R(16)-127	Jan 07	2009 Get Active NWT campaign launched
R(16)-128	Jan 07	Premier Roland outlines the NWT's priorities for the Federal budget
R(16)-129	Jan 07	Federal/Territorial meeting on infrastructure will benefit Northerners
R(16)-130	Jan 09	2009 Outstanding Volunteer Awards Nominations
R(16)-131	Jan 12	GNWT Ministers promote Federal investment in the NWT
R(16)-132	Jan 13	Premier Roland responds to U.S. arctic policy, says Canadian action needed now
R(16)-133	Jan 13	Premier Roland to tell PM: North holds key to Canada's economic future
R(16)-134	Jan 22	Independent review supports science to make caribou Management decisions
R(16)-135	Jan 21	Premier Roland meets with Aboriginal Leaders
R(16)-136	Jan 28	Premier Roland offers condolences on the passing of Helen Maksagak
R(16)-137	Jan 29	Minister releases consultation material for board reform initiative
R(16)-138	Jan 29	GNWT seeks input on proposed changes to procurement
P(40) 420	law 00	
R(16)-139	Jan 29	Appointment of Chief Medical Health Officer
R(16)-140	Jan 29	GNWT working group to review ATCO proposal
R(16)-141	Jan 30	Tri-Territorial meeting of ministers responsible for housing in Iqaluit, Nunavut
R(16)-142	Feb 02	Supplementary Health Benefits Program review
R(16)-143	Feb 03	GNWT and NWTMA announce new four-year contract for NWT physicians
R(16)-144	Feb 05	2009-10 NWT Budget lays out challenges and opportunities
R(16)-145	Feb 11	New judge appointed to territorial court
R(16)-146	Feb 13	Alberta and Northwest Territories meet to discuss the economy, energy and the environment
R(16)-147	Feb 17	Minister confirms next steps in Board Reform Initiative
R(16)-148	Feb 17	GNWT working to expand global market for NWT furs

R(16)-149	Feb 23	Community discussions on the electricity review launched
	Feb 25	Aboriginal student achievement initiative
R(16)-150	Feb 26	GNWT, Towns of Hay River and Fort Smith announce launch of NWT BizPal
R(16)-151	Feb 26	Launch of NWT Quitline for smokers
R(16)-152	Mar 09	Paper and cardboard recycling initiative
R(16)-153	Mar 12	Response to Minister Cannon's commitment to arctic issues
R(16)-154	Mar 12	GNWT releases approach to regulatory improvement in the NWT
R(16)-155	Mar 12	Multi-sport game review
R(16)-156	Mar 16	Volunteer NGO summit
R(16)-157	Mar 16	Call for 2010 Olympic and Paralympic youth ambassadors
R(16)-158	Mar 16	NWT hospitals go filmless
R(16)-159	Mar 30	GNWT will protect and preserve NWT business
R(16)-160	Mar 31	Tobacco taxes, liquor markups to increase
R(16)-161	Mar 31	Government of Northwest Territories praises Federal Support for Aboriginal Pipeline Group
R(16)-162	Mar 31	GNWT role to provide stabilizing influence for NWT economy
R(16)-163	Apr 01	Premier encourages NWT business leaders to invest in in the NWT
R(16)-164	Mar 31	NWT Premier offers congratulations to Nunavut
R(16)-165	Apr 02	Overview of the GNWT approach at the 2010 Olympic
		Winter Games
R(16)-166	Apr 02	Vinter Games Premier signs contributing Territory Agreement as NWT joins Vancouver 2010 Team
R(16)-166 R(16)-167	Apr 02 Apr 03	Premier signs contributing Territory Agreement as NWT
		Premier signs contributing Territory Agreement as NWT joins Vancouver 2010 Team Strong Northern partnerships reflected in Arctic research

	R(16)-170	Apr 08	92 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge
	R(16)-171	Apr 09	Air travel key to NWT quality of life
	R(16)-172	Apr 14	Saoyú ?ehdacho becomes a protected National Historic Site through the Protected Areas Strategy Process
	R(16)-173	Apr 14	CSA announces NWT winner of Financial Fitness Challenge
	R(16)-174	Apr 17	Winter road and ice crossing season in Southern NWT coming to a successful end
	R(16)-175	Apr 20	Northern Aboriginal Business Association
	R(16)-176	Apr 20	Increases to funding to NWT Libraries
	R(16)-177	Apr 22	April is Oral Health Month
	R(16)-178	Apr 23	Mediation program offers an alternative to court
	R(16)-179	Apr 24	Immunization Awareness WeekApril 25- May 2, 2009
	R(16)-180	Apr 23	GNWT and UNW reach tentative agreement
	R(16)-181	Apr 27	2009 fuel price reductions
	R(16)-182	Apr 28	National Victims of Crime Awareness Week: April 26- May 2, 2009
	R(16)-183	Apr 27	Premier Roland to represent NWT in Tromso, Norway
,	R(16)-184	Apr 29	Canada's Territories support Canada at the Arctic Council: circumpolar relations, adaptation, sustainable communities
	R(16)-185	Apr 29	Drop the Pop school winners announced
	R(16)-186	Apr 21	NWT Principal honoured with national award
	R(16)-187	Apr 30	GNWT investing in sustainable, vibrant, safe communities
	R(16)-188	May 4	National Emergency Preparedness Week
	R(16)-189	May 4	ITI Minister promotes NWT gas to heart of US energy industry
	R(16)-190	May 4	Centennial Scholarship supports NWT students in Trades
	R(16)-191	May 5	Closure of seasonal crossings concludes successful season
	R(16)-192	May 8	GNWT plan on track- Roland
	R(16)-193	May 8	Children's activity book promotes safety

R(16)-194	May 12	May 11-15 - National Nursing Week
R(16)-195	May 12	Partnership to strengthen tourism promotion in the North
	May 12	Premier stresses urgency of MGP investment at Meet the North 2009
R(16)-196	May 14	Top 10 reasons to live in the Northwest Territories- Minister McLeod
R(16)-197	May 15	Sales strong for genuine Mackenzie Valley fur
R(16)-198	May 19	2009 Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients announced
R(16)-199	May 20	New life for old mantra "Northern control for Northern Resources"
R(16)-200	May 21	Premier Floyd Roland congratulates Governor General's Northern Medal recipients Bertha Allen and George Erasmus
R(16)-201	May 21	GNWT meets with regional Aboriginal Governments
R(16)-202	May 25	Tripartite support for homeless day shelter
R(16)-203	May 25	Update on the Aboriginal Student Achievement initiative
R(16)-204	May 27	Premier Roland delivers sessional statement
R(16)-205	May 25	New northern manufactured product recognized under GNWT business incentive policy
R(16)-206	Jun 1	A celebration of Northern hospitality
R(16)-207	Jun 2	Northwest Territories participants in 2009 Northern Youth Abroad Program
R(16)-208	Jun 3	Public Works and Services publishes <i>Good Building</i> <i>Practice</i> guidebook
R(16)-209	Jun 4	James Jerome exhibit on display at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
R(16)-210	Jun 4	Merlyn and Jean Carter enter the Canadian Tourism Hall of Fame
R(16)-211	Jun 4	Training opportunity for Northern women
R(16)-212	Jun 5	Premier Roland offers congratulations on the 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement
P(16) 212	lum E	Corrections Northern Recruitment Training Program
R(16)-213	Jun 5	graduation
R(16)-213	Jun 5	

	R(16)-215	Jun 5	GNWT releases 20/20: A Brilliant North public service strategic plan
	R(16)-216	Jun 10	TeleSpeech to expand across NWT
	R(16)-217	Jun 10	Annual Don't Be a Butthead winners announced
	R(16)-218	Jun 11	Electricity review team completes public discussion phase
	R(16)-219	Jun 12	New career planning for students
	R(16)-220	Jun 16	HPV vaccine now available in NWT
	R(16)-221	Jun 3	\$20 million invested in territorial business 2008/2009
	R(16)-222	Jun 17	MGP decisions needed now – Premier Roland
	R(16)-223	Jun 17	Public administrator appointed for Hay River Health and Social Services Authority
	R(16)-224	Jun 18	GNWT support for MGP still strong – Minister McLeod
	R(16)-225	Jun 19	New and improved programs for NWT business
	R(16)-226	Jun 19	Minister/ MLA to promote NWT natural gas to U.S. Markets
_	R(16)-227	Jun 19	National Aboriginal Day 2009
	R(16)-228	Jun 19	Premier Roland remembers Gordon Wray
	R(16)-229	Jun 29	Minister profiles importance of MGP in Washington
	R(16)-229 R(16)-230	Jun 29 Jun 30	Minister profiles importance of MGP in Washington Premier congratulates public service award recipients
	R(16)-230	Jun 30	Premier congratulates public service award recipients
	R(16)-230 R(16)-231	Jun 30 Jun 30	Premier congratulates public service award recipients NWT Home Care Worker Day
	R(16)-230 R(16)-231 R(16)-232	Jun 30 Jun 30 Jun 30	Premier congratulates public service award recipients NWT Home Care Worker Day NTPC Review Panel appointed
	R(16)-230 R(16)-231 R(16)-232 R(16)-233	Jun 30 Jun 30 Jun 30 Jul 6	Premier congratulates public service award recipients NWT Home Care Worker Day NTPC Review Panel appointed Community recreation leaders training program Six GNWT employees selected to sit on the Aboriginal
	R(16)-230 R(16)-231 R(16)-232 R(16)-233 R(16)-234	Jun 30 Jun 30 Jun 30 Jul 6 Jul 7	Premier congratulates public service award recipients NWT Home Care Worker Day NTPC Review Panel appointed Community recreation leaders training program Six GNWT employees selected to sit on the Aboriginal Employees' Advisory Committee NWT selects youth to participate in the Youth Ambassadors Program for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic

R(16)-238	Jul 9	NWT visual artists selected for 2010 Olympics
R(16)-239	Jul 10	Government of Canada funds crime prevention efforts in the Northwest Territories
R(16)-240	Jul 11	Governments break ground for Yellowknife fieldhouse
R(16)-241	Jul 11	Canada and Northwest Territories stimulate Northern economy
R(16)-242	Jul 13	Premier Roland and Minister McLeod at the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Conference
R(16)-243	Jul 15	Collective of NWT performers selected for the 2010 Olympics
R(16)-244	Jul 15	Preliminary survey results suggest continued decline in Bathurst caribou herd
R(16)-246	Jul 17	Northwest Territories joins Pacific Northwest Economic Region
R(16)-247	Jul 20	Electricity review team completes public discussion phase
R(16)-248	Jul 23	Provincial-Territorial meeting of ministers responsible
		for local government
R(16)-249	Jul 24	Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee meet for
R(16)-249	Jul 24	
R(16)-249 R(16)-251	Jul 24 Jul 29	Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee meet for
		Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee meet for the first time
R(16)-251	Jul 29	Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee meet for the first time Partners not stakeholders says Premier Roland
R(16)-251 R(16)-252	Jul 29 Jul 29	Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee meet for the first time Partners not stakeholders says Premier Roland Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services appointed Government of Canada signs first-ever immigration
R(16)-251 R(16)-252 R(16)-253	Jul 29 Jul 29 Aug 5	Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee meet for the first time Partners not stakeholders says Premier Roland Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services appointed Government of Canada signs first-ever immigration agreement with Northwest Territories Yellowknife resident wins 2009 Council of the Federation
R(16)-251 R(16)-252 R(16)-253 R(16)-254	Jul 29 Jul 29 Aug 5 Aug 6	Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee meet for the first time Partners not stakeholders says Premier Roland Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services appointed Government of Canada signs first-ever immigration agreement with Northwest Territories Yellowknife resident wins 2009 Council of the Federation Literacy Award Government of Canada and the Northwest Territories launch flexible and innovative growing forward programs
R(16)-251 R(16)-252 R(16)-253 R(16)-254 R(16)-255	Jul 29 Jul 29 Aug 5 Aug 6 Aug 6	Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee meet for the first time Partners not stakeholders says Premier Roland Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services appointed Government of Canada signs first-ever immigration agreement with Northwest Territories Yellowknife resident wins 2009 Council of the Federation Literacy Award Government of Canada and the Northwest Territories launch flexible and innovative growing forward programs for producers
R(16)-251 R(16)-252 R(16)-253 R(16)-254 R(16)-255 R(16)-256	Jul 29 Jul 29 Aug 5 Aug 6 Aug 6 Aug 10	Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee meet for the first time Partners not stakeholders says Premier Roland Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services appointed Government of Canada signs first-ever immigration agreement with Northwest Territories Yellowknife resident wins 2009 Council of the Federation Literacy Award Government of Canada and the Northwest Territories launch flexible and innovative growing forward programs for producers Get Active NWT wraps-up
R(16)-251 R(16)-252 R(16)-253 R(16)-255 R(16)-255 R(16)-256 R(16)-257	Jul 29 Jul 29 Aug 5 Aug 6 Aug 6 Aug 10 Aug 12	Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee meet for the first time Partners not stakeholders says Premier Roland Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services appointed Government of Canada signs first-ever immigration agreement with Northwest Territories Yellowknife resident wins 2009 Council of the Federation Literacy Award Government of Canada and the Northwest Territories launch flexible and innovative growing forward programs for producers Get Active NWT wraps-up International Youth Day 2009 – August 12, 2009
R(16)-251 R(16)-252 R(16)-253 R(16)-254 R(16)-255 R(16)-256 R(16)-257 R(16)-258	Jul 29 Jul 29 Aug 5 Aug 6 Aug 6 Aug 10 Aug 12 Aug 12	Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee meet for the first time Partners not stakeholders says Premier Roland Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services appointed Government of Canada signs first-ever immigration agreement with Northwest Territories Yellowknife resident wins 2009 Council of the Federation Literacy Award Government of Canada and the Northwest Territories launch flexible and innovative growing forward programs for producers Get Active NWT wraps-up International Youth Day 2009 – August 12, 2009 NWT youth centres receive funding

I	R(16)-261	Aug 24	Healthy active youth key priority for Canada
ł	R(16)-262	Aug 31	Deputy Minister of Human Resources appointed
I	R(16)-263	Sept 2	NWT trappers recognized by Fur Institute of Canada
ł	R(16)-263	Sept 10	Credit rating confirmed for GNWT
ł	R(16)-264	Sept 11	"Made in the NWT" campaign shows early success
ł	R(16)-265	Sept 10	GNWT working to prevent spread of H1N1 in schools
I	R(16)-266	Sept 16	Inuit Games athletes announced for 2010 Winter Games Showcase
F	R(16)-267	Sept 16	Canada's Education Ministers meet in Calgary
F	R(16)-268	Sept 16	Minister of Transportation and Mayors sign MOUs
F	R(16)-269	Sept 15	NWT leads in Aboriginal resource development – Premier
F	R(16)-270	Sept 21	Youth and seniors learning together (Sept 20-26 <sup>th</sup> )
F	R(16)-271	Sept 22	New Chief Judge of the Territorial Court
F	R(16)-272	Sept 23	K'alemi Dene School opens its doors in Ndilo
F	R(16)-273	Sept 24	Survey confirms continued decline in Bathurst caribou
F	R(16)-274	Sept 28	NWT to host conference on the Canadian Francophonie
F	R(16)-275	Sept 28	NWT youth/seniors mark Literacy Week (Sept 27 – Oct 3)
F	R(16)-276	Sept 29	Northern Victims of Crime Conference
F	R(16)-277	Sept 28	2009 Volunteer Summit Report released
F	R(16)-278	Oct 1	Premier Roland marks the passing of Tom Eagle
F	R(16)-279	Sept 23	Territorial Admissions Committee for Long-Term Care
F	R(16)-280	Oct 1	Safe travel choices needed to reduce injuries and deaths from traffic collisions
F	R(16)-281	Oct 1	Gameti celebrates school addition and grade extension
F	R(16)-281	Oct 5	NWT Fire Service Merit Award recipients announced
F	R(16)-285	Oct 6	Teacher at K'alemi Dene School marks World Teachers' Day with Prime Minister's Award for Excellence
F	R(16)-286	Oct 6	Finance Minister considers tax mix options for NWT
F	R(16)-287	Oct 9	GNWT Public Works and Services to host Project Management Conference

	R(16)-288	Oct 9	Diavik selected as one of Canada's top 100 employers
	R(16)-289	Oct 15	World Wildlife Fund report supports NWT work on water stewardship strategy
	R(16)-290	Oct 15	Minister McLeod to push for NWT interests at Committee of Internal Trade
	R(16)-291	Oct 15	Initiatives and investments advancing vision of 16 <sup>th</sup> Assembly, Premier says
	R(16)-292	Oct 19	GNWT fiscal plan continues support for northerners
	R(16)-293	Oct 22	GNWT prepared for H1N1; immunizations to begin Monday
	R(16)-294	Oct 23	GNWT announces aboriginal student achievement projects.
	R(16)-295	Oct 23	Upcoming ferry system closures
	R(16)-296	Oct 26	GNWT celebrates National School Library Day
	R(16)-297	Nov 3	GNWT releases "Foundation for Change" health strategy
	R(16)-298	Nov 3	NWT science agenda supports scientific and traditional knowledge
ł	R(16)-299	Nov 4	Minister & MLA to represent territory at Economic Leadership Forum
,	R(16)-299 R(16)-300	Nov 4 Nov 4	
			Leadership Forum Take our kid to work day celebrates career week,
	R(16)-300	Nov 4	Leadership Forum Take our kid to work day celebrates career week, Nov 2-6
	R(16)-300 R(16)-301	Nov 4 Nov 4	Leadership Forum Take our kid to work day celebrates career week, Nov 2-6 Draft NWT water stewardship strategy released NWT Minister of Justice pushes for northern issues
	R(16)-300 R(16)-301 R(16)-302	Nov 4 Nov 4 Nov 5	Leadership Forum Take our kid to work day celebrates career week, Nov 2-6 Draft NWT water stewardship strategy released NWT Minister of Justice pushes for northern issues at national conference Beverage container program celebrates 100 million
-	R(16)-300 R(16)-301 R(16)-302 R(16)-303	Nov 4 Nov 4 Nov 5 Nov 5	Leadership Forum Take our kid to work day celebrates career week, Nov 2-6 Draft NWT water stewardship strategy released NWT Minister of Justice pushes for northern issues at national conference Beverage container program celebrates 100 million containers returned
-	R(16)-300 R(16)-301 R(16)-302 R(16)-303 R(16)-304	Nov 4 Nov 4 Nov 5 Nov 5 Nov 5	Leadership Forum Take our kid to work day celebrates career week, Nov 2-6 Draft NWT water stewardship strategy released NWT Minister of Justice pushes for northern issues at national conference Beverage container program celebrates 100 million containers returned GNWT launches new accountability resource
-	R(16)-300 R(16)-301 R(16)-302 R(16)-303 R(16)-304 R(16)-305	Nov 4 Nov 4 Nov 5 Nov 5 Nov 5 Nov 6	Leadership Forum Take our kid to work day celebrates career week, Nov 2-6 Draft NWT water stewardship strategy released NWT Minister of Justice pushes for northern issues at national conference Beverage container program celebrates 100 million containers returned GNWT launches new accountability resource Olympic torch completes tour of the NWT Joint proposal on caribou actions submitted to
	R(16)-300 R(16)-301 R(16)-302 R(16)-303 R(16)-304 R(16)-305 R(16)-306	Nov 4 Nov 4 Nov 5 Nov 5 Nov 5 Nov 6 Nov 6	Leadership Forum Take our kid to work day celebrates career week, Nov 2-6 Draft NWT water stewardship strategy released NWT Minister of Justice pushes for northern issues at national conference Beverage container program celebrates 100 million containers returned GNWT launches new accountability resource Olympic torch completes tour of the NWT Joint proposal on caribou actions submitted to Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board.
	R(16)-300 R(16)-301 R(16)-302 R(16)-303 R(16)-304 R(16)-305 R(16)-306 R(16)-307	Nov 4 Nov 4 Nov 5 Nov 5 Nov 5 Nov 6 Nov 6	Leadership Forum Take our kid to work day celebrates career week, Nov 2-6 Draft NWT water stewardship strategy released NWT Minister of Justice pushes for northern issues at national conference Beverage container program celebrates 100 million containers returned GNWT launches new accountability resource Olympic torch completes tour of the NWT Joint proposal on caribou actions submitted to Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. GNWT tables electricity review Dene games athletes announced for 2010 winter

