in order to try and lower the cost of electricity generation?
- 3) Could a community realize cost savings by owning and operating its own power generation and delivery system while retaining the same level of reliability and safety? If so, how?
- 4) Are there opportunities to reduce the cost of electricity regulation?
- 5) Should the Government of the Northwest Territories be able to issue policy direction to the Public Utilities Board?
- 6) Should the Northwest Territories move towards a more simplified, levelized rate structure?







R(16)041208118

## Finance Minister Provides Economic and Fiscal Update

**YELLOWKNIFE (4 December 2008)** - The Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Finance, provided an update on the Northwest Territories (NWT) economy and fiscal outlook today. Minister Miltenberger also released the results of his revenue options consultations.

“The NWT is not insulated from the changes occurring in the world economy. The resource sector represents more than a third of our economy. Slowdowns will have an impact here in the NWT”, said Minister Miltenberger. “The good news is that the GNWT is in a stable fiscal position. The fiscal plan we put in place last winter and spring leaves us well positioned to address the challenges posed by world economic conditions.”

As the GNWT prepares its 2009 Budget, to be presented in February, the Minister released a report on the revenue consultation conducted earlier this fall. In September, the public was invited to submit their views on how the government could raise an additional \$40 million in annual revenues.

The government will be implementing measures to raise \$10 million in new revenues in 2009-10. However, given rapidly changing economic circumstances, the Minister announced that any decisions about raising an additional \$30 million from tax increases in 2010-11 would be deferred until economic conditions are more certain. The Minister also announced that the GNWT would not be introducing an NWT sales tax or increasing the NWT fuel tax.

“Northerners told us they did not want the GNWT to introduce tax increases that would raise the cost of living or make it more expensive to do business here without making sure we were getting the best value for the dollars we are already spending. I want to assure NWT residents that we are doing this”, said the Minister. “We will have to look more closely at controlling our spending growth if we do not increase our revenues in near term.”

The Report on Revenue Consultations can be found on the Department of Finance website at <http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/>.

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R(16)051208119

## Drive Alive Launches Campaign to Reduce Holiday Impaired Driving

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 5, 2008)** – A new Drive Alive campaign was launched today to reduce the number of impaired drivers on Northwest Territories (NWT) streets and highways. The campaign calls on residents to “Be the Life of the Party – Be a Designated Driver”. Drive Alive is the transportation safety information program of the Government of Northwest Territories, working in partnership with the RCMP and others to improve transportation safety in the NWT.

Impaired drivers continue to be a major cause of avoidable collisions, injuries, and fatalities in the NWT. In 2007, 46 collisions involved the use of alcohol by at least one driver. 31 persons were injured and two people lost their lives in an alcohol-related collision.

The Drive Alive campaign will be supported by posters and radio commercials throughout the NWT. The commercials will remind residents that RCMP and Municipal Enforcement will be setting up Check Stops in communities and on highways and trails to enforce laws on impaired driving.

The campaign is aimed at those who can affect driving choices by those who might otherwise drive impaired. Transportation Minister Michael McLeod said, “Over the years, we’ve introduced stiffer laws and penalties on impaired driving, and that has had an effect on the number of impaired drivers on our roads and trails. However, there is much more work to be done, and we are asking residents to help us address this serious and preventable cause of injuries and death.”

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Further information on the Drive Alive Designated Driver campaign can be found on the Department of Transportation website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca).

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R(16)051208120

## Bargaining begins between GNWT and UNW

**YELLOWKNIFE (5 December, 2008)** -- On December 5, the Government of the Northwest Territories began negotiation of a new collective agreement with the Union of Northern Workers (UNW).

“I’m very positive about the approach we’re bringing to the bargaining table,” said Debbie DeLancey, Deputy Minister of Human Resources. “Government employees are the engine that allows the GNWT to achieve its goals. That’s why we are looking forward to working with the UNW to finalize an agreement that is effective and affordable.”