R(16)-310	Nov 10	Qilalukkat: <i>Beluga Whales</i> first of diorama exhibit series on display at Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
R(16)-311	Nov 10	Notice of date change for the Supplementary Health Benefits Program and Catastrophic Drug Cost Program.
R(16)-312	Nov 10	Premier marks Remembrance Day
R(16)-313	Nov 16	Premier stresses importance of northerners working together
R(16)-314	Nov 17	Deh Cho Boulevard extension open to traffic
R(16)-315	Nov 17	National Addictions Awareness Week is November 15 to 21, 2009
R(16)-316	Nov 18	National Day of Remembrance for road crash victims
R(16)-317	Nov 19	Celebrating our youngest citizens on National Child Day
R(16)-318	Nov 20	GNWT addresses barriers and solutions to economic development
R(16)-319	Nov 23	Teaching literacy through the arts
R(16)-320	Nov 24	Fort Smith opens first youth health centre
R(16)-321	Nov 25	Seventh GNWT – regional Aboriginal leaders meeting
R(16)-322	Nov 25	New exhibition shares the Inuit residential schools experience
		experience
R(16)-323	Nov 26	NWT leaders to pursue shared political vision
R(16)-324	Nov 27	7 <sup>th</sup> biannual LINX Conference begins next week
R(16)-324 R(16)-325	Nov 27 Nov 30	7 <sup>th</sup> biannual LINX Conference begins next week GNWT recognizes National Safe Driving Week
R(16)-325	Nov 30	GNWT recognizes National Safe Driving Week International Water Policy Forum supports draft
R(16)-325 R(16)-326	Nov 30 Nov 30	GNWT recognizes National Safe Driving Week International Water Policy Forum supports draft NWT water stewardship strategy NWT to provide northern voice to Canada's
R(16)-325 R(16)-326 R(16)-327	Nov 30 Nov 30 Dec 1	GNWT recognizes National Safe Driving Week International Water Policy Forum supports draft NWT water stewardship strategy NWT to provide northern voice to Canada's COP15 delegation
R(16)-325 R(16)-326 R(16)-327 R(16)-328	Nov 30 Nov 30 Dec 1 Dec 3	GNWT recognizes National Safe Driving Week International Water Policy Forum supports draft NWT water stewardship strategy NWT to provide northern voice to Canada's COP15 delegation MOU initiatives promote northern mining workforce
R(16)-325 R(16)-326 R(16)-327 R(16)-328 R(16)-329	Nov 30 Nov 30 Dec 1 Dec 3 Dec 3	<ul> <li>GNWT recognizes National Safe Driving Week</li> <li>International Water Policy Forum supports draft</li> <li>NWT water stewardship strategy</li> <li>NWT to provide northern voice to Canada's</li> <li>COP15 delegation</li> <li>MOU initiatives promote northern mining workforce</li> <li>NWT nominee program advancing permanent residency</li> <li>Housing Minister to meet with federal/provincial/territorial</li> </ul>

R(16)-333	Dec 9	Premier praises economic corporation in the NWT
R(16)-33 <u>4</u>	Dec 9	GNWT announces development of recreational leasing framework
R(16)-335	Dec 10	Housing Minister promotes new approach to northern housing at federal-provincial-territorial Housing Ministers meeting
R(16)-336	Dec 10	Report on 2009 revenue options consultation released
R(16)-337	Dec 11	GNWT delegation to depart for Copenhagen
R(16)-338	Dec 11	GNWT announces new marketing program for barren ground caribou outfitters
R(16)-339	Dec 14	New book reveals secrets of the north's human and environmental history
R(16)-340	Dec 17	The GNWT looks for clarification to further the development of a French languages services implementation plan
R(16)-341	Dec 17	GNWT announces "Right to Dream" program
R(16)-342	Dec 18	Minister to represent NWT interests at Federal/ Provincial/Territorial finance meeting
R(16)-343	Dec 17	Interim emergency measures put in place to help conserve Bathurst caribou herd
1		



R(16)050109127

## 2009 Get Active NWT Campaign Launched

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 7, 2009)** – The launch of the 2009 Get Active Northwest Territories (NWT) Campaign, was announced today by the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

"In addition to promoting healthy lifestyles, Get Active NWT builds strong communities by bringing residents together to participate in fun activities," said Minister McLeod. "This activity provides an excellent opportunity to lead by example and to teach our children to make healthy choices."

Created in 2006, Get Active NWT is designed to encourage communities to organize local events that support youth and their families to be more physically active. This year, Get Active NWT runs from January 5 to May 31, 2009. All kinds of physical activity are included in the challenge, including walking, snowshoeing, swimming or playing outside with your children.

In order to tailor the campaign to community needs and preferences, local champions have been recruited to act as community organizers for Get Active events. Volunteers are responsible for encouraging community participation in events designed to help residents Get Active this year.

To find out who your local champion is or for more information on the campaign, check out the Get Active website at www.getactivenwt.ca.

For more information contact:

Rebecca Alty Communications/Website Advisor Corporate Affairs Municipal and Community Affairs Tel: (867) 920-3092



R(16)050109128

Northwest W Territories

## Premier Roland outlines the NWT's Priorities for the Federal Budget

**YELLOWKNIFE (07 January, 2009) -** Ahead of this month's First Ministers Meeting on the economy and the 2009 federal budget, Premier Roland has outlined the Northwest Territories' (NWT) immediate priorities for federal investment. It includes investment in transportation infrastructure to foster development in the North, investment in social housing and continued investment in key economic sectors of the territory through an extension of the SINED program pending the establishment of a permanent economic development agency in the North.

"While the NWT economy remains vibrant, we are feeling the effects of the current economic turmoil. Canada has an incredible opportunity to foster short term economic stimulus and enduring economic growth by investing in the North," said Premier Roland. "This will not only help our local economy, but the Canadian economy as a whole, by creating jobs for thousands of Canadians from coast to coast to coast."

Accelerated spending under the Building Canada Plan, plus immediate key investments in projects like the Bear River Bridge or re-alignment of the Tlicho Winter Road will provide lasting economic benefits to the NWT and Canada.

"Investing in important infrastructure will help reduce the cost of living in the NWT, mitigate the effects of climate change and will contribute to the overall sustainability of our remote communities," said Premier Roland. "These investments will put us well on the way to achieving the priorities of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly for the benefit of all Northerners."

Premier Roland will take this message to the Prime Minister and other Premiers at the First Ministers' Meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>. The Premier met with federal Minister John Baird yesterday where he outlined NWT's budget priorities and made the case for federal investment in the NWT.

For more information contact:

Julia Mott Communications Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2304 (867) 445-5669 cell Julia mott@gov.nt.ca





#### R(16)070109129

## Federal / Territorial Meeting on Infrastructure will Benefit Northerners

**YELLOWKNIFE (07 January, 2009)** – Federal / Territorial meetings on infrastructure, held on January 6, have set the stage for accelerated action to deal with important infrastructure priorities in the Northwest Territories (NWT), to the benefit of NWT residents and all Canadians. To support the priorities of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly, Premier Floyd Roland and the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister Responsible for Infrastructure, continued their lobbying of the federal government for investment in key northern infrastructure projects.

The meetings were held in Ottawa at the invitation of the Honourable John Baird, federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, to discuss how governments can work together to benefit Canadians during the current economic downturn. The NWT delegation also included the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, and His Worship Gordon Van Tighem, President of the NWT Association of Communities.

A broad discussion was held on how near-term infrastructure projects in the NWT in the areas of transportation, social housing, and community infrastructure could be accelerated as part of the Government of Canada's economic stimulus package for the Canadian economy. Challenges to the delivery of these projects, such as the 'ed to cut red tape and accelerate approvals, were also addressed.

Minister Michael McLeod was satisfied with the progress that was made in the meetings. "We had productive discussions with Minister Baird, and we were pleased to be joined in our discussions by Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl and Minister Leona Aglukkaq as the Minister responsible for the North", he said. "The federal Ministers demonstrated their recognition of the value of infrastructure spending in the NWT to create sustainable benefits for the NWT and Canada."

Minister Michael McLeod provided Minister Baird with proposals for a number of infrastructure projects which can be initiated and substantially completed in the next two to three years. These projects, if approved for federal funding, would serve to reduce the cost of living for NWT residents, promote the long-term sustainability of NWT communities, and contribute to future economic growth.

For more information please contact:

Julia Mott Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2304 (867) 445-5669 cell Julia\_mott@gov.nt.ca Earl Blacklock Manager of Public Affairs and Communications Department of Transportation Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 873-7712 earl\_blacklock@gov.nt.ca

Communications • Office of the Premier and Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2304 • Fax: (867) 873-0111 N.W.T. LEGISLATIVE VERARY JAN 1 2 2009 Yellowknife, N.M.



R(16)090109129

#### **2009 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards Nominations**

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 9, 2009)** – The opening of the nomination process for the 2009 Northwest Territories (NWT) Outstanding Volunteer Awards was announced today by the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA).

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

Awards are presented in the following categories:

- Youth Volunteer Award
- Elder Volunteer Award
- Outstanding Group
- Outstanding Volunteer

The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 2, 2009.

This awards program is important in recognizing the significant contribution the volunteers of the NWT make to their communities and to the NWT as a whole. Since 1991, these awards have been presented to individuals and groups nominated by the public for their volunteer work. Not only do these awards draw attention to the award recipients, they draw attention to the effort made by all NWT volunteers.

Further information and nomination forms are available at all MACA and community offices. The nomination form is also available on the MACA web site at <u>www.maca.gov.nt.ca</u>.

For more information, contact:

Rebecca Alty Communications/Website Advisor Corporate Affairs Municipal and Community Affairs Tel: (867) 920-3092

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

10DAG



R(16)120109131

### **GNWT Ministers Promote Federal Investment in the NWT**

**EDMONTON (January 12, 2009)** – A federal Budget that invests in the Northwest Territories (NWT) economy will benefit Canada as a whole, that is the message that Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod and Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Michael J Miltenberger will deliver to the Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) today.

Their meeting is the latest in a series of steps, by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Cabinet in advance of the 2009 Budget, to increase federal awareness to NWT priorities and to attract federal investment to the NWT.

Building on the success of recent federal-territorial meetings on the need for federal infrastructure investment, Minister McLeod says he intends to highlight the NWT's economic priorities by emphasizing with the federal Minister that resource development in the NWT will contribute to the economic recovery of other Canadian jurisdictions.

"We are a jurisdiction whose economic potential and success promises to have direct and significant impacts on other provinces," said Minister McLeod. "The Mackenzie Gas Project, for example, promises to be one of the single most important economic development initiatives in Canada in the foreseeable future."

In their shared responsibility for energy in the NWT, Ministers McLeod and Miltenberger will also address the extreme costs of living and investing in Canada's Northwest Territories.

"The cost of energy is one of the largest challenges facing industry and residents in the Northwest Territories," said Minister Miltenberger. "Federal investment in our energy future will provide a significant economic stimulus and enable us to mitigate the impact of our energy use on the environment."

Both Ministers will stress the importance of ensuring NRCan programs are designed in a manner that allows northern jurisdictions to access them. In the past, the NWT has not been able to access programs dealing with climate change adaptation because of the requirement for significant matching funding and other resources from participating jurisdictions.

The GNWT believes that one of the strongest and most effective counters to Canada's current economic crisis in the short term will be the acceleration of federal tax incentives and expansion of funding programs already in place that can spur the NWT economy.

In particular, the Strategic Investment for Northern Economic Development (SINED) Program has been a critical component of economic investment and support in the area of geoscience and small business development.

For more information, contact:

Julia Mott Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 Cell: (867) 445-5669 Julia\_mott@gov.nt.ca



R(16)130109132

## Premier Roland responds to U.S. arctic policy, says Canadian action needed now

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 13, 2009) -** Premier Roland has forcefully responded to a new United States Presidential Directive regarding the Arctic, saying that the Canadian federal government must take immediate action to develop Canada's North and assert Canadian sovereignty over arctic lands and resources.

"This new Presidential Directive is the latest signal that other nations have set their eyes on the North, and recognize its potential and its importance," said Premier Roland. "Canada can no longer afford to maintain a passive approach to our Northern interests. Empty rhetoric will not secure our sovereignty."

Premier Roland called on the federal government to undertake robust, meaningful investment in Canada's Northern development, starting with the upcoming federal budget.

"Prime Minister Harper has often said we either 'use it or lose it' when it comes to the North," emphasized Premier Roland. "Now is the perfect time to invest in building Canada's North. It will create thousands of jobs for Canadians, foster decades of economic growth for our country, and make it clear to the world that Canada takes it arctic interests seriously."

Northerners have long been important stewards of Canada's North. The NWT is home to abundant natural resources, including oil, natural gas, precious minerals and hydroelectric potential. The 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly is committed to developing NWT resources in ways that will strengthen Northern communities while bolstering Canada's sovereignty over arctic lands and resources.

Premier Roland said that the U.S. Presidential Directive serves as a warning that Canada must act quickly to secure its arctic interests before other countries do so.

"It is time for the federal government to back up its rhetoric with real dollars and tangible actions – build the roads to resources that we need, and push forward on major resources projects in the North," said Premier Roland. "If we fail to act today, Canada's strength will be compromised, and we will lose out on the most important opportunity in generations."

For more information contact:

Julia Mott Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2304 (867) 445-5669 cell Julia mott@gov.nt.ca

LEGISLATI JAN 1 3 2009 Yellowknife, N.W.



R(16)130109133

## Premier Roland to tell PM: North holds key to Canada's economic future

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 13, 2009)** - At this week's First Ministers' Meeting on the Canadian economy, Premier Floyd Roland will press for major federal investment in Northern projects, arguing that the North holds the key to Canada's economic future.

"The North offers enormous potential in renewable and non-renewable energy development, which will create thousands of jobs and bolster Canada's reputation as a global energy superpower," said Premier Roland.

"The federal government must invest in strategic Northwest Territories (NWT) infrastructure – now – so that these projects can move forward and generate decades of economic growth for all Canadians."

An important priority of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly is the development of NWT's resources in environmentally responsible ways, for the benefit of Northerners. Major resource opportunities in the NWT include oil, natural gas and precious minerals. NWT lakes and rivers also offer the potential to generate 11,500 Megawatts of renewable hydroelectric power, which can help Canada achieve its climate change objectives.

Estimates indicate that development of NWT resources will create decades of jobs and growth for Canadians. The Mackenzie Gas Project, for example, will add over \$86 billion to the national economy and generate over 208,000 person-years of employment in the NWT and other provinces and territories.

At the First Ministers' Meeting later this week, Premier Roland will emphasize the need for immediate federal investment in strategic NWT infrastructure. Investments that advance the Mackenzie Valley Highway and hydroelectric projects are needed to access NWT resource opportunities and foster their development.

"Prime Minister Harper has said that developing Northern resources will fuel the prosperity of Canada for generations," said Premier Roland. "It's time to back those words up with hard dollars and invest in Canada's future. If the federal government is prepared to spend billions of dollars on short-term bailouts, then it should also be prepared to invest in the long-term growth opportunities of the North."

For more information contact:

Julia Mott Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2304 (867) 445-5669 cell Julia mott@gov.nt.ca





R(16)130109134

### Independent Review Supports Science Used to Make Caribou Management Decisions

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 22, 2009)** – An independent report on barren-ground caribou studies in the Northwest Territories supports the scientific methodologies used by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

The report, produced by the Alberta Research Council (ARC) and released today by Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Minister Michael Miltenberger, identifies that:

- Defining caribou herds by calving ground affiliation is consistent with current practice.
- ENR's caribou survey methods have been consistent with common practice.
- Existing data supports a decline in the Bathurst and Bluenose/Cape Bathurst herds.
- Managing these herds on the basis of decline is a sound precautionary conservation measure.

"This independent report verifies that our approach on collecting and interpreting data is sound," said Minister Miltenberger. "It also confirms what we heard at the NWT Caribou Summit and from traditional users - that most barren-ground caribou herds in the NWT are in decline."

ARC is an independent research agency that provides practical, science-based information and advice to national and international policy makers and resource users on all aspects of resource management and sustainable development. An ARC unit comprised of three research scientists carries out independent technical reviews at the request of other agencies or groups.

The ARC Report also contained the following nine recommendations to improve caribou research and management programs:

- Substantially increase collaring efforts for all caribou herds.
- Create a standardized, regularly scheduled monitoring program to improve long-term planning and reporting on caribou research.
- Increase focus on obtaining demographic data on caribou herds.
- Incorporate population modeling into caribou management programs.
- Provide internal or external peer reviews for all survey reports.
- Publicly report survey and research results immediately and transparently.
- Develop a Territory-wide, consistent and strategic approach to ENR's caribou research program with centralized coordination.
- Formulate caribou management decisions within an adaptive management framework.
- Form partnerships to increase resources dedicated to caribou research.

"The GNWT accepts, and will act upon, the findings and recommendations of this report. The results of this report move us beyond debating how we collect data and allow us to continue actions to sustain this resource," added Minister Miltenberger. "I have asked the Department to move quickly on the development of a management response plan to this important report."

Copies of the ARC Report are available on the ENR website at: <u>http://enr.gov.nt.ca</u>.

For more information, contact:

Ella Stinson Communications Planning Specialist Environment and Natural Resources Tel: (867) 920-3310 Email: <u>ella\_stinson@gov.nt.ca</u> Website: <u>www.enr.gov.nt.ca</u>

Attachment Caribou Herd Status and Management in the Northwest Territories Fact Sheet



R(16)130109135

#### **Premier Roland Meets with Aboriginal Leaders**

**FORT SIMPSON (January 21, 2009)** – Premier Roland and Deputy Premier Miltenberger met with leaders of the regional Aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories for the fifth time.

These leadership meetings are an opportunity to share information and coordinate work on issues of mutual concern. They are held on a regular basis in locations throughout the Northwest Territories and provide an opportunity for discussion on matters of importance to all regions. Previous meetings have been hosted in the Sahtu and Beaufort Delta regions.

Premier Roland said, "Regular meetings with leaders are the best way of ensuring the continued communication and cooperation amongst Northern governments on matters of importance to all residents of the Northwest Territories."

Leaders discussed in detail the economic situation in Canada and the Northwest Territories and, in particular, the economic stimulus measures that Premier Roland took to the recent First Ministers' Meeting in Ottawa. At the First Ministers' Meeting, Premier Roland advanced the importance of the federal government partnering with the Government of the Northwest Territories to make investments in transportation and housing infrastructure projects throughout the Northwest Territories.

Leaders discussed the importance of making strategic investments in Territorial infrastructure as being the key to the future prosperity of the Northwest Territories.

Premier Roland said, "Infrastructure initiatives such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway, the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline, and developing hydroelectric potential will facilitate economic development and reduce the cost of living for Northerners."

Leaders also discussed the issues of governance and consultation.

Grand Chief Gerald Antoine, the host of the meeting, said he was pleased to see all the Leaders gathered in his region that he looks forward to continuing to discuss Territorial issues and to further building effective and respectful relationships with each other.

The next meeting will take place in the spring.

For more information, contact:

Dane Mason Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2302 Email: <u>dane\_mason@gov.nt.ca</u>



R(16)270109136

## Premier Roland Offers Condolences on the Passing of Helen Maksagak

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 28, 2009)** – On behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories (NWT), Premier Floyd K. Roland extended his sincere condolences to the family and friends of former NWT Commissioner Helen M. Maksagak.

"I am saddened to hear about the passing of Helen Maksagak," said Premier Roland. "She was a remarkable and kind woman who touched many of us and her loss will be felt by many across the Northwest Territories and our neighbour, Nunavut."

Helen Maksagak, a resident of Cambridge Bay since 1961, was born at Bernard Harbour (located between Kugluktuk and Ulukhaktok), educated in Aklavik, and was sworn in as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories on January 16, 1995. When Nunavut was created on April 1, 1999 during her term in office, Mrs. Maksagak was chosen as their first Commissioner. In 2002, Helen Maksagak was appointed as a member of the Order of Canada in honour of her outstanding public service.

The funeral service will be held in Cambridge Bay on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. The flag of the Northwest Territories at the Legislative Assembly will be flown at half-mast from sunrise to sunset on that day.

For more information, contact:

Dane Mason Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2302 Email: dane mason@gov.nt.ca

> N.W.T. LEGISLATIVE UPPARY 14" 2.8 2009 Yellowknife, N.W.T.



#### R(16)290109137

## Minister Releases Consultation Material for Board Reform Initiative

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 29, 2009)** – An information package describing the proposed approach to regional service boards has been released by the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, lead Minister for the Refocusing Government Strategic Initiative Committee. This information will be the basis of consultation and the development of detailed implementation plans.

"The information package provides a good overview of how we expect the regional services boards could work," said Minister Miltenberger. "I am interested in hearing the views of Northerners on the overall approach and suggestions on how we can refine our planned approach as we develop more detailed implementation plans."

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) board reform initiative proposes the creation of regional service boards that will manage service delivery of health, social services, education, and housing programs. The objectives of board reform are improving service delivery through better cooperation and integration, increasing the ability of regions to set their own priorities around service delivery, and removing administrative duplication.

The information package provides details on:

- 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

This package is being provided to stakeholders throughout the Northwest Territories (NWT) and is available online at <u>http://www.executive.gov.nt.ca/boardreform</u>. Meetings are being scheduled with existing boards, regional staff and other stakeholders in all regions. The public is invited to download the consultation package and provide feedback by mail or e-mail.

"Board reform is a major change to the way the GNWT manages and administers service delivery and we understand that changes often cause some concerns," said Minister Miltenberger. "However, we encourage people to take a close look at the information on regional services boards. We believe this approach is the best option to help meet our objectives for board reform, but are open to suggestions to how we can make further improvements. However, we need to be clear that the proposed changes will not result in any reductions in service levels."

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. Further information is also being sought during the consultation on how potential changes will be implemented in each region.

Minister Miltenberger continues 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. The results of the consultations will be released by April 2009 with more details on implementation plans for the creation of regional services boards.

For more information contact:

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



R(16)290109138

## **GNWT Seeks Input on Proposed Changes to Procurement Policy**

**YELLOWKNIFE** (January 29, 2009) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is seeking the input of Aboriginal and business stakeholders on proposed changes to its Business Incentive Policy (BIP).

The changes would improve competition on major infrastructure projects in the Northwest Territories (NWT) while ensuring opportunities and benefits continue to be maximized for NWT residents, communities and regions.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), the Honourable Bob McLeod says the GNWT must be vigilant in ensuring that its programs and services reflect changing times and the evolving roles of government and procurement practices.

"The GNWT is committed to sustainable economic development in the NWT," Minister McLeod said. "But we must also be mindful of the need to minimize costs on major infrastructure, in response to tightening budgets. The input and feedback we receive will ensure that this longstanding policy commitment continues to support the development of a healthy private sector."

Proposed changes have been developed to address three key issues related to the current policy:

- a lack of competition on major projects (over \$5 million) in the NWT;
- concern from NWT community governments that the BIP is undermining their authority over government funding they receive for operations; and
- an identified need to strengthen support to NWT resident-owned small businesses.

Additional changes will also be considered to bring the policy in line with more recent GNWT policy formats.

"The NWT's economy has matured greatly in the last 10 years," Minister McLeod said. "Small businesses have developed in number and capacity, and the role of government procurement in the economy has changed."

Proposed revisions to the BIP support ongoing GNWT efforts to refocus areas of service delivery and infrastructure management to ensure affordable and effective government operations.

Individuals interested in providing input into the GNWT's consultation can do so by contacting their regional ITI Superintendent or the BIP Monitoring Office in Yellowknife.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams Manager, Public Affairs and Communications Industry, Tourism and Investment (867) 920-8696 (867) 445-3739 cell drew williams@gov.nt.ca

Yellowknife, N.W.T



R(16)290109139

## **Appointment of Chief Medical Health Officer**

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 29, 2009)** – A new Chief Medical Health Officer was appointed by Health and Social Services Minister Sandy Lee today for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Dr. Cindy Orlaw will replace Dr. André Corriveau, and assume responsibility as Chief Medical Health Officer for the Northwest Territories. To assist with the transition, Dr. Corriveau will continue in an advisory role one day per week until July 2009.

"I would like to thank Dr. Corriveau for his outstanding work as Chief Medical Health Officer during the past 11 years and his contribution to the NWT health and social service system. I truly believe Dr. Corriveau made the people of the NWT healthier as a whole. I would also like to welcome Dr. Orlaw, who brings a wealth of northern experience and is familiar with health and social service system in the Northwest Territories," said Minister Lee.

"It has been a privilege for me to serve the people of the Northwest Territories as their Chief Medical Health Officer over the past decade. I will forever be indebted to all those who have supported me in this work and particularly the staff in my office who have great passion and dedication for improving the health and wellbeing of our population," said Dr. Corriveau.

"I am looking forward to becoming the Chief Medical Health Officer for the GNWT. Although I have large shoes to fill, I am excited about facing the challenges. As a Northerner and an Aboriginal doctor, I bring unique points of view to this role," said Dr. Orlaw.

For more information, contact:

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





R(16)290109140

#### **GNWT Working Group to Review ATCO Proposal**

**YELLOWKNIFE (January 29, 2009)** – The Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC), the Honourable Floyd K. Roland, announced today the formation of a working group to review an unsolicited proposal received from the ATCO Group of Companies. The proposal relates to a partnership arrangement for the development and delivery of power in the Northwest Territories.

Many Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Northwest Territories Association of Communities have called for reviews of NTPC. Minister Roland said that the time is right to review the ownership structure of NTPC, with a view to stabilize power rates, establish relationships with the private sector that broaden the scope of energy development in the NWT, and create financial opportunities for this government.

"In contemplating next steps for the proposal, it is clear that MLAs and many residents in the Northwest Territories believe the NWT Power Corporation can achieve efficiencies that will reduce the cost of power," said Minister Roland. "I have asked the working group to review ATCO's proposal and report back to me by the end of April, so we can make informed decisions about the future of power development and delivery in the NWT."

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) working group will determine the operational, financial, and legal considerations entailed by the proposal. The working group will include Mr. Roger Simpson, formerly of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, Mr. Dave Ramsden, Secretary to Cabinet (Chair of the review team), Mr. Peter Vician, Deputy Minister of Industry, Tourism, and Investment, and Ms. Margaret Melhorn, Secretary to the Financial Management Board. The review committee will engage with ATCO as required to determine the details of the proposal.

Premier Roland said, "Our review of ATCO's proposal will be conducted in the context of the GNWT's overall energy priorities and ongoing energy policy work including our current electricity review. I look forward to continuing discussions on this issue with MLAs and residents."

For more information contact:

Julia Mott Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2304 (867) 445-5669 cell Julia mott@gov.nt.ca

N.W.T. LEGISLATIVE LIBRAR JAN 2 9 2009 Yellowknife, N.V



R(16)300109141

## Tri-Territorial Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Housing in Iqaluit, Nunavut

**IQALUIT (January 30, 2009)** – More federal money toward social housing in the North is an important investment in the territories amid uncertain economic times.

Territorial Ministers responsible for Housing met today in Iqaluit to discuss the challenges they face to improve housing conditions in the North. They agreed that the \$200 million for Northern Housing announced in the federal budget on January 27th shows a continuing commitment to address concerns of Northerners. The territorial ministers also look forward to strengthening their partnership with the federal government.

"Housing issues in the North are unique and complex," said the Honourable Hunter Tootoo, Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. "We have to build on this momentum now to move forward together to address housing issues."

The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, said, "the funding arrangement that the territories will receive under this budget supports the distinctive needs of the North."

"This investment in housing infrastructure for northern residents demonstrates that the federal government acknowledges the difficulty that the three territories have in meeting these challenges without a partnership," said the Honourable Jim Kenyon, Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation.

A stimulus to housing infrastructure in the territories will improve the economies of the communities across the North and promote their sustainability as well as Canada's sovereignty in the North. This investment will also benefit the economies of the provinces from which the territories purchase goods and services.

The Ministers believe that there is much work still to be done to address housing issues in the North and look forward to the federal government's continued commitment. Ministers called on the Government of Canada to work with them on an appropriate plan for long-term, stable and adequate federal housing funding that will ensure effective housing solutions can continue to be developed and implemented for Northerners.

For more information contact:

Stephen Pretty Manager, Strategic Planning, Policy & Communications Housing Corporation Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 920-6533 (867) 445-4564 cell stephen pretty@gov.nt.ca



#### R(16)020209142

#### SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM REVIEW

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 2, 2009)** – Implementation of the new Supplementary Health Benefits Program and the Catastrophic Drug Costs Program will be delayed until September 1, 2009, the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Sandy Lee, announced today.

The Supplementary Health Benefits Policy and the Catastrophic Drug Costs Program are based on the principle that financial need should not prevent Northwest Territories (NWT) residents from accessing supplementary health care. Supplementary health care includes those items not typically covered under territorial or provincial health care plans, including prescription medicine, medical equipment and supplies, dental care and vision care.

The new policies are meant to ensure that those NWT residents who cannot afford their supplementary health care costs can receive some financial assistance. The policies replace the existing Extended Health Benefits Policy, which provides coverage based on age or specified medical condition, but leaves many Northerners who cannot afford their medical costs without assistance. The new policies are not intended to remove benefits from those NWT residents who need assistance with their supplementary health care costs. During preparation to implement the new policies however, it became clear that some elements of the proposed program might create undue hardship for some Northerners. To ensure the program is consistent with the intent of the policy, the program design will be reviewed before the program is implemented.

"I would like to be clear that the intent of the policy will be respected. Providing benefits to those most vulnerable and who have no coverage is something that the GNWT believes must occur. A Catastrophic Drug Costs Program is necessary to ensure that no Northerner has to bear the catastrophic expenses of prescription drugs. While the Government of the Northwest Territories believes that those who can afford to contribute to their supplementary health costs should, it is recognized that the current program design must be adjusted so that the program fulfills its original intent of being fair and equitable," said Minister Lee. "I would like to thank all those who have provided feedback on the programs. Their feedback is appreciated and will be considered as the program issues are addressed."

In the coming months the Department of Health and Social Services will engage stakeholders to seek their input and discuss the rationale for change.

For more information, contact:

Julia Mott Cabinet Communication Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2304





R(16)030209143

#### GNWT and NWTMA Announce New Four-Year Contract for NWT Physicians

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 3, 2009)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories Medical Association (NWTMA) have reached an agreement on a new four-year contract for physicians in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The contract, which is retroactive to April 1, 2008, includes pay increases for family practitioners and specialists, and an increase to the NWT Fee Schedule. Physicians will receive pay increases over four years ranging from 3.5% to 6% in the first year, 3.5% in the second year, and 3% in the third and fourth years.

Other highlights of the agreement include:

- Introduction of annual retention bonuses based on a community index, which will compensate for different types of practice in different communities;
- Proration of all benefits to streamline administration and ensure equity;
- Increases to call back rates, on-call coverage and professional fees;
- Increases to northern allowance

The Honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services, said, "The new agreement will support recruitment and retention of physicians in the Northwest Territories, which is a priority for our government, especially in rural NWT and Regional Centres."

"The Northwest Territories Medical Association is committed to working with the Government of the Northwest Territories to ensure the highest quality care for all patients," said Dr. Cindy Orlaw, President of the NWTMA.

For further information, contact:

Umesh Sutendra Communications Health and Social Services Tel: (867) 920-3368



R(16)050209144

## 2009-10 NWT BUDGET LAYS OUT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 5, 2009)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) 2009-10 Budget was presented in the Legislative Assembly today by Finance Minister J. Michael Miltenberger.

Noting that the NWT has not escaped the effects of the global economic downturn, Minister Miltenberger called on Northwest Territories (NWT) residents "to work together during these difficult times, to meet the many challenges and seize the opportunities as they present themselves."

The 2009-10 Budget tackles the current economic challenges by providing fiscal stimulus in the form of operating spending of over \$1.2 billion in addition to the record investment of \$246 million in capital infrastructure approved in the fall. The GNWT has revised the fiscal plans announced last year, reducing its targets for expenditure cuts and tax increases.

The planned investments in infrastructure in 2009-10 will be partly financed from the GNWT's forecast operating surplus of \$58 million and partly by borrowing an estimated \$81 million in short term debt by year end.

"Our overall goal of fiscal sustainability has not changed," said Minister Miltenberger, "but our fiscal plan must support our economy and our residents in this time of economic uncertainty."

The 2009-10 Budget makes investments that will benefit the NWT for the long term - in the economy, in the environment and in the people of the NWT. This includes \$44 million in new initiatives that will grow the NWT economy, reduce the cost of living, and develop the skills and talents of NWT residents.

The Budget proposes to invest a total of \$60 million over the next four years toward achieving the GNWT's energy goals: reducing the high cost of energy, reducing the NWT's reliance on imported fossil fuels, and reducing the territory's greenhouse gas emissions.

The Budget included some modest tax measures. In an effort to encourage healthy lifestyle choices, the Finance Minister announced increases in tobacco taxes and liquor markups, to take effect April 1, 2009. Increases will also be implemented to some property and school tax rates, to keep up with inflation.

Highlights of specific initiatives of the 2009-10 Budget are included in the attached Budget Highlights document. The Budget Address can be found on the department of Finance website at <u>http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/</u>. The Main Estimates can be found at: <u>http://www.fmbs.gov.nt.ca/budget-documents/estimates/index.htm</u>.

For further information, contact:

Julia Mott Coordinator, Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 Julia mott@gov.nt.ca

N.W.T. LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY FEB 0 5 2009 Yellowknife, N.W.T.



Backgrounder

For R(16)050209144

#### **2009-10 Budget – Challenges and Opportunities**

#### Budget 2009-10 Highlights

- The GNWT's goal of long-term fiscal sustainability remains unchanged. However, the government's fiscal plan has been adjusted in the 2009-10 Budget to support the NWT economy and residents in this time of economic uncertainty.
- The 2009-10 Budget proposes operating expenditures of \$1.2 billion. This represents an operating expenditure increase of \$23 million, or about 2.0 per cent, over the previous year's Budget. This modest growth was achieved through a combination of expenditure reductions and new investments.
- The 2009-10 Budget includes the first \$15 million of a planned four-year \$60 million investment in energy initiatives aimed at reducing the NWT's reliance on diesel fuel, the cost of living and the NWT's greenhouse gas emissions.
- Total revenues are estimated to increase 3.9 per cent from \$1.26 billion in 2008-09 to \$1.3 billion in 2009-10. Most of the increase is from an additional \$59 million in the Territorial Formula Financing Grant and \$7.3 million in new own-source revenues.
- The record \$246 million investment in public infrastructure approved in the 2009-10 Capital Budget last October will be financed partly through the budgeted \$58 million operating surplus and partly through an estimated \$81 million in short-term debt. This debt will be repaid early in 2010-11 when new revenues are received.

#### 2009-10 Strategic Initiatives

The 2009-10 Budget proposes to invest \$44 million in new and continuing initiatives.

◆ Investing in our Economy – despite the current economic slowdown, the long-term fundamentals of the NWT economy are solid. With proposed new initiatives of \$15.7 million, this Budget balances immediate economic stimulus to employ Northerners and support NWT business with longer term investments to address the high cost of living that affects our ability to grow and diversify the NWT economy. This includes \$4.4 million to support NWT arts and culture and to promote the NWT as a great place to work and do business; \$1.2 million in further support for business through the Support to Entrepreneur and Economic Development program and other programs; \$1.6 million to help the NWT's residents improve their skills for working and living; \$6.5 million in energy conservation and other initiatives to reduce the cost of living; and \$2.1 million to continue the work needed to ensure Northerners are ready for the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project.

- ◆ Investing in our Environment using NWT land and water resources in a sustainable way and protecting these resources for future generations is a key priority of the government. A total of \$14.9 million will be invested to ensure that NWT lands and water resources are used in a sustainable way, including: \$2.1 million to continue work on the land, resource and self-government negotiations; \$2 million on environmental stewardship such as developing a new Wildlife Act, implementing the proposed Species at Risk Act and completing and implementing the proposed NWT Water Strategy and Land Use Framework; and \$10.8 million for energy development and other energy investments to reduce the NWT reliance on fossil fuels.
- ◆ Investing in our People the 2009-10 Budget proposes investments totalling \$9.7 million including: \$1.5 million for initiatives that encourage healthy choices and address addictions; \$1.2 million to expand programs for children and youth; \$775,000 to increase safety and security of individuals and communities; \$2 million to strengthen the care for seniors; \$150,000 to support volunteerism; and, \$3.8 million to attract and keep people in the GNWT and community government public service.
- Refocusing Government the 2009-10 Budget continues the actions started in 2008 to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency in government operations and in delivery of programs and services through \$3.7 million in new and continuing initiatives. In addition to additional funding for program review, increased maintenance and building capacity, this funding includes \$390,000 to increase support for non-government organizations delivering services to NWT residents on behalf of the GNWT.

#### **Revenue** Initiatives

In the 2008-09 Budget, the government committed to raising an additional \$10 million in revenues for 2009-10. This target was reduced in light of the current economic climate, and \$7.3 million in tax increases are included in the 2009-10 Budget. These increases will bring the following taxes in line with inflation:

- 2009 property tax rates on mining, oil and gas, and pipeline properties and the education mill rate for all properties in the General Taxation Area will be adjusted to increase revenues from these sources by 15 per cent. These rates have not changed since 2003 and 2000, respectively.
- Effective April 1, the NWT tobacco tax will increase by an estimated \$11.20 a carton, to reflect current prices. NWT tobacco taxes were last changed in 2003.
- Effective April 1, the NWT mark-ups on liquor, beer and wine will be increased by 10 per cent. NWT liquor mark-ups were last changed in 2003.
- Effective April 1, the Department of Transportation will be increasing a number of fees to raise an additional \$300,000 annually in areas such as vehicle licensing.

Many of the fees the government charges have not changed for a long time. There will be a review of all GNWT fees and charges in 2009-10 to ensure that fees keep pace with inflation and better reflect the cost of providing the associated services.



P(16)110209145

# New Judge Appointed to Territorial Court

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 11, 2009)** – The appointment of Christine Gagnon as a Judge of the Territorial Court was announced today by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, the Honourable Jackson Lafferty.

"Ms. Gagnon is an outstanding addition to the Territorial Court bench," said Minister Lafferty. "She has extensive experience before the courts and has appeared in communities across the NWT and Nunavut. As well, she has taught courses in criminal law and worked as a defense attorney. I am very proud that our Territorial Court has been able to attract such a first-rate candidate to serve in this demanding and important role."

Chief Judge Brian Bruser welcomed Ms. Gagnon to the Territorial Court Bench. "This is an excellent appointment and I am confident that Ms. Gagnon will make valuable contributions to the administration of justice," he said. "The public will be better served now that the Territorial Court is at full strength with four resident Territorial Court Judges."

Ms. Gagnon graduated from the Universite de Montreal's Law School in 1986 and was called to the Barreau de Quebec in 1987. She worked in a criminal defense firm in Montreal until 1992 and then opened an office as a sole practitioner in the same city. She taught criminal law part-time at O'Sullivan College's paralegal program in Montreal for seven years while maintaining her law office. She served as a Crown prosecutor in Iqaluit from 2001 to mid-2006, and then moved to Ottawa for one year to work at the federal Department of Justice headquarters. She has been working as a Crown prosecutor with the Yellowknife Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions since 2007.

The *Territorial Court Act* establishes the Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee, which reviews applications and recommends candidates for appointment. Ms. Gagnon will be sworn in at a time scheduled by the Honourable Chief Judge Brian Bruser.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple Communications Department of Justice Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-3130



ג(16)130209146

## Alberta and the Northwest Territories meet to discuss the economy, energy and the environment

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 13, 2009)** – Northwest Territories (NWT) Minister of Finance, the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, and Alberta Minister of Finance and Enterprise, the Honourable Iris Evans, met in Yellowknife today to discuss the present economic situation and its effect on the two jurisdictions. The governments discussed matters related to the environment, transportation, energy and natural resources.

The Ministers met in their capacity as Co-Chairs of the Alberta - Northwest Territories Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation and Development. They were joined by NWT Premier Floyd Roland, NWT Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod and Alberta MLA Robin Campbell, chair of the Northern Alberta Development Council.

Members of the NWT Legislative Assembly Wendy Bisaro, Bob Bromley and Glen Abernethy attended the meeting as observers.

"The goal of our discussions is to identify areas where we benefit from working together with our close neighbours and friends in Alberta," Minister Miltenberger said.

The Co-Chairs received a Memorandum of Understanding being developed to facilitate the cooperation of the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Alberta in the protection and recovery of shared populations of boreal woodland Caribou.

The Co-Chairs were also pleased to confirm that their governments are developing an agreement to cooperate further in the management and suppression of wildfires along the NWT-Alberta Border.

Minister Miltenberger and Minister Evans discussed mutual transportation issues with a view to improving trade flows between the two jurisdictions.

"This ongoing cooperation between our jurisdictions builds a solid foundation to move forward on issues that are important to the residents of Northwest Territories and Alberta," said Minister Miltenberger.

"Considering our similar geology, geography and natural resource development capabilities in Alberta and the Northwest Territories, it makes sense that we work together to take action and develop the North in a way that is mutually beneficial," Minister Evans said.

For more information, contact:

Dane Mason Cabinet Communications



Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2302 E-mail: dane\_mason@gov.nt.ca

Nick Kaczmarek Communications Alberta Finance and Enterprise Government of Alberta Tel: (780) 422-9030 E-mail: nick.kaczmarek@gov.ab.ca



Backgrounder

For R(16)130209146

## Meeting of the Alberta-NWT MOU Co-Chairs

The Alberta–Northwest Territories Memorandum of Cooperation and Development (MOU) was first signed in October 1998 by then-Premiers Klein and Morin and re-signed in October 2003 by then-Premiers Klein and Kakfwi. On September 12, 2008, Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach and Northwest Territories (NWT) Premier Floyd Roland met in Calgary to renew the Memorandum for a further five years.

The MOU represents a "good neighbours" agreement to facilitate development where cooperative efforts will result in benefits to both jurisdictions. The MOU is broad in scope and encompasses a wide range of areas in which departments may wish to pursue cooperation. The MOU specifically encourages cooperation in:

- Trade
- Transportation
- Tourism
- Regional and Community Economic Development
- Resource Development
- Health
- Education Training and Skill Development
- Research and Innovation

The governments of Alberta and NWT are represented at meetings by members of Cabinet who are appointed as "Co-Chairs." At present, Minister J. Michael Miltenberger represents the NWT as Co-Chair and Alberta is represented by Finance and Enterprise Minister Iris Evans.

In consultation with their respective governments, the Co-Chairs set the agenda and determine what work will be undertaken between the two jurisdictions. It is through these meetings that the NWT and Alberta have advanced bilateral interests in a number of areas. The NWT and Alberta have benefitted from this intergovernmental relationship through a number of sectoral sub-agreements that exist or are being developed under the MOU. Such sub-agreements will guide current and future cooperation in the areas of trade, forest fire management, woodland caribou management and water management.



R(16)170209147

## **Minister Confirms Next Steps in Board Reform Initiative**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 17, 2009)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has outlined the steps it will take before deciding in April how it will proceed with its Board Reform initiative. Lead Minister for Refocusing Government the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger confirmed that the GNWT will be considering a phased-in approach for regions where more complex board relationships may require further study and consideration.

"We are in the early stages of consulting on the general approach the GNWT could take to Board Reform," said Minister Miltenberger. "Our focus at this stage is on getting initial feedback and information on the overall approach to Board Reform. At the same time, we will be doing further research in a number of areas that will have to be considered before we can make any decisions about how we will proceed with this initiative."