The GNWT’s initial proposals focus on four distinct areas:

1. Our goal is to develop a sustainable public service - one that balances the need to invest in our public service with the need to remain fiscally prudent.
2. Our government needs to be competitive in pay and benefits with other employers, especially in western and northern Canada.
3. We recognize that cost of living is a concern for all northerners, including our employees.
4. We need a collective agreement that works for managers and employees - one that is clear and understandable, and treats employees fairly and equitably.

The GNWT and UNW meet December 5 – 7 to begin negotiations, with negotiations continuing in the new year. The GNWT will be accountable and transparent throughout the bargaining process, with proposals and updates available to the public on the GNWT website at <http://www.hr.gov.nt.ca/bargaining/default.htm>

For more information contact:

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R(16)081208121

## Northwest Territories Top Athletes Receive Funding

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 8, 2008)** – Recipients of the 2008 High Performance Athlete Grant were announced today by the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and Abe Thiel, President of the Sport North Federation.

“With the growing number of high performance athletes in the Northwest Territories (NWT), we are pleased to offer support for our athletes to help them pursue their goals and dreams”, said Minister McLeod. “This program simplifies the process for athletes to access funding, allowing them to spend more time focusing on their sport.”

“The High Performance Athlete Grant Program has been an excellent resource for our emerging athletes,” added Abe Thiel. “The support we provide will have a positive impact on the development of our best young athletes from the north, and I would like to congratulate all recipients on their hard work and wish them the best of luck in the coming year.”

“As an elite amateur athlete, I feel very fortunate to be supported by this program and to be able to represent the NWT across the country and around the world”, said speed skater Michael Gilday. “It enables me to focus solely on my goal of representing the NWT and Canada at the 2010 Olympics.”

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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Manager, Policy and Planning  
Corporate Affairs  
Municipal and Community Affairs  
Tel: (867) 873 7512





For R(16)081208121

## 2008 High Performance Athlete Grant Recipients

The recipients for the High Performance Athlete Grant program for 2008-2009 are:

Jacqueline Thompson	Soccer	Fort Simpson
Sarah Daitch	Cross Country Skiing	Fort Smith
Betsy Mawdsley	Biathlon	Fort Smith
Brandon Thompson	Volleyball	Fort Smith
Brendan Green	Biathlon	Hay River
Michael Gilday	Speed Skating	Yellowknife
Jill Gilday	Speed Skating	Yellowknife
Linsay Barbier	Soccer	Yellowknife
Amelia Debogorski	Soccer	Yellowknife
Dustin Adams	Soccer	Yellowknife
Brandon Fabian	Soccer	Yellowknife
Michael Craig	Wrestling	Yellowknife
Ian MacDougall	Cross Country/Athletics	Yellowknife
Mike Argue	Cross Country Skiing	Yellowknife
Thompson D'Hont	Cross Country Skiing	Yellowknife
Alexander Hopkins	Cross Country Skiing	Yellowknife
Hailey Grayston	Basketball	Yellowknife
Jazzan Braden	Basketball	Yellowknife
Graeme Ryder	Basketball	Yellowknife
Nicholas Walker	Gymnastics	Yellowknife
Cole Phillip	Gymnastics	Yellowknife
Gabriel Darku	Gymnastics	Yellowknife
Peter Taptoona	Gymnastics	Yellowknife
Zachary Sullivan	Gymnastics	Yellowknife
Danielle Pontus	Badminton	Yellowknife
Chris Aitken	Badminton	Yellowknife
Bethany Enge	Volleyball	Yellowknife
Andrew Matthews	Snowboarding	Yellowknife





R(16)111208122

## **New DVD Promotes the Use of Alternative Energy Technologies in the NWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 11, 2008)** – A DVD promoting the benefits of adopting alternative energy technologies for communities, businesses and residents was released by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Michael Miltenberger today.

“The Alternative Energy Technologies Program is a great opportunity for communities, businesses and residents to save energy, reduce greenhouse gases, other air pollutants and save money,” said Minister Miltenberger. “This DVD captures the environmental and monetary benefits of these technologies and makes them easier to understand.”