A consultation package describing the general approach to Board Reform was released on January 29, 2009. The package has been distributed to over 100 stakeholders, including boards and community governments, and is available to the public, along with the attached work plan, on the Department of Executive website at <u>www.executive.gov.nt.ca</u>. Thirteen meetings have already been held with interested stakeholders and more are being scheduled, including meetings with board members and board staff in all regions. Approximately 25 letters and e-mails have already been received on particular elements of the proposed approach.

Initial consultation on the general approach to Board Reform is expected to be completed by April 2009. The results of that consultation and additional research being conducted by the GNWT are expected to provide the basis for a review of progress to-date that will help the GNWT determine how it will proceed with the Board Reform initiative in coming months.

"I am looking forward to seeing where we are when the results of our consultation and research are ready for us in April," said Minister Miltenberger. "At that point, we will begin to have a clearer understanding of the additional things we need to do to move forward, but we will still be a long way away from making any final decisions. Board reform is a complex issue and we intend to take the time we need to get it right."

Further planning work based on the results of the initial round of consultation and study is expected to take place during the spring, including work on identifying specific regional implementation issues. "We understand that there are differences between regions and communities," said Minister Miltenberger, "and we will be sensitive to those, while staying true to our goal of providing integrated and coordinated services to Northwest Territories residents. Because of the complex arrangements and issues involved in some areas, such as the North Slave region, it is likely that the GNWT will take a phased approach to better prepare for and manage change."

For more information contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: <u>drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca</u>

N.W.T. LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY FEB 17 2009 Yellowknife, N.W.T.



#### R(16)170209148

# **GNWT Working to Expand Global Market for NWT Furs**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 17, 2009)** – A new multi-partnered initiative is working to increase consumer demand, broaden market reach and establish new overseas markets for Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs from the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)-led project was launched last month in Beijing. It will see NWT furs represented and promoted in coming months at fur and fashion tradeshows in Beijing, Hong Kong and Milan.

"In order to maximize opportunities and choices for residents working in our traditional economy, especially during times of economic uncertainty, we must expand beyond our traditional market base in Canada, Europe and the United States," Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod said.

"Countries such as China and Russia have a rapidly growing wealth base. Both of these countries are projecting annual growth in their economies five to ten times greater than that projected for both Europe and North America."

The mission, coordinated on behalf of the GNWT by Fur Harvesters Auctions Incorporated and supported by the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs' Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development (SINED) Program, is also showcasing Government Certified Canadian Diamonds<sup>TM</sup>.

If successful, it will provide the basis for a longer-term marketing and promotions strategy and a model to leverage further funding through Federal programs.

"This initiative complements ongoing GNWT efforts to provide growth and diversification in the NWT economy. It will help protect trappers from the impacts of uncertainty in the current market place," Minister McLeod said.

For more information contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: <u>drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca</u> Pam Fitzmaurice Communications Industry, Tourism & Investment Tel: (867) 873-7857 E-mail: pam\_fitzmaurice@gov.nt.ca

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

N.W.T. LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY FER 17 2009 Vellowknife, N.W.T.



### **Community Discussions on the Electricity Review Launched**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 23, 2009)** – Three energy policy experts have been appointed by the Chair of the Government of the Northwest Territories Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee, the Honourable Bob McLeod, to engage Northwest Territories (NWT) residents, Aboriginal governments and key stakeholders in a territory-wide discussion on electricity regulation, rates and subsidy programs.

Public dialogues across the NWT will be facilitated by Mark Cleveland, who brings extensive experience in policy development and northern affairs, Gerry Forrest, with over 30 years of experience in areas of national and provincial electricity regulation and rates in the public utilities field, and Doug Matthews, who brings expertise on NWT energy policy and northern issues.

Residents and communities have raised a number of issues over the past year. A move towards greater privatization of the NWT electricity sector, the role and approach to sector regulation and the response of government subsidy programs are all issues that will define the future of our electricity system.

Public meetings this year will be held in Inuvik on March 4<sup>th</sup>, Norman Wells on April 1<sup>st</sup>, Fort Simpson on April 8<sup>th</sup>, Hay River on April 21<sup>st</sup>, Fort Smith on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and Yellowknife on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

"We are asking northerners to contribute to the development of a vision for the future of our electricity system in the NWT," said Minister McLeod.

Biographies of the three facilitators are attached.

For more information contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: <u>drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca</u>





For R(16)230209149

# **Electricity Review Facilitators**

**MARK CLEVELAND** - Mark Cleveland has over thirty years of public policy experience in the North, with most of those years at a senior level. Mr. Cleveland's experience includes six years as President of Arctic (Aurora) College and ten years as a Deputy Minister in the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment, Health and Social Services, Executive, as well as serving as the Secretary to the Financial Management Board of Cabinet and Comptroller General for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Cleveland is well-known for vision, commitment to innovation, and his dedication to the North. His knowledge of Northwest Territories (NWT) communities and experience in building sustainable communities was gained through many years of working closely with community and territorial organizations. Mr. Cleveland has been responsible for conceiving, organizing and managing a wide range of organizational and program change initiatives and this experience will be critical in the public discussions for the Electricity Review.

G. D. (Gerry) FORREST – G. D. (Gerry) Forrest is a professional public administrator who has been involved in the Canadian federal, provincial and municipal public policy and energy regulatory arena for nearly four decades, the last 15 years of which has been in the energy regulatory sector. Gerry's career path includes roles such as Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, Urban Affairs and Rural Development and former Chair and CEO of the Public Utilities Board of Manitoba.

Gerry has become a nationally and internationally recognized expert in the field of public administration and public utility regulation and has served as a university guest lecturer and conference/workshop speaker across Canada and the United States. In 2003, through USAID and the World Bank, Gerry was invited to make a presentation on the regulation and organization of public utilities to the senior administrators from a number of third world countries including Nepal, Bhutan, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Gerry has been recently engaged by the province of Saskatchewan to update their regulatory system. The Northwest Territories will gain from his vast national and international experience.

**DOUG MATTHEWS** – Doug Matthews has been involved for over 30 years in northern resource development with experience in each of the mining, petroleum, pipeline and electricity sectors of the Northwest Territories economy.

Doug spent twenty-five years with the Government of the Northwest Territories, living in Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik and Yellowknife, has worked with most communities in the NWT, and has sought to resolve energy issues with groups ranging from hamlet councils to committees of the United States Senate.

He is keenly aware of the challenges facing northerners, including first-hand experience with the high cost of living in our communities and the need for northern control of our energy future.



R(16)240209150

## **Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 25, 2009)** – Following the completion of the Aboriginal Education Summit hosted by the Council of Ministers of Education today in Saskatoon, the details of work on an Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA) Initiative to find the root causes and solutions to improving the success of Aboriginal students were released by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE).

The intent of the ASA is to collaborate with partners to develop a strategy to eliminate the achievement gap between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal students. To that end, ECE is establishing a working group with representatives from Aboriginal governments, industry and educators to develop a strategy for 2010. Activities began last fall with a series of internal workshops which led to presentations to the Dene National Assembly last week. Various workshops were also held with school superintendents, ECE staff and with teachers from across the Northwest Territories (NWT) representing the district education councils and authorities as well as the Commission Scolaire.

The Dene Nation, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Métis Nation all have a strong commitment to improving the educational success of northerners. Some of those leaders are participating in the Aboriginal Education Summit this week to discuss the same achievement gap at a national level.

"We need to talk about the obstacles that Aboriginal students face in the NWT, and work together to find solutions," commented Minister Jackson Lafferty. "We also need to build on the success stories in the NWT and across Canada to improve Aboriginal student achievement. The Summit was an incredible opportunity to share what is working, and learn what is needed by Aboriginal learners across Canada." Minister Lafferty also offered his appreciation to MLA Robert Hawkins for his participation in the Summit.

Throughout the coming months, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment will be providing opportunities to the media and the public to find out more about how the current education system works and to offer comments. This work will lead to the creation of an Aboriginal Student Achievement strategy.

For More Information, contact:

Shawn McCann Manager of Public Affairs Education, Culture and Employment Tel: (867) 920-6222 E-mail: shawn\_mccann@gov.nt.ca

N.W.T. LEGISLATIVE LIBRAR FEB 25 2009 Yellowknife, N.W.T.

#### R(16)270209150

Northwest W Territories

## GNWT, Towns of Hay River and Forth Smith announce launch of NWT BizPal

HAY RIVER/FORT SMITH (February 26, 2009) –BizPal is an online service that provides one-stop access to a database of permit and licence requirements for all federal, provincial and municipal levels of government across Canada and now, for the first time, the Northwest Territories (NWT). BizPal will be launched in the NWT on February 27, 2009 in Hay River and Fort Smith with demonstrations of live BizPal usage.

"Now there is an easy way to make sure all the necessary applications are completed and entrepreneurs can get on with the business of growing their business," said the Honourable Bob McLeod, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

BizPal is an online service available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Entrepreneurs need only answer a series of questions and BizPal generates a customized list of all permits and licences required as well as pertinent information such as fees, processing and renewals, contacts and links to sites with more information.

"We appreciate the assistance we received from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) through its Strategic Initiatives in Northern Development Program, which helped fund the development, along with our network of NWT partners for the database of permits and licences that are needed here," said Minister McLeod. "Built by a partnership among federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments, this unique program is designed to provide practical service to business."

BizPal makes it easier for entrepreneurs to do what they do best - look after business and create jobs. Streamlining access .o permits and licences will save entrepreneurs valuable time and money. We congratulate Hay River and Fort Smith, the territorial government and the federal government for this significant customer service improvement," said Janine Halbesma, Senior Policy Analyst for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business in the NWT.

"This innovative service will be made available across the territory in the near future. It reflects this Government's continuing commitment to the development of small business and sustainable local economies," said Minister McLeod.

To access the BizPal web site go to: www.iti.gov.nt.ca/businesseconomicdevelopment/nwtbizpal.shtml

For BizPal on Hay River's site go to: www.hayriver.com/mainbiz.htm

For BizPal on Fort Smith's site go to www.fortsmith.ca/Home.htm

For more information contact:

#### **GNWT:**

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Tel: (867) 669-2304 Fax: (867) 873-0111 E-mail: <u>drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca</u> **Town of Hay River**: Cindy Petersen Executive Assistant Town of Hay River Tel: (867) 874-6522 Fax: (867) 874-3237 E-mail: cpetersen@hayriver.com Town of Fort Smith: Mayor Peter Martselos Mayor Town of Forth Smith Tel: (867) 872-8400 Fax: (867) 872-8401 E-mail: townoffortsmith@northwestel.net

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

N.W.T. <u>-EGISLATIVE LIBRARY</u> FEB 2.6 2009 Yellowknife, N.W



R(16)240209150

## Launch of NWT Quitline for smokers

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 26, 2009)** – The Northwest Territories (NWT) Department of Health and Social Services announces the launch of the new NWT Quitline on March 1, 2009.

The NWT Quitline is a free, confidential toll-free telephone support line available for smokers wanting to quit. Trained smoking cessation counselors will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to answers calls on how to stop smoking. Translation services will be offered in all NWT languages.

To further assist smokers wanting to quit, the NWT Quitline features personalized call-back options based on the quitter's needs. A caller can receive up to five calls from a counselor to support their quitting process. The phone line counseling will be supplemented by a mail out of support materials.

"This telephone service is an important step forward towards fulfilling our cessation goals identified in the territorial tobacco strategy," the Honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services, said.

Health Canada has provided funding to support the NWT Quitline. In 2010, the federal government plans to print a 1-800 number on all cigarette packages that directs the caller to a cessation line in their own territory or province. With the addition of the NWT Quitline, the NWT will be ready for this initiative.

"Our hope is that the NWT Quitline will assist our population to decrease its dependence on tobacco," Minister Lee said.

Statistics show that 41 per cent of NWT adults age 15 and older are current smokers and approximately 30 to 35 per cent of the NWT population has never smoked.

For more information contact:

Damien Healy Manager, Communications Department of Health and Social Services Tel: (867) 920-8927 E-mail: <u>damien\_healy@gov.nt.ca</u>





R(16)090309152

### Paper and Cardboard Recycling Initiative

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 09, 2009)** – The launch of a paper and cardboard recycling initiative in the Northwest Territories (NWT) was announced today by the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

"Waste paper and cardboard make up a large portion of our community landfills," said Minister Miltenberger. "We want to divert some of that waste, turn it into something that can be recycled and reused. This initiative will help us do that."

Through the Waste Reduction and Recovery Act, funding will be available for the development of innovative, alternative, end-of-life uses for significant volumes of paper-based materials recovered or diverted from the NWT waste stream.

"Shipping bulky paper and cardboard south for recycling greatly reduces the environmental and economic benefits of recycling," said Minister Miltenberger. "We're looking for innovative ways to recycle and reuse these materials right here in the NWT."

Financial assistance is available for NWT-based municipalities, organizations, businesses, and individuals to initiate and develop progressive methods of recycling paper products.

"This initiative will help extend the lives of local landfills and also maintain and improve the quality of our environment," said Miltenberger.

For more information, contact:

Ella Stinson Communications Planning Specialist Environment and Natural Resources Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-3310 E-mail: <u>ella\_stinson@gov.nt.ca</u>

N.W. LEGISLATIVE MAR 0 0	LIBRARY		



R(16)120309153

# **Response to Minister Cannon's Commitment to Arctic Issues**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 12, 2009)** – "Strong and sustainable communities ensure Canada's sovereignty over lands and resources. The time for significant investment is now," Northwest Territories (NWT) Premier Floyd K. Roland reiterated today.

Responding to federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Lawrence Cannon's speech in Whitehorse yesterday, the NWT Premier says that while he's pleased to hear confirmation of Canada's continued and broader commitment to Canada's Arctic and northern sovereignty, the need for immediate investment is critical.

"These commitments must be supported by investments in infrastructure that will enable NWT residents to live healthy and productive lives – and be a solid and vigilant presence in our remote northern areas."

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, Members of the NWT Legislative Assembly unanimously urged the federal government to step forward with funding for a Mackenzie Valley Highway, repeatedly underlining the promises of lower costs of living and sustainability that it would bring.

As an Arctic territory, the NWT has always been concerned with the stewardship of the North, sovereignty and security issues, economic and social development, environmental protection, and others' interests in our land.

. remier Roland was pleased to note Minister Cannon's acknowledgement that Northerners should have more control over their own destinies, and his reinforced commitment to the protection of the sensitive Arctic environment and a strengthened Arctic Council.

"Canada's indigenous peoples have played a pivotal role in the evolution of the North and in the ongoing work of the Arctic Council," said Premier Roland. "It is imperative that Canada draw on this capacity in its role as a leader among circumpolar regions."

Given the importance of these issues to NWT residents, the GNWT will join the NWT delegation, including representatives from Indigenous Groups who have permanent participant status at the Arctic Council Forum, as part of the Canadian delegation attending the upcoming Arctic Council Foreign Ministers' meeting in Norway.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: <u>drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca</u>





1. 0)120309154

## **GNWT Releases Approach to Regulatory Improvement in the NWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 12, 2009)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is taking steps to ensure that Northern interests are clearly heard and understood in ongoing discussions about regulatory improvement in the Northwest Territories (NWT). To support this work, the GNWT today released an approach to regulatory improvement that calls for renewed efforts to complete the unique integrated system of water and land management established by the settled land claims.

The approach was announced by Premier Floyd Roland and Deputy Premier J. Michael Miltenberger, who is leading the Regulatory Improvement Initiative for the GNWT.

"Our current regulatory regime provides a framework for governments, communities, industry and other organizations to work together to ensure development occurs in a responsible and sustainable manner," said the Premier. "It puts the onus on all parties to work cooperatively towards the certainty we all want."

The GNWT approach is based in part on a thorough review of recent regulatory improvement initiatives in the North, including the 2005 NWT Environmental Audit, the 2006 Joint Examination Project and the more recent Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative and resulting report, *Road to Improvement* produced by Neil McCrank in 2008.

"It is time to complete the integrated land and water management regime envisioned in the land claims agreements including the completion of surface rights legislation, full implementation of cumulative impact monitoring and increasing vard capacity," said Premier Roland.

Discussions on the approach, the GNWT's position on restructuring and views on specific issues will be held with Aboriginal governments, industry associations and other stakeholders. The GNWT also plans to continue efforts to collaborate with the federal government on regulatory improvement and to implement improvements in areas under its jurisdiction.

"Governments need to continually improve their way of doing business within their own areas of responsibility and the GNWT is no different," said Deputy Premier Miltenberger. "We're continuing to look for ways to improve in those areas where we already hold authority but we will need to be diligent to ensure the federal government takes our interests into account when it makes renovations to a regulatory house that we will someday inherit."

"NWT residents need to have a say in the decisions that affect them," said Premier Roland. "Ensuring that northerners have the necessary tools and resources to participate effectively in decisions about how this land is managed is a key priority of the GNWT. We are committed to working with our partners to make continual improvements to our regulatory system to make sure it remains effective, efficient and clearly serves the public interest of the residents of the NWT."

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Tel: (867) 669-2304 -mail: drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca

N.W.T. LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY August 1 2 2009 Nellowknife, N.W.T.



R(16)120309155

### **Multi-Sport Game Review**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 12, 2009)** – the release of the Multi-Sport Games Review was announced today by the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA). The report was commissioned by MACA, in consultation with the Northwest Territories (NWT) Sport and Recreation Council, to guide the development of a long-term plan for the NWT's involvement in multi-sport games.

"MACA is committed to the NWT's continued participation in multi-sport games, including the 2009 Canada Summer Games and the 2010 Arctic Winter Games," said Minister McLeod. "The report provides a strong basis to engage in a meaningful dialogue with our partners. It also outlines the cultural, health, economic and social benefits that participants receive from being involved in these events."

The purpose of the review was to provide a base of knowledge to guide discussions with the Council and its partners about how we support our participation in multi-sport games, how we select and manage our teams, and to better understand the barriers and challenges we face in terms of delivering this program fairly and equitably for all residents. The report provides recommendations on a more effective and efficient approach which will help stakeholders to better plan for future delivery of this program area.

For a copy of the Multi-Sport Games Review, please visit the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs website at <u>www.maca.gov.nt.ca</u>.

For more information, contact:

Rebecca Alty Communications/Website Advisor Municipal and Community Affairs Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-3092 E-mail: <u>rebecca\_alty@gov.nt.ca</u>





к(16)160309156

# Volunteer NGO Summit

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 16, 2009)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is looking for ways to enhance its support of non-government organizations (NGOs) and the volunteer sector. On March 7, 2009 the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and the Financial Management Board Secretariat (FMBS) hosted a summit attended by volunteer and NGO representatives from across the NWT to discuss the GNWT's support for these important sectors.

"The volunteers had the opportunity to help shape public policy and strengthen the voluntary sector in the NWT," said the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of MACA. "Everybody in attendance provided some excellent advice on how the promotion, recognition, and recruitment of volunteers can be improved in the NWT."

The results of the Volunteer Summit will be used to develop an updated 2009-2012 GNWT Volunteer Support Initiative. It is anticipated that this will include initiatives to improve training opportunities for volunteers, with a particular emphasis on community capacity building, promoting the social and health benefits of volunteering to all residents, engaging NWT youth as new volunteers and supporting the development of resources to complement these activities.

"Volunteers and NGOs provide valuable services that benefit the people of the Northwest Territories across many sectors, from sports to arts to social services," said Chair of the Financial Management Board J. Michael Miltenberger. "The GNWT is committed to working with all Northerners to strengthen and improve the way we support these organizations and the valuable work they do."

During the Summit, NGOs and government counterparts had a chance to consider common concerns, including the impact of inflation on NGO funding and simplifying processes for receiving and reporting on government funding. In the upcoming months representatives from the GNWT and NGOs s will be working together to identify ways to improve relationships and funding arrangements. In considering options to address the concerns raised, the group anticipates that tools will be developed to support this important sector including guides for both GNWT program managers and NGO staff.

Reports from the Summit will be released later this spring.

For more information on volunteerism, please visit the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs website at <u>www.maca.gov.nt.ca</u> or contact:

Rebecca Alty Communications/Website Advisor Municipal and Community Affairs Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-3092 E-mail: rebecca\_atly@gov.nt.ca

For more information on NGO funding, please contact:

Sandy Kalgutkar Deputy Secretary of the Financial Management Board Financial Management Board Secretariat Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-8689 E-mail: sandy kalgutkar@gov.nt.ca





#### R(16)160309157

### **Call for 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Youth Ambassadors**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 16, 2009)** – The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Youth Ambassadors Program was announced today by the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA). MACA is looking for 33 young, vibrant people to represent the Northwest Territories (NWT) at the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver as Youth Ambassadors.

"The 2010 Olympics and Paralympics in Vancouver and Whistler present a significant opportunity for the development of young northern leaders," said Minister McLeod. "The Youth Ambassadors Program will provide youth with an opportunity to build leadership skills through volunteer assignments at the Games and act as ambassadors for the NWT."

Youth Ambassadors will be chosen based on their interests, experience and what they hope to achieve from the experience as an Ambassador. To qualify for the program, youth must be between 17 to 25 years of age on September 1, 2009. The deadline to apply is April 24, 2009.

Information about the Youth Ambassadors Program, including application forms, can be found on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs website at <u>www.maca.gov.nt.ca</u>.

For more information, contact:

Rebecca Alty Communications/Website Advisor Municipal and Community Affairs Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-3092 E-mail: <u>rebecca atly@gov.nt.ca</u>



Northwest North

**News Release** 

R(16)160309158

### **NWT Hospitals Go Filmless**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 16, 2009)** – Over the course of the next three to four months, Stanton Territorial Hospital, Inuvik Regional Hospital, H. H. Williams Hospital and the Fort Smith Health Centre will go filmless. Physicians and technologists will no longer have to create or view diagnostic images using film. Instead, they will be using the Diagnostic Imaging Picture Archiving and Communications System (DI/PACS) to capture, store, distribute and review all patient diagnostic images.

There are numerous benefits of moving to DI/PACS technology:

- faster report turn-around times which results in faster diagnosis and decisions relating to treatment
- flexible viewing for physicians and hospital staff (clinicians can consult on images at the same time from different locations)
- no longer will we have the costs associated with "hard copy" film, developing and storage
- no lost or misplaced images resulting in unnecessary duplication of exams

DI/PACS is a digital system. Just like a camera that used to use film and now generates digital images that are viewed on a home computer, DI/PACS operates by using equipment to produce and view digital images on computers.

The implementation of DI/PACS throughout the four hospitals is planned to be completed by the end of May 2009.

"By moving from film to filmless, we are now able to process images much faster than before," said the Honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services. "This is an important step towards improving service delivery to our residents."

The DI/PACS implementation will represent an investment of \$5.9 million dollars: \$4.3 million from Canada Health Infoway and \$1.6 from the Government of the Northwest Territories.

"The availability of digitized diagnostic images means radiologists are now able to support care delivery and improve access remotely for patients who live in underserviced areas," said Richard Alvarez, President and CEO, Canada Health Infoway. "As a result, diagnoses are made much more quickly, speeding access to treatment closer to home."

Canada Health Infoway is an independent, not-for-profit organization funded by the federal government. *Infoway* jointly invests with every province and territory to accelerate the development and adoption of electronic health record projects in Canada. Fully respecting patient confidentiality, these secure systems will provide clinicians and patients with the information they need to better support safe care decisions and manage their own health. Accessing this vital information quickly will help foster a more modern and sustainable health care system for all Canadians.

For more information, contact:

Damien Healy Communications Health and Social Services Tel: (867) 920-8927 E-mail: <u>damien\_healy@gov.nt.ca</u> Dan Strasbourg Director, Corporate Communications Canada Health Infoway Tel: (416) 595-3424 E-mail: <u>dstrasbourg@infoway-inforoute.ca</u>

#### Backgrounder

For R(16)160309158

Northwe

### WHAT IS DI/PACS?

The NWT Health DI/PACS (Diagnostic Imaging Picture Archival and Communications System) moves towards creating a web-based, computer-driven patient information system. DI/PACS is a digital network that houses medical images such as X-rays, thereby eliminating the need for film, processing equipment and storage space.

- DI/PACS is a digital system. Just like moving from film camera to digital camera that generates digital images, which can be viewed/archived on your home computer, DI/PACS operates by using equipment to produce and view digital images on computers.
- DI/PACS provides fast, easy, secured access to diagnostic images.
- Once installed across 22 sites within the NWT, any medical image can be viewed electronically by authorized health providers, physicians, and nurses anywhere, anytime. With film, only one image could
- be viewed in one place at one time.
- DI/PACS allows multiple users, in the same or different facilities, to view images simultaneously. This ensures a quick turnaround time, which improves patient care.
- DI/PACS is an important step towards an Electronic Health Record system within the NWT Health system.

### **DI/PACS BENEFITS**

- Digital images can be seen in more than one location at one time.
- No longer require film processing chemicals. This is good for our employees' health and the environment.
- Image retrieval is instantaneous. No more delays in searching for film.
- Faster report turn-around times.
- Flexible viewing for physicians and hospital staff (multiple users can view images at the same time from different locations).
- No longer will we have the costs associated with "hard copy" film, developing and storage.
- No lost or misplaced images.
- Easier sharing of images between physicians, nurses, authorized health providers, and ultimately between hospitals.
- Improved efficiency leads to improved patient care at lower operational costs.

### **DI/PACS PROJECT SCHEDULE**

Eventually all new exams will be in DI/ PACS (30 Month Project)

- Stanton is first hospital (March 2009)
- Fort Smith (March 2009)
- Hay River (Mar-Apr 2009)
- Inuvik (Apr 2009)
- 18 Community Health Centres (April 2009 June 2010)





16)300309159

## **GNWT will Protect and Preserve NWT Business**

FORT SMITH (March 30, 2009) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is working to protect and preserve the economic capacity and potential that has been built in the Northwest Territories' (NWT) business community, the Honourable Bob McLeod, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment announced to the NWT Chamber of Commerce today.

Speaking at the Chamber's 2009 Annual General Meeting in Fort Smith, Minister McLeod said that in light of global economic uncertainty, the GNWT is focusing support on the small businesses and entrepreneurs that are the backbone of the NWT northern economy.

"In the long run, promoting a diversified economy will provide for greater future stability in all kinds of economic cycles," Minister McLeod noted.

Supporting the development of sustainable local economies through small businesses and community-based sectors is a key component of the 16th Legislative Assembly's vision of "Northerners Working Together."

Minister McLeod noted that current economic challenges could even provide an opportunity to highlight prospects for investment and employment in the Northwest Territories.

"For prospective residents or investors now looking north, the potential for success is clearly evident throughout our Territory – and is implicit in our community of successful northern companies, corporations, joint ventures and partnerships."

The Minister commended the NWT Chamber for its work and voice on behalf of the NWT's business community, thanking them for their input on key issues including: the GNWT's Hydro Strategy; proposed improvements to the Business Incentive Program; and ongoing discussions regarding electricity regulation, rates and subsidy programs in the NWT.

Premier Floyd Roland and Minister of Finance J. Michael Miltenberger are slated to address the Chamber membership tomorrow.

Notes of the Minister's speech are available here. For more information contact:

Drew Williams **Cabinet Communications** Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew williams@gov.nt.ca



R(16)310309160

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

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 31, 2009)** – Increases to Northwest Territories tobacco taxes and liquor markups will take effect Wednesday April 1, 2009. Minister of Finance J. Michael Miltenberger announced the increases in his February Budget Address.

Based on price surveys conducted in late February, the tax on cigarettes will increase by \$11.60 per carton of cigarettes and by 5.6 cents per gram of loose tobacco as required under the NWT *Tobacco Tax Act*.

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

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

"These two measures will raise about \$4.3 million dollars a year," Minister Miltenberger said. "The revenue consultations we held over the summer and fall of 2008 showed that although people do not like tax increases, higher taxes on tobacco and alcohol were supported more than other options."

"Alcohol and tobacco do significant harm to the health of NWT residents, and we hope that these measures will encourage people to reconsider and reduce their consumption," the Minister said.

For more information contact:

John Monroe Director of Fiscal Policy Department of Finance Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-6436 E-mail: john\_monroe@gov.nt.ca

Northwest Territories News Release

# GOVERNMENT OF NORTHWEST TERRITORIES PRAISES FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR ABORIGINAL PIPELINE GROUP

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 31, 2009)** – A renewed commitment to federal funding for the Aboriginal Pipeline Group (APG) representing Northwest Territories (NWT) Aboriginal interests in the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) is good news, Premier Floyd Roland said yesterday.

"The federal government's constant commitment of funding to the Aboriginal Pipeline Group is a welcome indicator of commitment to the MGP and the participation of the NWT's Aboriginal people," Premier Floyd Roland said.

The APG was established with a general agreement that the Aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories would work together to build a business partnership to maximize the ownership and benefits of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project. The APG's current partners include the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Gwich'in Development Corporation and the Sahtu Pipeline Trust.

The GNWT has provided substantial support to the Aboriginal Pipeline Group since its inception in 2000 and has also recently renewed its commitment for financial support.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod said he hopes the Federal Minister's announcement is a sign of even more good news to come. "We are optimistic that since the main players have intensified their efforts, the Iackenzie Gas Project will deliver on its promise by generating a major boost to the economy of our territory and to the national economy as well," said Minister McLeod.

Through the APG, Aboriginal groups in the Mackenzie Valley and Beaufort Delta areas have up to one-third potential ownership in the MGP. As the pipeline begins to ship gas, Aboriginal people in these areas will start to reap significant economic benefits as co-owners of the pipeline.

MLAs Jackie Jacobson, Norman Yakeleya and David Krutko note federal funding will help maintain and build on the APG's ongoing work and investment on behalf of NWT residents in Nunakput, Sahtu and the Mackenzie Delta. "Canada's decision to continue this funding will allow the APG to continue to represent the interests of its partners in this unique model for Aboriginal ownership in, what could be, the largest infrastructure project in NWT history," a spokesperson said.

For more information contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca

LEGIS . THAT I REARY							
AFR 0 1 2009							
vedowknue, N.W.T.							



#### R(16) 010409162

### **GNWT Role to Provide Stabilizing Influence for NWT Economy**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 31, 2009)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories will work to provide a stabilizing influence on the NWT economy during a time of economic uncertainty, Minister of Finance Michael Miltenberger told members of the NWT Chamber of Commerce in Fort Smith on Tuesday.

While advising caution in what he described as "fluid economic conditions," the Minister says the Government is prepared to review and adjust its fiscal plans to deal with continuing economic uncertainty.

"The long term fundamentals of the NWT economy are solid," he noted. "We are following through with the initiatives and investments that we have identified to bridge these times of economic uncertainty and to ensure that our Territory is prepared to move forward when the economy starts to recover."

A record level of capital investment will play a key role in stabilizing economic activity in the coming fiscal year by providing business opportunities and jobs for NWT residents. The GNWT will spend \$1.2 billion on operating expenditures and invest almost \$250 million in infrastructure.

The Minister said while the budget anticipates an operating surplus, revenues will not be enough to cover the Government infrastructure initiatives necessary to provide the economic stimulus to maintain employment and sustain economic activity. He said the government will incur short term debt to finance these infrastructure investments.

Minister Miltenberger says the Government's entire budget should be recognized as support for NWT people and the economy.

"Investments in infrastructure or in reducing the cost of living will help business. The dollars we invest to improve our children's education will improve their job opportunities and the labour supply for businesses. That's good for the economy. The money we put into improving the health of our residents benefits the economy. Our efforts to protect the environment ensure that our quality of life will not diminish and encourages people to live in the NWT," he said.

Transcripts of the Minister's speech can be found online at: http://www.exec.gov.nt.ca/currentnews/speechDetails.asp?varStatement\_ID=835

For more information contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew williams@gov.nt.ca

N.W.T. LEGISLOTIVICU IRPARY APR 0 1 2009 Yellowknite, N.W.T.

	Home	Your MLA	Departments	Publications	Facts	NWT Map		
C	<b>Statement to th</b> Hon. J. Michael Tuesday, March Statement to the	Miltenberger 31, 2009			\$ SHARE	■ 23 \$*)		
	Check against							
	Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about the state of the NWT economy and about how our government's budget supports our economy.							
	The GNWT's 2009-10 Budget received many positive comments and I want to thank my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly for their input and advice in putting the Budget together. This is an example of how consensus government can work.							
	l would like to th last fall's consult our Roundtable forward, provide budget.	ation on reve discussions,	enue measures. as well as the th	The Chamber's oughtful submis	participa sions pu	tion in t		
$\left( \right)$	The NWT econo Demand for our ncouraged inte Pipeline. The res of our economy. or for businesse	resources sp rest in multi-l source secto More than 2	ourred mining an oillion dollar projon now directly or 0 per cent of NV	d oil and gas ac ects like the Ma indirectly repres	tivity and ckenzie ( sents alm	Gas ost half		
	No one expects this growth to continue in the near term - in fact, we expect our economy will shrink this year. The current global economic turmoil shows no signs of abating soon and presents risks for our economy. Tight credit conditions and falling stock prices have made it difficult for resource companies to raise capital to operate or expand. Falling commodity prices have made investment in the resource sector less attractive.							
	Compared to the than two thirds, i diamond prices l supply.	natural gas p	rices are down b	by more than ha	If and pol	ished		
1	While we have n diamond mines, shutdowns and a Expenditures on cent in 2009.	there have a more caution	Iready been sign ous pacing of inv	nificant layoffs, s estment expend	some tem litures.			
	∟ower exploratic NWT residents a							
http	://www.exec.gov.n	nt.ca/currentne	ws/speechDetails.	asp?varStatemen	t_ID=835			4/1/2009

businesses that provide services for exploration companies. Although the overall NWT unemployment rate is still below the national average, the number of people employed in the territory in February decreased by about 250 from February of last year.

One of the roles of government in an economic downturn is to act as a counterweight by providing the economic stimulus needed to maintain employment and sustain economic activity until the private sector can recover.

A year ago, our 2008 Budget started to take the difficult measures to bring our expenditures in line with revenue growth. The measures we took to cut spending were controversial, but they put us in a reasonably good position, as long as we are careful, to weather the global economic downturn.

We adjusted our fiscal plan last September to adapt to rapidly changing economic conditions. We lowered our original spending reduction target of \$135 million over two years to a target of \$78 million over four years.

We heard the concerns raised by many, including your organization, about the effects of tax increases on our economy, especially in a period of economic downturn. Of the \$10 million in new revenues we had targeted to raise starting this April 1, we will raise \$7.3 million by bringing a number of revenue sources, such as liquor mark-ups, tobacco taxes, and some property taxes, in line with inflationary increases. Furthermore, we have deferred any decisions about introducing tax measures to raise an additional \$30 million in revenues to 2010 11 at the earliest.

The GNWT will spend \$1.2 billion on operating expenditures in the coming fiscal year and invest almost \$250 million in infrastructure. We are projecting an operating surplus, but it won't be enough to fund all our planned infrastructure investments. As a result, we expect we will need to borrow \$81 million in short-term debt at the end of 2009-10 to finance some of these investments. This short term debt will be repaid early in the following fiscal year.

Given our current fiscal outlook we will likely have to borrow again to finance a portion of our infrastructure investments by the end of 2010-11, but we remain committed to the GNWT's Fiscal Responsibility Policy – we will not borrow to finance operating deficits and we will limit the amount we borrow to finance our investments in infrastructure.

You have asked that I talk about how our 2009-10 Budget helps the NWT economy. My answer is that the entire budget, whether it is ongoing expenditures on existing programs and services or new initiatives, supports the NWT people and economy.

We know that investments in infrastructure or in reducing the cost of living will help business. But the dollars we invest to improve our children's

education will improve their job opportunities and the labour supply for businesses. That's good for the economy. The money we put into improving the health of our residents benefits the economy. Our efforts to protect the environment ensure that our quality of life will not diminish and encourages people to live in the NWT. Capital Budget

One change we made recently was to approve our capital budget in the fall, rather than waiting until March. This allows projects to get underway faster. The tendering process can now begin sooner and contractors can better fit projects into their schedules before their order books get filled for the summer construction season. The GNWT benefits because the earlier tendering process encourages more bidders and therefore more competition.

We will be investing \$246 million in capital spending in 2009-10. Our infrastructure investment plan will inject over \$700 million into the NWT economy over the next five years. This record level of capital investment will play a key role in stabilizing economic activity in our territory in the coming fiscal year by providing business opportunities and employment for Northerners.

Our 2009-10 capital plan includes \$58 million for highway and other road projects, \$74 million in school replacements and renovations, \$17 million for airport and runway improvements, \$19 million for hospital and clinic renovations and \$4 million for improvements to park infrastructure.

The 2009 federal budget accelerates the Building Canada infrastructure funding, which could see \$75 million in NWT community transportation and community infrastructure up to four years earlier than planned. The federal budget also allocates \$50 million over two years for additional social housing in the NWT.

There are also opportunities for funding under other federal infrastructure programs, such as the Green Infrastructure Fund, that we will be pursuing.

Now that the federal budget has been passed, federal departments are providing more information about timing and criteria for accessing this additional infrastructure funding. We will be reviewing the federal acceleration plans to see how they can best fit with GNWT priorities.

We need to change our fundamental approach to energy use and supply in the Northwest Territories. The 2009-10 GNWT Budget announced plans to invest \$60 million over the next four years to make a real difference in the way we produce and consume energy in the Northwest Territories. We want to reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2009-10 we will spend \$17.5 million on energy investments. In the longterm, these investments will make a critical difference in the cost of living and sustainability of our smaller communities and will reduce emissions. We are also conducting a consultation and review of the NWT electricity system. This consultation is seeking residents' views on electrical rates, regulation and subsidy programs and will help us ensure that the NWT electricity system reflects the values of NWT residents and provides the most reliable power at the most affordable price.

Once these consultations are completed, we will be in a position to determine how best to use the \$3 million per year we have allocated for the next three years to enhance the GNWT's Territorial Power Subsidy Program. We want to lower power costs for commercial customers in our high energy cost communities in order to increase the prospects for economic development and to help lower the cost of living, including the cost of food.

We are using all the tools at our disposal to help businesses stimulate the economy, generate income and create further value-added benefits for the NWT.

The 2009-10 Budget includes significant support for the business sector, including:

- \$750,000 for the Support to Entrepreneur and Economic Development (SEED) Policy, bringing our support for business and community development under this program to \$3.2 million annually.
- \$300,000 to provide marketing assistance to sports hunter outfitters dealing mainly with barren ground caribou and polar bear hunts.
- \$100,000 to meet administrative costs for the capital expansion of the NWT broadband network.
- \$535,000 for the first year of a three-year territorial nominee pilot project to increase immigration support for NWT businesses wanting better access to foreign labour to meet their labour needs. The program will permit nomination of immigrants for skilled labour, to meet critical labour shortages, and in the area of entrepreneurs and selfemployment to attract business expertise and investment capital to the NWT. The details will available in April and will include the guidelines for employers to submit applications.

We clearly heard from our revenue consultations that the GNWT needs to address the issue of our declining population by selling the North as a great place to live. We agree. Our budget includes:

- \$2.4 million in one-time funding to promote and celebrate the NWT at the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver.
- \$400,000 in new funding to develop and implement a multi-year national marketing campaign to promote the NWT as a great place to visit, live and invest.
- \$700,000 to increase support for NWT arts and culture with increased grants to individuals and organizations to promote the NWT and create employment in the arts and culture industries.

Last fall's signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the GNWT and the NWT's three diamond mines is another important example of the actions we intend to pursue. The diamond mines and the GNWT agreed to work cooperatively 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 NWT.

While this initiative is challenged in the short term by the current economic downturn, we need to recognize the cyclical nature of economic growth. It is critical that while we work to counter its impacts we keep building capacity in our people, in our businesses and in our communities. Supporting Long – Term Economic Growth

Despite the current economic slowdown, the long-term fundamentals of the NWT economy are solid. We are using this opportunity to invest in initiatives that will ensure we are prepared when the economy starts to recover.

This means investing in our own residents. A total of \$1.6 million was added to the 2009-10 Budget to help NWT residents improve their skills for working and living. This includes investments in literacy programs, and in trades and apprenticeship programs, including additional support for women and Aboriginal people to participate in trades training.

We haven't lost sight of the large resource projects that will provide lasting benefits to our economy. The budget includes \$2.1 million to continue the work needed to ensure Northerners are ready for the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project. We are also investing \$2.5 million to bring the work on the Taltson Hydro Expansion Project to the point where a decision can be made on whether it is feasible to proceed. Supporting the Environment

Using NWT land and water resources in a sustainable way and protecting these resources for future generations is a key priority of the government. Creating certainty over land tenure and the regulatory regime will also support long-term sustainable development.

The budget includes the resources required to continue work on the land, resource and self-government negotiations. It also includes funding to advance work in key areas of environmental stewardship such as developing a new Wildlife Act, implementing the proposed Species at Risk Act and completing and implementing the proposed NWT Water Strategy and Land Use Framework. Refocusing Government

The people who responded to our revenue consultations clearly told us that we must also look at the expenditure side of our budget, and not just look for ways to increase taxes. We are doing this. The GNWT's Refocusing Government strategic initiative will target areas where the Government can be achieving better results, improving service delivery, organizing itself more effectively, or operating more efficiently and economically. We will spend \$1.2 billion on government programs and services. Almost 3740 million, or 60 per cent of our budget, is allocated to education, health care, housing and policing services that directly serve our residents. It is critical that we stay with our goal of aligning overall expenditures growth with revenues to avoid long-term deficits.

The Program Review Office we established last year will shortly complete several projects that focus on schools funding, adult training and health services cost drivers. The Minister of Health and Social Services will also be coming forward with a plan to reform the way we deliver health and social services in the Northwest Territories. This will not be a plan to cut total spending on these programs, but will identify ways to eliminate inefficiencies as well as flag those areas where investments will yield positive returns.

Although the Legislative Assembly has just reviewed and approved our 2009-10 budget, we are about to begin the planning for 2010-11. I want to stress however, that given the uncertain economic outlook, we will be reviewing our fiscal plans and adjusting them accordingly as new information emerges. We must also be prepared to adjust our plans for 2009-10 if circumstances change dramatically.

One important piece of information we don't have yet, and won't until corporations file their 2008 income tax returns, is how this downturn will affect the GNWT's tax revenues. A slowing economy will likely mean several jears of declining corporate and personal income tax, payroll tax, and fuel tax revenues. This will affect our ability to respond to changing circumstances. It also means we must continue to be vigilant with our expenditures.