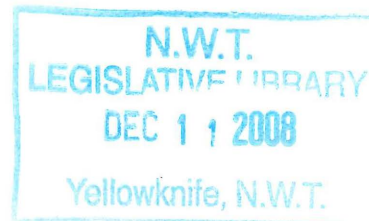
The Northwest Territories (NWT) Alternative Energy Technologies Program (AETP) has three funding categories designed to meet the needs of Aboriginal and community governments, GNWT departments, non-profit organizations, businesses, off-grid camps and lodges and NWT residents.

Technologies, such as solar hot water heating systems, photovoltaic (PV) technologies, wind turbines and ground-source heat pumps, are available for funding through the program. NWT residents, businesses and communities can reduce their energy costs through the grants they receive to support local implementation of these technologies.

“Alternative energies, such as solar, wind and biomass provide energy and don’t use fossil fuels,” said Minister Miltenberger. “With the high cost of fuel, energy and operating a business, it makes sense to adopt these alternative energy technologies.”

For a copy of the DVD, and for more information, contact:

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R(16)151208123

## ITI to Respond to Recommendations of Independent Panel

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 15, 2008)** – Recommendations from an independent panel following a summer-long consultation of the role and nature of parks services and campgrounds in the Northwest Territories (NWT) have been accepted by the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod.

“I am confident that this process has identified solutions that will allow us to meet our responsibility to ensure our camping facilities are available to NWT residents as well as tourists - and to maintain an appropriate balance between longer-term camping and recreational or casual daily camping,” said Minister McLeod.

The consultation survey solicited input from the public, tourism and business stakeholders, community councils and Aboriginal organizations on four major topics:

- The role of Parks in terms of tourism.
- Parks fee increases.
- Extended stay sites.
- The on-line reservation system.

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The Department will now take steps in accordance with the panel’s recommendations to have amendments to the Territorial Parks Regulations in place for the 2009 camping season.

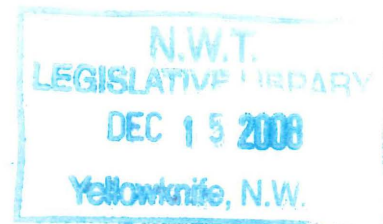
Officials from the Department of Industry Tourism and Investment will meet in January with parks users in the North Slave and other regions to present the consultation findings and survey results.

“Survey results and suggestions received during the consultation process will continue to guide ongoing and future development and management of Parks and campground facilities in the NWT,” said Minister McLeod.

For consultation results and information, visit: [www.iti.gov.nt.ca](http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca)

For more information, contact:

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Manager, Public Affairs/Communications  
Industry, Tourism and Investment  
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R(16)161208124

## Ice spraying in Beaufort Delta will reduce cost of living in Inuvik Region

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 16, 2008)** – The introduction of ice spray technology for the construction of ice crossings in the Beaufort Delta is benefitting Northwest Territories (NWT) residents.

Ice spraying has been used for a number of years at the ice crossing over the Mackenzie River near Fort Providence. As part of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Strategic Initiative to reduce the cost of living for residents, an investment was made to introduce ice spraying for ice crossings in the Inuvik Region. The objective is for each crossing to have the capacity to handle commercial truck loads earlier. As a result of the use of ice spraying, the Dempster's Peel River and Arctic Red River ice crossings are open to commercial traffic. This is approximately three weeks to a month earlier than in previous years.

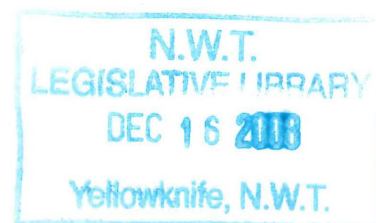
Traditional methods for building an ice crossing involve flooding the surface, layer by layer, from water pumped out of a hole drilled in the ice. This process requires more time for the ice to develop the strength required to handle heavy commercial loads. Crossings built using ice spraying come up to full strength sooner because the spraying allows the ice to get thicker faster, which allows large commercial vehicles to cross the river sooner. The economic benefit from reduced freight costs for residents of the Beaufort Delta is significant.