We do not know how long the economic downturn is going to last. As a government, we may need to adjust our plans but our fiscal plan must support our economy and our residents in this time of economic uncertainty.

I want to conclude by thanking you once again for your contribution to our budget planning, and by repeating my commitment to hold another Roundtable discussion later this year to seek input from organizations like yours into the budget process. As we go forward into these uncertain economic times, we must work together to meet the many challenges ahead and seize the opportunities as they present themselves.

#### Thank you.

PHONE DIRECTORY CONTACT US JOB OPPORTUNITIES SEARCH INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYEES

Copyright 2000 - Government of the Northwest Territories



#### R(16)010409163

### Premier Encourages NWT Business Leaders to Invest in the NWT

**FORT SMITH (April 1, 2009)** – Northwest Territories (NWT) Premier Floyd Roland encouraged business leaders yesterday not to lose sight of the potential and incredible possibilities that the NWT economy holds.

Speaking at the NWT Chamber's 2009 Annual General Meeting in Fort Smith, the Premier said NWT residents and businesses need to look beyond current economic challenges to regain the momentum and resilience that have allowed the Territory to evolve as a potential driver of Canada's economic future.

"We have so much to gain, that it's worth shouldering some calculated risk," the Premier said. "We're a territory filled with promise and potential. Northerners are people with hardy spirits. We can get behind big ideas and goals - especially goals we all share."

The goals of the NWT's 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly are articulated in the Assembly's vision "Northerners Working Together".

Premier Roland says the titled embodies a spirit he wants to renew. "I want us to achieve progress. I want us to achieve our vision. I want us to build a stronger, more prosperous Northwest Territories," he said.

Premier Roland's remarks to the NWT Chamber on Tuesday followed those of Ministers Miltenberger and McLeod who emphasized the importance of the GNWT's role as a stabilizing influence on the NWT economy during a time of economic uncertainty and in protecting and preserving the economic capacity and potential that has been built in the NWT's business community.

"When it comes to the economy, what goes down must come up," the Premier said. "Working together we can shake off the doom and gloom news we hear - get through these challenging times - and re-position ourselves for a bright and prosperous future."

For more information contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca

N.W.T. LEGISLATIVE \* "BRARY APR 0 2 2009 reflowknite, N



R(16)010409164

## **NWT Premier Offers Congratulations to Nunavut**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 31, 2009)** - On the occasion of its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Territory, Northwest Territories Premier Floyd Roland is today offering his congratulations to the people and leaders of Nunavut.

"This day marks the occasion of a bold and visionary step taken by the people of Nunavut, the NWT and Canada to realize a greater self-determination and voice for Inuit people," said Premier Roland.

The creation of Nunavut stemmed from the desire of Canadian Inuit to have their own government closer and more culturally-based to their region and traditions including the use of Inuktitut as the working language of the government.

"It provided an extraordinary and unequalled precedent for public government, Aboriginal people and our nation. Ten years later, despite difficulties and challenges, it remains a worthy and notable accomplishment – something Nunavummiut should embrace with pride and celebration."

For more information contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca

> N.W.T. LEGISLATIVE LIREAD APR 0 2 2009 Volidwiniv



R(16)020409165

### **Overview of the GNWT Approach at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games**

**INUVIK (April 02, 2009)** – The signing of an agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) will allow the GNWT to actively promote the people, artists, performers and tourism destinations of the Northwest Territories (NWT) to an international audience at a world-class event. Details of the GNWT's planned investment in promoting the North at the Olympic Winter Games were released today.

GNWT objectives for participation at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games include:

- highlighting the culture, landscape, and natural history unique to the Northwest Territories;
- promoting the development of youth leaders and cultural and community pride; and
- promoting the NWT as a desirable destination to live, work, and play.

The planned activities, outlined in the attached backgrounder, provide an overview of specific elements of the GNWT participation at the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

"The Olympic Winter Games will bring spectators from around the world to Canada," said Premier Floyd Roland. "This is a rare opportunity for us to promote the NWT and what it has to offer to a national and international audience that can often be beyond our reach. Taking advantage of this opportunity to promote our culture, heritage and unique tourism destinations and provide experiences for our youth is part of the GNWT's plan to build our future and maximize our opportunities."

"The appeal of Canada's northern culture is well recognized around the globe," said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "Our support for NWT artists and performers will not only showcase our culture and heritage, but will help to make these truly Canada's Games."

The highlight of territorial involvement will be Northwest Territories Day on February 19, 2010. NWT Day will provide numerous opportunities to showcase territorial artists and performers, demonstrate traditional Dene and Inuit games and promote the people and opportunities of the Northwest Territories. The three northern territories are working together to promote Canada's North, showcase Canada's northern culture and history, and provide opportunities for northerners to take part in the Games.

Yellowknife, N.v

The GNWT participation at the 2010 Games will be supported by youth ambassadors selected from communities across the Northwest Territories. Activities are planned for these youth and in territorial communities that will have a lasting positive effect. "We want to get our communities and in particular our youth involved in the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games," said the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. "We want to promote the Olympic ideal and the health and social benefits of participation in sport in all our communities."

A pan-territorial marketing campaign is being planned to coordinate with the 2010 Games to promote interest and investment in Canada's North. Plans for a jointly sponsored Northern pavilion are also being developed with the Yukon and Nunavut. This "Northern House" will provide a focal point for Northern and NWT participation at the Games, a retail location for northern artists, and a venue to promote territorial business and investment opportunities.

"Our approach to marketing and promoting our territory at the 2010 Games reflects our pride in the Northwest Territories," said the Honourable Bob McLeod, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. "We want to show to the rest of Canada that the Northwest Territories is a great place to visit, live and work."

More information on each of the elements of territorial participation at the Games will be developed in the coming months.

For more information contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew williams@gov.nt.ca



For R(16)020409165

### GNWT Participation at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games

Contributing Territory Agreement

• The GNWT has signed a partnership agreement with VANOC that includes a designated "NWT Day" at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games, provides access to the Games and associated cultural events, outlines support for torch relay activities and establishes a cooperative relationship between the territory and VANOC.

Pan-Territorial Approach

• Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut are taking a pan territorial approach to their involvement and the 2010 Winter Games and are cooperating on several aspects of their participation in the Games.

Youth Ambassadors

- A youth ambassador program will provide an opportunity for youth (aged 17-25) from all 33 NWT communities to volunteer at the 2010 Winter Games.
- The program includes community youth leadership development leading up to 2010, community celebrations during the Games and follow up leadership development for participating youth.

Torch Relay

- As per the contributing territory agreement with VANOC, the GNWT will choose five youth, one from each region of the Northwest Territories, to carry the torch in the Northwest Territories.
- The Olympic torch will come through Inuvik, Dettah and N'dilo and Yellowknife and the GNWT will support torch relay related community celebrations

Inuit & Dene Game Demonstrations

• There will be Inuit & Dene Games Demonstrations at VANOC and other celebration sites during the 2010 Winter Games.

Artists & Performers

- The GNWT is supporting NWT artists involved with the Cultural Olympiad as well as NWT artists and performers participation at the 2010 Olympic Games.
- The GNWT will also identify performers to participate in Northern activities at the Games.

**Community Activations** 

- The GNWT will use its partnership to promote the Olympic ideals and the health and social benefits of participation in sport throughout the territory leading up to and during the Games.
- Schools are encouraged to involve their students through a number of educational and related programs including the 'Canadian Olympic School Program', the 'Sharing the Dream Webcast Series', 'Project Showcase' and participation in the Pan-Canadian Paralympic School Week.

Northern Marketing Campaign

- The Northern Marketing Campaign is a pan territorial campaign that broadly promotes interest and investment in Canada's North.
- Media messaging, media kits and other tools will be used in the Northern Marketing Campaign.

#### NWT Day

- February 19<sup>th</sup> will be NWT Day at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games.
- On NWT Day, the NWT will host the nightly victory celebration in BC Place which includes medal ceremonies, a headliner performance, and an NWT specific show that will showcase territorial performers and promote the NWT as a place to live, visit and invest.

#### Canada's North Events

- The territories are working together and will focus their pan-northern participation and promotion of the territories on special Canada's North events.
- Northern performers will be showcased at various celebration sites around Vancouver and special events will celebrate the Northwest Territories languages, culture and unique Northern identity.

#### Northern House

- A Northern House is planned in cooperation with the territories of Nunavut and Yukon.
- The Northern House will serve as a focal point to get information on the three northern territories, promote investment and tourism, promote Northern artists, and provide a meeting location for territorial participation.





For Immediate Release

#### April 2, 2009

#### Premier Signs Contributing Territory Agreement as NWT Joins Vancouver 2010 Team

INUVIK (April 2, 2009) – Premier Floyd Roland of the Northwest Territories and the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) announced today in Inuvik the Northwest Territories' (NWT) participation in the Contributing Province/Territory Program.

The agreement formalizes a number of areas for cooperation and provides opportunities for the Northwest Territories to be promoted and celebrated at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, helping to make these truly for all Canadians in all regions.

"The 2010 Winter Games provides a remarkable international forum for us to showcase our part of Canada to the world," Premier Roland said. "We will use it to raise the profile of our territory's natural beauty and riches, provide learning and leadership opportunities to our youth and showcase our performers, artists and boundless potential. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to demonstrate to the world why Canada's Northwest Territories is a great place to live, work and visit."

The Northwest Territories has been developing a variety of projects as part of its participation in the 2010 Winter Games and is taking a pan-territorial approach with the Yukon and Nunavut to promote Canada's North, showcase northern culture and history and provide opportunities for northerners to take part in the Games.

"The Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games are a celebration of all that our great country has to offer," said John Furlong, Chief Executive Office for VANOC. "We are extremely pleased to welcome the Northwest Territories as the newest addition to the Contributing Province/Territory Program. This partnership is an exciting opportunity for the story of this region and its rich heritage to be told on the world stage at what will truly be 'Canada's Games'."

#### VANOC's Contributing Province/Territory Program (CPTP) enables the Northwest Territories to:

- · Organize an NWT Day at the 2010 Winter Games to promote our territory
- Participate in the Cultural Olympiad, which will include opportunities for NWT artists
- Promote tourism, trade and investment
- · Encourage Aboriginal participation in the Games and preceding events
- Enhance involvement in the NWT portion of the torch relays for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games
- Access VANOC promotional materials
- Use the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and Own the Podium 2010 logos
- Promote educational and volunteer opportunities relating to sport and culture, and encourage healthy lifestyles.

R(16) 166

#### About the Contributing Province/Territory Program

VANOC's Contributing Province/Territory Program (CPTP) offers a structured avenue for provinces and territories to participate in the 2010 Winter Games. Under the CPTP, signatory provinces and territories receive a package of benefits that create a close association with the Games, similar to those of corporate sponsors. In return, participating provinces and territories make a financial contribution towards the success of Canadian athletes in 2010 through the Own the Podium 2010 program; culture and arts, through the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad and directly, to staging successful Games in 2010. VANOC developed this new program in response to interest demonstrated by Canada's provinces and territories outside of British Columbia to allow for greater involvement in the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

#### **About the Northwest Territories**

The Northwest Territories is a land of breathtaking beauty, untold resources and exciting opportunities created by people of diverse and unique cultures, and differing origins, all of who contribute to its vibrancy and colour. Our environment is one of the last unspoiled wildernesses on earth. The Northwest Territories has a promising future entrenched in a traditional past. We have taken the lessons of our ancestors and put them to work in a modern world. Diamonds, oil and gas, tourism, clean energy: these are just some of the boundless opportunities Northerners are investing in today.

#### **About VANOC**

VANOC's government partners provide funding, infrastructure, essential service support and management services to the 2010 Winter Games, which will contribute to the lasting economic, sport, cultural and social legacies for citizens and communities throughout Canada. VANOC's government partners include the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, the City of Vancouver and the Resort Municipality of Whistler. The NWT joins other members of VANOC's CPTP, which, to date, include Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island. VANOC's Venue Cities are Richmond, Surrey and West Vancouver. VANOC has also signed an memorandum of understanding (MOU) with each Canadian province and territory. 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 Vancouver 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. To find out more, visit www.vancouver2010.com.

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2302

VANOC Communications Katie Green Media Relations VANOC (778) 227-6074

R(16)030409167

Northwest W

# **Strong Northern Partnerships Reflected in Arctic Research Funding**

**INUVIK (April 03, 2009)** – Federal funding announced this week for research in the Northwest Territories (NWT) will provide support and stimulus to ongoing GNWT efforts to ensure opportunities and choices for all NWT residents and businesses for the future.

This is one of the primary goals set forth by the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly in its vision Northerners Working Together.

In particular, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty said he is pleased to see \$11 million in funding for a joint proposal developed by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Aurora College and the GNWT to replace the aging Aurora Research Institute in Inuvik.

"NWT residents will not be the only ones to benefit from this investment," Minister Lafferty said. "All Canadians will gain from the informed decision making and research that will come from this NWT-based facility in future years."

Four investment initiatives totaling almost \$15 million were announced for the NWT this week by the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Development, Chuck Strahl.

MLA Tom Beaulieu, Chairperson of the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee of Social Programs says new investment in the NWT is always welcome. "At the end of the day, we're talking about resourcing and empowering the social and economic well being of our people and communities," he said. "That's good news."

"The GNWT is committed to building a strong and independent territory," Premier Floyd Roland added. "We will require the strength and resources of many different partnerships to realize the full extent of possibilities that our future holds."

"The proposal and plan for the Western Arctic Research Institute, and the support for the North demonstrated by Minister Strahl in securing this investment from Canada's Research Infrastructure Fund, has provided a strong model for what can be achieved when "Northerners work together."

For more information contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew williams@gov.nt.ca N.W.T. LEGISLATIVE COM AFR 0.3 2009 Yisilowknillo, N.M.C.

Home Your MLA Departments Publica

Publications Facts

NWT Map

**-** 93 to -

Strong Northern Partnerships Reflected in Arctic Research Funding R(16)167 - Friday, April 03, 2009

**INUVIK (April 03, 2009)** – Federal funding announced this week for research in the Northwest Territories (NWT) will provide support and stimulus to ongoing GNWT efforts to ensure opportunities and choices for all NWT residents and businesses for the future.

This is one of the primary goals set forth by the 16th Assembly in its vision Northerners Working Together.

In particular, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty said he is pleased to see \$11 million in funding for a joint proposal developed by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Aurora College and the GNWT to replace the aging Aurora Research Institute in Inuvik.

"NWT residents will not be the only ones to benefit from this investment," Minister Lafferty said. "All Canadians will gain from the informed decision making and research that will come from this NWT–based facility in future years."

Four investment initiatives totaling almost \$15 million were announced for the NWT this week by the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Development, Chuck Strahl.

MLA Tom Beaulieu, Chairperson of the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee of Social Programs says new investment in the NWT is always welcome. "At the end of the day, we're talking about resourcing and empowering the social and economic well being of our people and communities," he said. "That's good news."

"The GNWT is committed to building a strong and independent territory," Premier Floyd Roland added. "We will require the strength and resources of many different partnerships to realize the full extent of possibilities that our future holds."

"The proposal and plan for the Western Arctic Research Institute, and the support for the North demonstrated by Minister Strahl in securing this investment from Canada's Research Infrastructure Fund, has provided a strong model for what can be achieved when "Northerners work together."

For more information contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca



PHONE DIRECTORY CONTACT US JOB OPPORTUNITIES SEARCH INFORMATION FOR EMPL

Copyright 2000 - Government of the Northwest Territories

# Canada



# News Release

#### NORTHWEST TERRITORIES INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING EXTENDED TO 2014

Investment in road and water treatment improvements to create jobs and keep the economy moving

**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, April 7, 2009** – Canada's Minister of Health, the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, along with the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Transportation, announced today that communities across the Northwest Territories can now better plan for their long-term infrastructure needs thanks to a \$60 million extension of the Canada-Northwest Territories Gas Tax Fund agreement from 2010 and 2014. They were joined today by Yellowknife Mayor Gord Van Tighem, President of the Northwest Territories.

"Our Government is committed to helping the Northern economy grow," said Minister Aglukkaq. "By investing in regional infrastructure, we are creating jobs and building Northern communities."

In the Northwest Territories, the Gas Tax Fund supports environmentally sustainable infrastructure, such as water, wastewater, solid waste, community energy systems and active transportation infrastructure improvements. Funding is also available for communities to enhance their capacity to plan for long-term sustainability. From 2005 to 2014, Northwest Territories communities will receive \$97.5 million through the Gas Tax Fund. The Gas Tax Fund will become permanent in 2014.

"The Gas Tax Agreement received support from community governments and the Northwest Territories Association of Communities as being the preferred model for the delivery of federal infrastructure programs in the NWT," added Minister Michael McLeod, on behalf of Minister Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. "As a result of the Agreement, communities are undertaking longterm planning through the development of their Integrated Community Sustainability Plans and investing in priority infrastructure."

"Extension of the Gas Tax Agreement is an investment in NWT communities," said Gordon Van Tighem, President of the NWT Association of Communities. "Thanks to predictable, long-term funding, we can revitalize our communities with critical infrastructure that contributes to a prosperous future. We are grateful to the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories for this commitment."

R(16)168

In addition to extending the Gas Tax payment for four years, the Government of Canada is doubling the annual funding that the Northwest Territories receives through the Gas Tax Fund and making the funding available to municipalities almost three months early. This means the Gas Tax payment has increased in the Northwest Territories from \$7.5 million to \$15 million per year.

The Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan is accelerating and expanding the existing federal investment of \$33 billion in infrastructure with almost \$12 billion in new infrastructure stimulus funding over two years. The Government of the Northwest Territories is working closely with the federal government and the NWT Association of Communities to ensure that these infrastructure funds are being spent well on priorities in these communities.

For more information about the federal Gas Tax Fund, please visit <u>www.buildingcanada.gc.ca</u> or <u>www.infrastructure.gc.ca</u>.

-30-

For further information contact:

Chris Day Press Secretary Office of the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure 613-991-0700

Infrastructure Canada 613-948-1148

Rebecca Alty Communications Advisor Municipal and Community Affairs 867-920-3092

Earl Blacklock Manager of Public Affairs and Communications Department of Transportation 867-873-7712 867-445-3494 (cell)

# Backgrounder

#### CANADA AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES FUND WATER TREATMENT AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Canada and the Northwest Territories are working together to support key infrastructure under Building Canada, the Government of Canada's infrastructure plan.

Today's announcement identifies fourteen infrastructure initiatives in the Northwest Territories that will receive funding under the Provincial-Territorial Base Fund. These initiatives are:

- Kakisa River Bridge Construction of new bridge;
- Yellowknife Airport Combined Services Building Replacement of 40 year old maintenance garage;
- Tuktoyaktuk Gravel Access Road to Source 177 New access road to municipal gravel source, representing Phase 1 of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk all-weather road;
- Two initiatives involving research and development for climate change and engineering studies;
- Fort Good Hope Water Treatment Plant Upgrade to meet Canadian drinking water guidelines;
- Tsiigehtchic Water Treatment Plant Upgrade to address deficiencies identified in the water system review and to ensure fully functional operation;
- Tulita Water Intake initiative Removal and reinstallation of intakes at a lower elevation to address current intakes which are at risk;
- Nahanni Butte Water Treatment Plant Upgrades to meet Canadian drinking water guidelines;
- Deh Cho Boulevard- New access to accommodate heavy truck traffic in Yellowknife;
- Rehabilitation of Yellowknife Highway 3 (km 245 to 338);
- Mackenzie Highway 1 (km 0 to 85) Widening and geometric improvements;
- Upgrades at four other water treatment plants to meet Canadian drinking water guidelines; and
- Administration support for community governments.

Canada

The total eligible cost is \$97.8 million. The Government of Canada will provide \$58.8 million and the Northwest Territories will provide \$31.6 million. The balance of funding will be provided by municipal partners. Additional priorities will be funded through the remainder of the Northwest Territories' allocation under the Provincial-Territorial Base Fund.

Under the Building Canada Plan, the Government of Canada has committed more than \$277 million to infrastructure projects throughout the Northwest Territories. As part of this plan, the Provincial-Territorial Base Funding Agreement provides the territory with \$185.8 million to support core infrastructure priorities.



# Canada



# News Release

#### CANADA AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES FUND WATER TREATMENT AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, April 7, 2009** — Canada's Minister of Health, the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, along with the Honourable Michael McLeod, Northwest Territories' Minister Responsible for Infrastructure and Minister of Transportation, today announced that their governments are investing in fourteen infrastructure initiatives in the territory. Improved water treatment and safer roads are two key results from this investment.

"The Government of Canada recognizes that infrastructure investments are key to creating jobs and stimulating the economy, and this is why we are working with our partners to accelerate funding toward priority initiatives," said Minister Aglukkaq. "These investments will go a long way to support local economic stimulus and provide long-term benefits for local communities."

"The Government of the Northwest Territories appreciates ongoing federal assistance to improve the safety of our highways and winter roads," Minister Michael McLeod said. "This funding allows the NWT to address some immediate priorities while helping us stimulate our economy during the current downturn in the resource sector."

"The Building Canada Plan enables the Government of the Northwest Territories to further support community governments in addressing their local infrastructure priorities," added the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. "This funding helps community governments develop sustainable, vibrant, safe communities."

The Government of Canada has committed more than \$58 million towards the fourteen initiatives that have been approved under the Provincial-Territorial Base Funding. The funding announced today supports the Northwest Territories' 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 Annual Capital Plans. Among the initiatives receiving funding are the extension of the Deh Cho Boulevard, the Tuktoyaktuk gravel access road, the completion of the new Kakisa Bridge, and multiple water treatment initiatives across the Northwest Territories.

The Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan is accelerating and expanding the existing federal investment of \$33 billion in infrastructure with almost \$12 billion in new infrastructure stimulus funding over two years.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is working closely with the federal government and the NWT Association of Communities to ensure that infrastructure funds are being spent on priority initiatives throughout the territory.

For further information, visit www.buildingcanada.gc.ca.

-30-

For further information contact:

Chris Day Press Secretary Office of Canada's Transport and Infrastructure Minister 613-991-0700 Earl Blacklock Manager of Public Affairs and Communications Department of Transportation 867-873-7712

Infrastructure Canada 613-948-1148



x(16)080409170

# 92<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 08, 2009)** – The flags of the Northwest Territories and Canada will be flown at halfmast at the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories from sunrise to sunset Thursday, April 9, 2009 to mark the national day of remembrance of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was the first time that Canadian troops from all across Canada had fought as a cohesive unit. Four Victoria Crosses were awarded to members of the Canadian Corps for their actions during the Battle.

"The Battle of Vimy Ridge has become a Canadian symbol of what can be accomplished through unity and sacrifice," said the Hon. Paul Delorey, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

The National Flag of Canada will also be flown at half-mast on the Peace Tower in Ottawa.

For more information contact:

Dane Mason Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2302 E-mail:dane mason@gov.nt.ca





(16)090409171

# Air Travel key to NWT Quality of Life

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 09, 2009)** – Air Transportation in the Northwest Territories (NWT) is a fundamental part of ensuring quality of life for NWT residents, Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod told delegates of the Northern Air Transportation Association's Annual General meeting on Tuesday in Yellowknife.

Comparing the role of air services connecting the North to that of the East-West national Railway System, Minister McLeod highlighted the critical and vital role played by airlines in the delivery of goods, food, health care and passenger services to communities in the North.

"The northern air transportation industry continues to be the most important year-round means of transportation in our North. It helps to ensure that our quality of life is sustained," he said.

The vision, goals and priorities of the 16th Legislative Assembly are heavily focused on maintaining and advancing the quality of living for NWT residents in "sustainable, vibrant and safe communities."

Investments to improve transportation infrastructure and to connect communities are a priority in the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) work to reduce the cost of living in the North.

The GNWT is investing \$6 million in the next three years to extend runways in Fort Good Hope, Tulita and Fort MacPherson. Work is underway to leverage additional funding under the federal Build Canada Plan for airport relocations in Trout Lake and Colville Lake.

The Department of Transportation is also working with industry manufacturers to develop standards and certification requirements that will provide northern airlines with options when choosing aircraft capable of operating in the North.

Minister McLeod assured delegates that at a time when the aviation industry is facing challenges in adapting to a changing marketplace, the GNWT will lobby for prudence in the implementation of costly standards that do not apply in the NWT's unique environment but add to the burden of cost and regulatory requirements for NWT airlines.

"It is to everyone's benefit that we have a dependable, robust and healthy air transportation industry," the Minister said.

For more information contact:

Dane Mason Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2302 E-mail: dane\_mason@gov.nt.ca

	N.W.7	
A	PR 2 0	2009

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



к(16)140409172

# Saoyú - ?ehdacho becomes a Protected National Historic Site through the Protected Areas Strategy Process

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 14, 2009)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories is pleased to congratulate the community of Déline and Parks Canada on Saoyú - ?ehdacho becoming a protected National Historic Site through the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) process.

"This is a historic day," said the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. "I would like to congratulate the community of Deline and all the PAS partners who have worked together to achieve permanent protection of this cultural landscape."

Saoyú - ?ehdacho are two major peninsulas on the west arm of Great Bear Lake. These peninsulas are vital

cultural landscapes, and home to the Sahtugot'ine, the Dene of Great Bear Lake. Saoyú - ?ehdacho is also home to important wildlife species including woodland caribou, grizzly bears, wolverine, peregrine falcons, and intact boreal forest.

The Protected Areas Strategy is a community-driven process to protect natural and cultural lands in the Northwest Territories. It is a partnership between communities, regional organizations, governments, environmental groups and industry.

"Saoyú - ?ehdacho is the first area to be designated under the PAS process," said Minister Miltenberger. "Permanent protection of this important area will ensure it can be shared with future generations."

For more information contact:

Dane Mason Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2302 E-mail:dane\_mason@gov.nt.ca





x(16)140409173

#### **CSA Announces NWT Winner of Financial Fitness Challenge**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 14, 2009)** – Rosalind Skinner of Yellowknife is the Northwest Territories (NWT) winner in the Canadian Securities Administrators' (CSA) Financial Fitness Challenge. Rosalind is a long-time resident of the Northwest Territories and is currently a first-year psychology student at the University of Alberta. She has been awarded a \$750 scholarship.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) recognizes the need to build its future by investing in the capacity, confidence and health of its young and vibrant population. Members of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly have identified healthy, educated people as a goal to guide their priorities and actions.

"Saving, budgeting and investing money are important skills for youth to learn," said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Justice. "They need to know how to set and plan for short-term and long-term goals. I'm very proud of Rosalind, and I'm sure she will invest the scholarship wisely."

The CSA protects investors from unfair, improper or fraudulent practices. Securities administrators in all provinces and territories educate Canadians about the securities industry, the stock markets and how to protect investors from investment scams. In the Northwest Territories, this work is carried out by the NWT Securities Office, part of the territorial Department of Justice. The GNWT is committed to supporting a fair, appropriately controlled investment environment that provides proper protection for NWT companies and investors. The office licenses securities dealers, requires companies to disclose details of their activities and finances before selling shares or securities to the public, and takes enforcement action when appropriate.

"Part of the CSA's mandate is to help youth learn how to manage, save and invest money," said NWT Superintendent of Securities Gary MacDougall. "This is especially important when they start to earn and handle their own money."

The Financial Fitness Challenge (<u>www.FinancialFitnessChallenge.ca</u>) is an annual contest for people between the ages of 15 and 21. It provides games, tips and other interactive activities that teach young people how to save and invest money. The Northwest Territories had a total of 53 entrants, which was the best per-capita participation rate in Canada. This contest was successfully promoted through a joint effort of the NWT Securities Office and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

For more information contact:

Megan Holsapple Communications Department of Justice Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-3130 E-mail:megan holsapple@gov.nt.ca



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



(16)1704091734

### Winter Road and Ice Crossing Season in Southern NWT **Coming to a Successful End**

YELLOWKNIFE (April 17, 2009) - Travelers are advised that the Ice Crossing over the Mackenzie River near Fort Providence has closed for the season. The Ice Crossing had been limited to commercial vehicle traffic only as conditions became unsuitable for light traffic earlier in the week.

The Ice Crossings over the Liard River near Fort Simpson and the N'Dulee Crossing of the Mackenzie River on the road to Wrigley closed to light traffic (those with low clearance) at noon today. Closure to all other traffic is expected within days.

The following winter roads and ice crossings have already closed to all traffic for the season:

- Dettah Ice Crossing
- The Mackenzie Winter Road system north of Wrigley;
- Winter road to the community of Nahanni Butte;
- Winter road to the community of Trout Lake; and
- The Tlicho Winter Road system .

Improvements to the winter road to the community of Trout Lake have been completed for the 2009 season. Roadway improvements made the road safer and more comfortable for travelers. This work created employment and economic development opportunities for Trout Lake residents who were heavily involved in both planning and construction. In future seasons, three replacement bridges will be installed and further improvements to the roadway will be made. As a result, future winter road seasons to the community are expected to lengthen.

This will help reduce the cost of living for Trout Lake residents, who are dependent on the winter road to stockpile goods and to bring in materials which are too heavy to be flown in.

The Tlicho Winter Road system connects the communities of Gameti, WhaTi, and Wekweeti to Highway 3 at Edzo. Enhancements in construction and maintenance techniques, coupled with favourable weather, allowed all three roads to be built to a capacity where fuel could be hauled in full loads earlier in the season, significantly reducing the cost of resupply. The same improvements lengthened the winter road season for Gameti by 13%, to WhaTi by 22%, and to Wekweeti by 310% over the previous year. These improvements, which had a significant effect on reducing the cost of living in the three communities, occurred in the first year of a three year Negotiated Contract with Tlicho Road Constructors, a subsidiary of the Tlicho Investment Corporation.

This was the first year for the GNWT to contribute financially to the construction of the Wekweeti Winter Road with a \$300,000 contribution under the GNWT's 'Reducing the Cost of Living' strategic initiative. The Department of Transportation oversaw the construction and maintenance of the road.

The Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister of Transportation, is excited about these results. He said, "Our dedicated staff work with skilled and hardworking contractors to continually improve the way these vital links to our isolated communities are constructed and maintained. I am pleased that our residents are able to reduce their cost of living and improve their quality of life as a result."

For more information contact:

Earl Blacklock Manager of Public Affairs and Communications Department of Transportation Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 873-7712 E-mail: earl blacklock@gov.nt.ca

VPR 2 0 2009

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



#### R(16)200409175

#### Northern Aboriginal Business Association

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 20, 2009)** – The creation of the Northern Aboriginal Businesses Association (NABA) in the NWT was welcomed Friday by Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod as a "part of the great inventory of resources, strengths and opportunities with which we are working to build our future."

Speaking at a luncheon launching the Association's membership drive, the Minister said that NABA demonstrates how northerners can work together to advance opportunities and choices for Northwest Territories (NWT) residents and businesses.

"I believe that our Territory can lead our country through this economic downturn to a brighter future – and as we do, the Northwest Territories Business Community and the Northern Aboriginal Business Association which we are building today will be a model for Aboriginal economic development and participation – across Canada," said Minister McLeod.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is working with Industry and Aboriginal organizations to advance the strength and capacity of the NWT's Aboriginal Business Community by maximizing opportunities offered by resource development in the NWT.

"The Northern Aboriginal Business Association will be an integral and important catalyst in the NWT for fostering local businesses and supporting the expansion of Aboriginal expertise throughout the North," said MLA Dave Ramsay, Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure.

One of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly's goals is to realize a strong and independent north built on partnerships and a diversified economy.

For more information contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew williams@gov.nt.ca

APR 2 0 2009



R(16)200409176

#### **Increases in Funding to NWT Libraries**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 20, 2009)** – In line with the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly's vision of 'Northerners Working Together', the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) has increased direct funding to libraries for the 2009-2010 financial year. The Assembly has identified "healthy, educated people" as one of the six goals of this vision.

This increase in funding will allow smaller libraries to increase their operations from 20 hours per week to 30 hours per week and will also allow libraries to address cost increases resulting from increased utility rates, shipping rates and service use. Circulation has increased by 69% in the last two years.

"It is important to us that NWT residents have quality library services available to them," said Minister Jackson Lafferty. "We hope that this increased funding will make additional and improved services available to NWT residents who are on the journey of lifelong learning and literacy."

The Department of ECE is responsible for providing free public library services to residents across the Northwest Territories. ECE supports libraries in 15 communities in a number of ways and provides direct services to residents in the remaining communities through web and postal service. In conjunction with close to a \$270 million investment in education, this increase in library funding is one of the ways the Government of the Northwest Territories is building the future and expanding programming for children and youth.

For more information, please contact:

Shawn McCann Manager of Public Affairs Education, Culture and Employment Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-6222 E-mail: <u>shawn\_mccann@gov.nt.ca</u>



R(16)220409176

#### **April is Oral Health Month**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 21, 2009)** – The Department of Health and Social Services is distributing more than 2,500 dental kits throughout the Northwest Territories (NWT) in recognition of Oral Health Month across Canada.

The kits consist of toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, an information brochure and dental cloths for cleaning babies' teeth and gums. They are designed to educate expectant and new parents and young children about oral health and to prevent dental disease and other associated health conditions.

The Honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services, said infants and young children need a head start when it comes to good oral hygiene and cavity prevention.

"Each year in the NWT, approximately 300 children require general anaesthetic for dental surgery because of poor oral health," said Minister Lee.

Promoting healthy choices and lifestyles as a means of prevention is a key priority in the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly's goal of realizing a Territory of healthy, educated people and communities.

Dental kits will be distributed to preschool children up to age six and sent to Early Childhood programs, Health Centres, community centres, Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Programs, family resources centres and dental therapist offices.

Media interested in arranging a photo opportunity during the distribution of the dental kits or for more information about this initiative are invited to contact the NWT Department of Health and Social Services.

For more information contact:

Damien Healy Communications Department of Health & Social Services Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-8927 E-mail:damien healy@gov.nt.ca

> Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to: Cabinet Communications • Office of the Premier and Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111

<b>April is Oral Health Month</b> R(16)177 -Wednesday, April 22, 2009		SHARE 📲 🖗	<b>3 </b> )
YELLOWKNIFE (April 21, 2009) – The Depart Services is distributing more than 2,500 dental I Territories (NWT) in recognition of Oral Health N	kits throughout	the Northw	
The kits consist of toothbrushes, toothpaste, flo and dental cloths for cleaning babies' teeth and educate expectant and new parents and young and to prevent dental disease and other associa	gums. They ar children about	e designec oral health	l to <sup>Email</sup> Print
The Honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health nfants and young children need a head start wh nygiene and cavity prevention.			Digg MySpace Facebook
Each year in the NWT, approximately 300 child anaesthetic for dental surgery because of poor _ee.			Twitter What's this?
Promoting healthy choices and lifestyles as a moriority in the 16th Legislative Assembly's goal onealthy, educated people and communities.			ey
Dental kits will be distributed to preschool childr Early Childhood programs, Health Centres, com Prenatal Nutrition Programs, family resources c offices.	nmunity centres	, Canadiar	ו
Media interested in arranging a photo opportuni he dental kits or for more information about this contact the NWT Department of Health and Soc	s initiative are in		of
For more information contact:			
Damien Healy Communications Department of Health & Social Services Government of the Northwest Territories Fel: (867) 920-8927 E-mail: damien_healy@gov.nt.ca			
PHONE DIRECTORY CONTACT US JOB OPF			



#### R(16)230409178

#### Mediation Program Offers an Alternative to Court in Family Disputes

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 23, 2009)** – Northwest Territories (NWT) families will now have improved access to mediation services to help them through legal disputes, Minister of Justice Jackson Lafferty announced today.

Mediation is a cooperative approach to resolving issues that arise from separation and divorce. With the assistance of a trained mediator, the parties work out solutions rather than asking a judge to make the decisions for them.

"This program is free and is available throughout the NWT," said Minister Lafferty. "It encourages people to work together to have their issues resolved in a way that works for them. It is particularly helpful in cases where the parties are trying to work out custody and access."

"This is a great step forward for progressive remediation in the NWT," said Yellowknife Centre MLA Robert Hawkins, who raised attention to the issue during the February Budget Session. "This program will help Northerners going through separation or divorce negotiations to peacefully mitigate their differences in the best interest of their families."

Mediation services were piloted from 2005-2008 using a single mediator. The expanded program uses a roster of six mediators and is available throughout the territory.

Mediation is usually much faster and less expensive than going to court: agreements can sometimes be reached within a few hours. Mediation is not suitable for all situations, however; both parties must be willing to participate, and there must not be significant power imbalances in the relationship.

The Department of Justice is working with judges and lawyers who practice family law to make improvements to the family-law system in the NWT. The goal is to create a more effective and accessible system that gives families more choices for resolving legal disputes.

NWT residents can set up an appointment to see a family mediator by calling 1-866-217-8923. Additional information about family law, including legal forms and guides, is available at <u>http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/FamilyLaw/</u>.

For more information contact:

Megan Holsapple Communications Department of Justice Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-3130 E-mail: megan holsapple@gov.nt.ca

> Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to: Cabinet Communications • Office of the Premier and Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2302 or (867) 669-2304 • Fax: (867) 873-0111



R(16)240409179

#### Immunization Awareness Week – April 25 – May 2, 2009

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 24, 2009)** – The Department of Health and Social Services is celebrating National Immunization Week from April 25 to May 2, 2009. This year's theme is *A Family Affair*.

"We need to protect adults, elders, children and those with chronic illness from vaccinepreventable diseases such as measles or meningitis," the Honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services, said.

The good news is that the Northwest Territories is leading the way in terms of immunization coverage rates across Canada. The NWT has a coverage rate of 86 per cent while the rate across Canada is 72 per cent.

"I encourage all residents to make sure their immunizations are up-to-date," Minister Lee said.

This year, a student from Yellowknife was chosen as the Territorial winner and national runner up in the Canadian National Immunization Poster Contest. A poster drawn by Jessa Garcia, a Grade 6 student from Weledeh School, is highlighted on the Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion website and Department of Health and Social Services website.

For more information contact:

Damien Healy Manager, Communications Department of Health & Social Services Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-8927 E-mail: damien\_healy@gov.nt.ca







R(16)240409180

#### **GNWT and UNW Reach Tentative Agreement**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 23, 2009)** – The Union of Northern Workers (UNW) and the Government of the Northwest Territories have reached a tentative agreement for a new three-year collective agreement.

If ratified, the new collective agreement will be effective April 1, 2009 and will apply to the almost 4000 UNW members employed by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) across the Northwest Territories (NWT), as well as employees with the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission in the NWT and Nunavut.

UNW President Todd Parsons said, "I am pleased that we have been able to come to a tentative agreement with the GNWT for our members. The Union's bargaining team will be recommending ratification of this agreement."

Debbie DeLancey, Deputy Minister of Human Resources, welcomed the new agreement. "Together we have taken big steps to balance both our needs, including making administration of the agreement clearer and simpler. We are very pleased that an agreement has been reached."

Both parties will be sending the tentative agreement for ratification.

For more information contact:

Todd Parsons President Union of Northern Workers Tel: (867) 873-5668 Debbie DeLancey Deputy Minister Department of Human Resources Tel: (867) 873-7187

> N.W.T LEGISLATIVE APR 2 8 2009 Yellowict

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to: Cabinet Communications • Office of the Premier and Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2302 or (867) 669-2304 • Fax: (867) 873-0111



R(16)270409181

#### **2009 Fuel Price Reductions**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 27, 2009)** – Communities served by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Petroleum Products Division (PPD) have seen decreases of up to 27% in the prices of petroleum products since January.

Minister of Public Works and Services (PWS) Michael McLeod says these reductions are a reflection of the GNWT's work to address the high costs of living in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

"The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to supporting residents who live in our higher-cost communities," the Minister said. "With the prudent use of the Petroleum Products Stabilization Fund and by taking advantage of lower market prices, we have been successful in alleviating some of the pressures associated with fuel costs for our residents."

Through its Petroleum Products Division, the GNWT provides heating fuel and gasoline in communities not served by the private sector. Prices of heating oil and gasoline in higher cost communities may be reduced through a subsidy from the Petroleum Products Stabilization Fund.

In January, 2009, retail prices for heating oil and gasoline were reduced by \$0.16 cents per litre for all nongovernment customers and community government customers in these communities - in advance of the annual resupply adjustments to reflect the declining market cost of fuel.

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the prices of heating oil, diesel fuel and gasoline were further reduced by up to 29 cents per litre for customers in the Sahtu communities of Deline and Colville Lake. The price of gasoline was reduced in Tulita by 22 cents per litre. Since the beginning of this year, the price of heating fuel in Deline has dropped by 39 cents, from \$1.43 per litre to \$1.04 per litre.

Yesterday, the prices of heating oil, diesel fuel and gasoline were further reduced by up to 45 cents per litre for customers in Tłîchô and Dehcho communities. Since the beginning of this year, the price of heating fuel in Whatì has dropped by 45 cents, from \$1.48 per litre to \$1.03 per litre.

For those communities re-supplied by barge, an additional adjustment will take place in the fall of this year.

Initiatives to reduce the cost of living in the NWT are an important part of the GNWT's work to build sustainable, vibrant and safe communities as envisioned by the 16th Legislative Assembly.

For further information, contact:

Amy Hacala Senior Policy Advisor Department of Public Works and Services Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 873-7445 E-mail: amy\_hacala@gov.nt.ca



R(16)280409182

#### National Victims of Crime Awareness Week: April 26-May 2, 2009

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 28, 2009)** – Victim services workers across the Northwest Territories (NWT) are celebrating National Victims of Crime Awareness Week. Events are scheduled throughout the week and include:

- Women's group meeting in Fort Smith (Monday). Call Lynn: 872-3520.
- Residential schools survivors' meeting in Yellowknife (Tuesday). Call Rebecca and Marie: 920-2978.
- Community breakfast in Fort Simpson (Wednesday). Call Alex: 695-3136.
- Community services open house in Fort Smith (Thursday). Call Lynn: 872-3520.
- World Café: Stomp The Stigma in Yellowknife (Friday). RSVP by April 28 to 920-2978 or to allison.ykvictimservices@gmail.com.

"Victims of crime often need extra support," said Minister of Justice Jackson Lafferty. "Some need help to talk about what happened to them or to participate in formal court proceedings. Others need information so they can make good decisions about what to do next. Our victim services workers give them the help they need when they need it."

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) supports victim services programs in seven communities, with outreach to communities without on-site services. The program includes the following direct services:

- Help to testify in court or at hearings
- Safety planning
- Emotional support in person or by phone
- Referrals to other community agencies
- Help for victims of serious violent crime to complete Victims of Crime Emergency Fund applications
- Information about the progress of the victim's case

The program contributes to the GNWT's goal of ensuring communities are sustainable, vibrant and safe, and is one way the GNWT works with families and communities to improve residents' well-being.