Earlier openings of seasonal roads and crossings reflect the Department of Transportation's commitment to continuous improvement in the construction and maintenance of seasonal roadways and crossings. Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod said he is pleased with the progress his department is making in extending winter road seasons. "One of the priorities of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly is to lower the cost of living for residents", he said. "A longer ice bridge season and an earlier resumption of access by commercial vehicles benefits residents by lowering the cost of the goods they purchase."

Up-to-date information on the NWT highway system, including its ferries, winter roads, and ice crossings, can be found on its website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca).

For further information, please contact

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**News Release**

R(16)181208125

**Mediation between the Northwest Territories' Medical Association  
and the Government of the Northwest Territories**

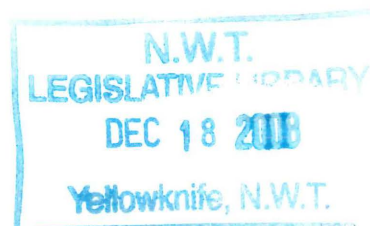
**YELLOWKNIFE (December 18, 2008)** - Following several days of mediation between the Northwest Territories' Medical Association and the Government of the Northwest Territories, both parties have unanimously agreed to a new four year agreement, which will be sent to their principals for ratification.

Terms of the agreement will be available following ratification by the parties.

For more information, contact:

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(867) 920-4575

Debbie DeLancey  
Deputy Minister  
Human Resources  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
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R(16)191208126

## Minister Outlines Next Steps in the Board Reform Initiative

**YELLOWKNIFE (19 December 2008)** - The Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Lead Minister for the Refocusing Government Strategic Initiative Committee, outlined the next steps in planning for the Board Reform initiative today.

“Board Reform is about improving service delivery through better integration, increasing the ability of regions to set their own priorities around service delivery, and removing administrative duplication,” said Minister Miltenberger. “We have done the work to identify the issues and possible options that we need to resolve in developing a more detailed proposal for Board Reform. I am now very interested to hear the views of Northerners about our proposed approach and look forward to working with stakeholders throughout the Northwest Territories (NWT) to refine the model for Board Reform.”

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Board Reform initiative proposes the creation of regional services boards that will manage service delivery of health, social services, education, and housing programs. There are currently about 70 GNWT boards involved in governance for health, social services, education and housing, in addition to regional operations within the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the NWT Housing Corporation. Regional services boards will continue to include input, direction and participation from NWT residents on the delivery of programs and services in their regions.

In recent weeks, Minister Miltenberger has met with Board Chairs from Health Authorities and Education Councils to discuss the need for Board Reform and outline the process for moving forward. Consultation with the public, boards and stakeholders will take place in the new year. The first round of consultations will seek input on the general approach and will examine issues like:

- board composition, responsibilities and selection;
- overall roles and responsibilities;
- regional boundaries;
- potential organizational structure of Regional services boards and authorities;
- organization of community service delivery;
- options for community input into service delivery;
- accountability and reporting;
- relationship of the regional service boards with Ministers and departments; and
- board coordination with Ministers



Board Reform will respect the differences between NWT regions, while improving the ability of each to have a say in how health, social service, education and housing programs are provided to their residents. The GNWT will carefully consider how potential changes will be implemented to ensure that board structures and responsibilities are appropriate and consistent with the needs of each region. A second round of consultations will be conducted in the early spring to examine region specific issues for implementation.

Minister Miltenberger will continue to work closely with the Ministers of Education, Culture and Employment, Health and Social Services and the Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to ensure that potential board reforms will effectively integrate operations from each sector in a manner that will ensure improved services to NWT residents.

“Board Reform is a major change to the way the GNWT manages and administers service delivery. The proposed regional services boards will revamp existing regional boards through integration and expand their mandates. We expect that any savings we are able to achieve through eliminating duplication will be reinvested in services in these areas,” said the Minister. “We want to increase clarity on responsibilities, while improving cooperation and our focus on the client in the way we deliver services. We can’t make progress without making changes to the way we organize and deliver these programs. We recognize that change always causes some concerns, but encourage Northerners to take a close look at our proposals as we undertake consultations to help us to improve our systems.”

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