For more information contact:

Megan Holsapple Communications Department of Justice Tel: (867) 920-3130 E-mail: <u>megan\_holsapple@gov.nt.ca</u>



R(16)270409183

#### Premier Roland to Represent NWT in Tromsø, Norway

YELLOWKNIFE (April 28, 2009) – Premier Floyd K. Roland will be advancing Northwest Territories (NWT) interests this week at a meeting of the Arctic Council and the Melting Ice – Regional Dramas, Global Wake-Up Call international conference in Tromsø, Norway.

Yellowknife Centre MLA Robert Hawkins is also attending the events which will offer an opportunity to build international understanding and cooperation on key issues impacting the North including climate change, pollution, human health and social conditions.

With the sovereignty, resources and environment of Arctic countries under increasing global scrutiny, the Arctic Council meeting will give circumpolar countries and Northern peoples a forum in which to share concerns, ideas and solutions on these issues.

Given the significance of these issues to Northerners, Premier Roland, as well as the Premier and Deputy Premier from Nunavut and Yukon are attending these important meetings as part of the Canadian delegation led by federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Lawrence Cannon. This is the first time a sitting NWT Premier has attended an Arctic Council meeting.

Premier Roland has consistently stated that the most effective way to exercise Canadian sovereignty is to ensure that coastal and other communities in the North are sustainable. Northerners are the embodiment – the human dimension – of Canada's Arctic Sovereignty.

While in Tromsø, Premier Roland has also been invited by His Excellency Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, and conference host former US Vice President Al Gore to attend the Melting Ice – Regional Dramas, Global Wake-Up Call international conference. It will be a venue for discussion among world leaders on climate change with a view to sending a strong and united message to the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference.

For more information contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca







R(16)290409184

### Canada's Territories support Canada at the Arctic Council: Circumpolar Relations, Adaptation, Sustainable Communities

**Tromsø, Norway – April 29, 2009**: Canada's three territories participated today as members of the Canadian delegation to the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council in Tromsø, Norway at the invitation of Foreign Affairs Minister, Lawrence Cannon. Nunavut's Premier Eva Aariak, Northwest Territories' Premier Floyd Roland and Yukon's Deputy Premier Elaine Taylor joined the federal minister to discuss Arctic issues, including those emerging as the result of the impact of climate change.

Northern Premiers recognized the importance of circumpolar relations for Canada and the need for Northern issues to be addressed by Northern voices in their 2007 statement, *A Northern Vision: A Stronger North and a Better Canada*. That statement also stressed the need for building sustainable communities across the North and focusing on adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

"Never before has there been this much world-wide interest in the environment and economic potential of the Arctic," said Premier Roland. "The Arctic is our home and it is important for our circumpolar neighbours and the world community at large to listen to the voices of Northerners. We appreciate Minister Cannon's invitation to Canada's territories to take part in this ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council."

Premier Aariak added that the working groups of the Arctic Council continue to focus on the key issues created by a more accessible Arctic. "We had a very good discussion today on the challenges and opportunities that are resulting from an Arctic that is opening up as a result of climate change and melting ice. We share a common interest within the circumpolar region to balance sustainable development with environmental protection. We support Canada's leadership in the research and preparation of recommendations related to many of these emerging issues."

Climate change was a prominent theme of the ministerial meeting – and the Melting Ice Conference in Tromsø on April 28. "The issue of climate change is very important to people living in Canada's territories," Deputy Premier Taylor noted. "We have stressed for years that the North is feeling the impact of climate change. Our participation as members of the Canadian delegation is providing us with information that will assist us in our preparation for COP 15."

Ministers representing the eight Arctic States and the representatives of the six international indigenous peoples' organizations that are Permanent Participants at the Arctic Council, issued the *Tromsø Declaration* at the conclusion of today's meeting.

Premier Aariak suggested that the territorial participation at the Arctic Council meeting supported the frameworks of both the territorial *Northern Vision* and the federal *Northern Strategy*. "I believe that this is an excellent example of our moving forward in partnership with Canada."

Premier Roland added: "Building sustainable communities through investment in Arctic economic opportunities, adapting to climate change and ensuring that Northern voices are heard in Canada's circumpolar discussions – can be all advanced through the work of the Arctic Council."

Deputy Premier Taylor concluded: "We support more emphasis on communities in the sub-Arctic region as part of the Arctic Council agenda. Canada's territories look forward to working with the federal government to support the Arctic Council when Denmark chairs in 2009-2011."

- 30 -

#### **Media contacts**

Karen Kabloona Press Secretary, Office of the Premier Government of Nunavut (867) 975-5059 kkabloona@gov.nu.ca

Drew Williams A/Communications Co-ordinator Office of the Premier and Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2304 drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca

Emily Younker Cabinet Communications Government of Yukon (867) 633-7961 emily.younker@gov.yk.ca



R(16)290409185

#### **Drop the Pop School Winners Announced**

**YELLOWKNIFE** (April 29, 2009) – Drop the Pop NWT School Award Winners have been announced for 2009. All 38 schools that took part in Drop the Pop are to be commended. There were many wonderful and worthy programs implemented this year.

Congratulations to the following schools for the effort, creativity and partnerships evident in their programs this year.

The following schools were winners of the six categories (based on student population) and received between \$1,000.00 and \$2,000.00:

Kaw Tay Whee School – Dettah Charles Tetcho School – Trout Lake ?ehtseo Ayha School – Deline Ecole St. Joseph School – Yellowknife Ecole St. Joseph Middle School - Yellowknife Deninu School – Fort Resolution Helen Kalvak Elihakvik School – Ulukhaktok Joseph Burr Tyrrell School – Fort Smith Weledeh Catholic School - Yellowknife

The following schools each received "honourable mention" awards of \$500.00 or \$750.00, based on population:

Kalemi Dene School – Yellowknife Louis Norwegian School – Jean Marie River Ecole JH Sissons - Yellowknife Ecole Alain St. Cyr - Yellowknife

Here are just two highlights of how participating schools showed initiative in engaging students and communities in the 2009 Drop the Pop NWT Challenge:

- Students at Ecole St. Joseph's School earned tokens by participating in daily physical activities, then were able to 'spend' those tokens on healthy snacks at a traveling "Tutti Fruit Stand," run by student leadership groups.
- Charles Tetcho students ran a healthy choices restaurant on Friday, March 13, and had an 'experimentation' week of trying new healthy juices.

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 negatively affect health and learning. 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 behaviours they need for successful learning, work and play in daily life. Making healthy nutritional choices will lay a foundation for successful future.

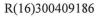
Drop the Pop NWT is funded by the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative and is coordinated by the Government of the Northwest Territories, in partnership with the Northern Nutrition Association, Food First Foundation, Canadian Public Health Association/NWT Nunavut Branch, Health Canada, Northern Stores and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

For more information, contact:

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

Damien Healy Manager, Planning and Communications Health and Social Services Tel: (867) 920-8729







## NWT Principal Honoured with National Award

YELLOWKNIFE (April 21, 2009) – Angela James, Principal of Kàlemì Dene School in N'Dilo has been chosen as 'Distinguished Principal' of the Year by the Canadian Association of Principals (CAP).

Ms James is known throughout the North as an educator who believes in the importance of community and culture in the school. In her tenure as principal, the Kàlemì Dene School, has become a community centre for cultural and social activity as well as learning.

"Angela's embodies the GNWT's vision of a vibrant Territory built on investment in healthy and active children and youth," said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. "We value her commitment contributions to our education program and are proud to have her recognized with this award."

In addition to the inspirational work Ms. James does in her own school, she is an integral part of the Educational Leadership Program that provides professional development to other principals in the Northwest Territories.

Kàlemì Dene School serves students in grades kindergarten to ten in the community of N'dilo and contracts Superintendency services from Yellowknife Education District No. 1.

Metro Huculak, YK1 Superintendent knows the dedication and commitment Angela has for her students, staff and community. "Angela's tireless effort to support staff and do what is best for students is a fine example of excellence in education. YK1 commends Angela on her success at Kàlemì Dene School."

Ms. James will be honoured among her colleagues at an awards banquet during the Canadian Association of Principals Conference May 13-15 in Winnipeg.

Her latest honour comes on the heels of her recognition as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals for 2009 through the Outstanding Principals program developed between the Learning Partnership, CAP and the University of Toronto's Joseph P. Rotman School of Management.

Tel: (867) 669-2304 • Fax: (867) 873-0111

-or-

#### For more information, contact:

Shawn McCann Manager, Public Affairs Education, Culture and Employment Tel: (867) 920-6222 **Gayla Meredith** Communications Officer Yellowknife Education District No. 1

Tel: (867) 766-5063

Communications • Office of the Premier and Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 mp AV VV



R(16)300409187

#### **GNWT Investing in Sustainable, Vibrant, Safe Communities**

YELLOWKNIFE (April 30) -- Government of the Northwest Territories initiatives to enhance community capacity for capital planning and investment have increased economic activity for many NWT communities despite current global trends, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Robert McLeod told representatives of the NWT Chamber of Commerce Tuesday.

Speaking at a reception in Yellowknife for visiting members of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, the Minister said changes to the funding and legislative framework for NWT communities has increased flexibility, stability and decision making for local and municipal governments and is allowing them to identify and pursue their own infrastructure priorities.

"The approach that we have taken to investing in our priorities and goals is resulting in economic activity – at the community level. Things are busy, people are working," he noted. "As a result, the crisis gripping the rest of Canada is not as evident in our small communities."

In the last two years, the GNWT has increased the amount of capital funding allocated to communities by over \$10 million to \$28 million annually. Funding allocated for operations and maintenance has increased (9% this fiscal year) while an additional \$15 million is being provided from annual revenues generated from federal Gas Taxes.

The GNWT is also working to leverage economic stimulus funding for NWT communities through a variety of federal initiatives.

Minister McLeod, however, noted that investment in capital infrastructure is only one part of the GNWT's overall work to improve the lives of NWT residents in small communities.

"Our vision of a prosperous and unified Territory is contingent on a broad spectrum of investment and programming initiatives."

A total of \$412 million will be invested in the coming year to support the 16th Legislative Assembly's goal of sustainable, vibrant, safe communities. They include initiatives to reduce the cost of living, improve transportation, address climate change, enhance safety and promote a healthy and sustainable voluntary and not-for-profit sector in the NWT.

"All communities and regions should have opportunities and choices," the Minister said.

#### For more information contact:

#### **Drew Williams**

A/Communications Co-ordinator Office of the Premier and Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304



R(16)040509188

## **National Emergency Preparedness Week**

YELLOWKNIFE (May 4, 2009) –National Emergency Preparedness Week runs May 3-9 in Canada. In the Northwest Territories (NWT), the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) collaborates with the Government of Canada and local community governments to ensure that all NWT residents and communities are prepared for emergencies.

"Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility among NWT residents and all levels of government," says Minister Robert C. McLeod who encourages all NWT residents to learn how to prepare for the unexpected.

"Floods, forest fires, and major storms are just a few types of emergencies that can occur in the NWT. Knowing the risks in your community, making emergency plans and getting an emergency kit are simple ways in which NWT residents can prepare themselves."

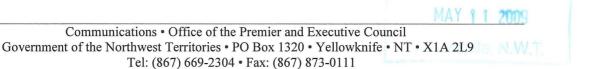
This spring, MACA has supported flood-risk communities by providing flood and safety preparedness information for community governments to distribute to residents.

To find out more about how to prepare your family for an emergency, please contact your community government or visit the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs website at www.maca.gov.nt.ca

For more information, contact:

#### **Rebecca** Alty

Communications/Website Advisor Corporate Affairs Municipal and Community Affairs Tel: (867) 920-3092





R(16)040509189

## ITI Minister Promotes NWT gas to Heart of US Energy Industry

**HOUSTON (May 4, 2009)** - Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment is in Houston this week to promote Northwest Territories natural gas resources to the heart of North America's Energy Industry.

In addition to participating in the annual Off Shore Technology Conference (OTC) the Minister will be meeting and speak with a number of energy representatives to maintain industry awareness to the advantages and benefits of advancing the development of northern natural gas.

Combined, northern gas reserves in Canada and the US could supply southern markets in Canada and the U.S. with up to 8 billion cubic feet of gas per day – and play a key role in addressing the ongoing demand for secure Energy in North America.

As an energy alternative, this Arctic Natural Gas also has the potential to reduce projected carbon emissions associated with the use of coal for electricity generation in the United States by 258 million tons by 2025.

The construction and completion of the Mackenzie Gas Project is a pivotal component to realizing the Legislative Assembly's vision of a prosperous Northwest Territories.

Minister McLeod believes that economic stimulus initiatives and cost savings resulting from the current economic downturn can be leveraged to advance the MGP in time for its completion to coincide with the full recovery of natural gas prices.

Media representatives wishing to set up interviews with Minister McLeod, or seeking more information, should contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew williams@gov.nt.ca



R(16)04050509190

#### **Centennial Scholarship Supports NWT Students in Trades**

# YELLOWKNIFE (May 4) – Twenty five (25) Northwest Territories (NWT) students have been selected to receive \$2,005. Alberta Centennial Scholarship in Trades and Occupations this year.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment works with the Government of Alberta to facilitate and award these scholarships to NWT students annually.

The Alberta Government introduced and provides funding for these scholarships across Canada in celebration of their 2005 Centennial Year and to promote the need and importance of trades and occupations in Canada.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty says the promotion of trades in the NWT is a key component of the Government's work to maximize benefits from resource development and related initiatives in the North.

"The need for skilled workers continues," he noted. "This impressive Alberta legacy is supporting our efforts to ensure NWT residents will have opportunities and choices to participate in our Territory's rich economic potential."

Eligibility includes residency in the Northwest Territories, and demonstration of ongoing education and training in a certified occupation or apprenticeship. Additional emphasis is placed on increasing the number of women in trades.

This year's NWT recipients of Alberta Centennial Scholarship in Trades and Occupations are:

Alina Bouvier	Industrial Instrumentation Technologist
Dwayne Buhler	Automotive Service Technician
Benjamin Church	Electrician
Dean Daniels	Carpenter
Shane Daniels	Electrician
Jason Elgie	Electrician
Gordon Elliott	Partsperson
Brandon Freund	Electrician
Terry Freund	Automotive Service Technician
Adrian Gherghe	Millwright
Gregory Harder	Mobile Crane Operator
Christopher Jonah	Electrician
Lee Roy Koyina	Electrician
Jeremy Mackenzie	Automotive Service Technician
Zachery McArthur	Electrician
Brad Newcombe	Electrician
Mark O'Neill	Automotive Service Technician

Jacynthia Rabesca School of Community Government Ashley Rivers Industrial Instrumentation Technologist James Scheller Welder **Richard Snyder** Electrician Blaine Squires Electrician Joyce Storr School of Community Government Jordon Thomson Heavy Duty Equipment Technician Kyle Wilson Carpenter

For more information, contact:

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



R(16)050509191

#### **Closure of Seasonal Crossings Concludes Successful Season**

YELLOWKNIFE (May 5, 2009) – Safety concerns arising from ice movement on the Arctic Red River have forced the closure of the Northwest Territories' (NWT) last remaining ice crossings near the community of Tsiigehtchic.

All ice crossings in the NWT are now closed for the season. Travelers are warned that it is unsafe and illegal to use them. With these closings, the GNWT's Department of Transportation has completed a year of ongoing and successful enhancements in its construction and maintenance of the NWT's winter transportation routes.

"Government investments in winter roads, ice roads, and ice crossings are producing economic benefits for communities across the NWT," Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod said.

"GNWT staff and contractors are continuously improving the manner in which these vital seasonal links are constructed and maintained. We are committed to lowering the cost of living and improving the quality of life for residents."

Improving the transportation infrastructure that connects NWT communities is a priority of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly's goal of sustainable, vibrant, safe communities.

Some highlights of the season:

- The Mackenzie Winter Road system was greatly improved this season. A bypass at Tulita was completed, which allows the diversion of heavy traffic and equipment away from the community, improving safety for residents. Twelve permanent pipeline crossings were built, which will speed the construction of the winter road. Bridge approaches at Big Smith and Little Smith creeks were completed, allowing these bridges to open to traffic. Earthworks for the Blackwater Creek bridge were completed, with construction of the bridge superstructure to begin this summer.
- Improvements to the winter road to the community of Trout Lake have made the road safer and more comfortable to drive, while creating employment and economic development for Trout Lake residents. This was the first year of reconstruction which will lengthen future winter road seasons to the community, and reduce the cost of living for residents.
- The winter road season to the Tlicho communities of Gameti, WhaTi, and Wekweeti was lengthened, resulting in a lower cost for fuel and other goods to those communities. The community of Wekweeti in particular benefitted from construction and maintenance techniques being improved and the lower cost of living from a longer winter road season.
- Consultations with the Tlicho Government and communities are ongoing to plan the realignment of the Tlicho winter road. When completed, the realignment will stabilize the winter road season for the Tlicho and provide economic opportunities for the people of the Tlicho.

• The deployment of ice spraying technology on the Dempster Highway ice crossings brought these crossings to full strength much earlier than in previous years. This allowed heavier loads earlier access the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Ice Road, which reduced costs for both the community and for industry.

The 2009-2010 ferry season is expected to begin in the middle of May with the launch of service across the Mackenzie River near Fort Providence and across the Liard River near Fort Simpson.

For further information:

Earl Blacklock Manager of Public Affairs and Communications Department of Transportation (867) 873-7712 (867) 445-3494 (cell) earl\_blacklock@gov.nt.ca



R(16)080509192

### **GNWT Plan On Track - Roland**

YELLOWKNIFE (May 8) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will take the steps it needs to in order to provide stability and support for the NWT economy until the private sector can recover from the current economic downturn.

Speaking to the Rotary Club in Yellowknife yesterday, Premier Floyd Roland said a record level (\$246 million) of capital investment will play a key role in stabilizing economic activity in the NWT this year. "But," he warned, "significant fiscal discipline will still be needed."

"We have all been impacted. Just like you have sat down at the kitchen table to consider where you can pinch, how you can tighten and what your fiscal responsibilities are, we have been sitting at the legislative table pondering the very same issue," he said.

"Collectively - the course we have charted, the plan that we are following and the steps that we are taking leave us well positioned as we consider the challenges that are ahead."

Premier Roland told Rotarians he's excited and rejuvenated by the 16th Legislative Assembly's renewed commitment to consensus government.

"It represents a return to the spirit and intent of our vision," he said. "Young and old, male and female, leaders and supporters, Government or private sector - we are, first and foremost, Northerners Working Together."

Premier Roland's speaking Notes are available on line at: http://www.exec.gov.nt.ca/currentnews/minSpeech.asp?mode=archive

Drew Williams A/Communications Co-ordinator Office of the Premier and Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 Cel: (867) 445-3739



R(16)090509193

# **Children's Activity Book Promotes Safety**

YELLOWKNIFE (May 8, 2009) – A new activity book designed to promote transportation safety to young children will be introduced this weekend in Yellowknife by the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) Department of Transportation. The book is available in both English and French.

The publication, in colouring book format, is called *The Super Safety Squad Activity Book* (or *La Super brigade de la sécurité Cahier d 'activités*). It is aimed at children aged three to nine. Minister Michael McLeod says it contains important safety messages which can save lives.

"It's important for children to learn how to make safe choices, especially when they are on their own," he noted. "This Activity Book will be a resource for parents to teach their children to make the right choice, the safe choice, when they're on the go."

The Activity Book was produced under the GNWT's Drive Alive initiative, which promotes transportation safety in the NWT. It is in line with the  $16^{th}$  Assembly's vision of sustainable, vibrant and safe communities. The book will be distributed by health centres, schools, and law enforcement.

Funding to print this Activity Book was provided through a partnership with Northern Stores, which will also make the book available through the company's retail outlets.

The book has songs and activities which reinforce the following safety messages:

- When riding your bike, be careful so you don't get hurt.
- Wear your helmet to keep your head safe
- A life jacket will protect you when you're around the water.
- Seat belts protect you if a crash happens
- You cannot be too prepared when travelling.
- Let someone know when to expect you.

Parents and teachers can download a PDF version of the publications by visiting the Department of Transportation website at www.dot.gov.nt.ca. Click on the link under Quick Links.

For further information:

Earl Blacklock Manager of Public Affairs and Communications Department of Transportation (867) 873-7712 (867) 445-3494 (cell) earl blacklock@gov.nt.ca



R(16)120509194

### May 11-15, 2009 - National Nursing Week

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 12, 2009)** – In recognition of National Nursing Week, the Honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services would like to thank all of the Nursing Professionals practicing in the Northwest Territories.

The theme for National Nursing Week is "Nursing - You Can't Live Without it." The Northwest Territories currently employs over 600 nurses performing a variety of roles including Licensed Practical Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and Registered Nurses who work in hospitals, health centres, and in home care, as educators, administrators and researchers.

"I am very thankful for the work our nurses do everyday. I would encourage all residents to express their appreciation to their local nurse the next time they go for a visit," said Minister Lee.

One of the many jobs our nurses perform includes promoting healthy choices and lifestyles as a means of prevention. This is a key priority in the 16th Legislative Assembly's goal of realizing a Territory of healthy, educated people and communities.

To celebrate National Nursing Week, the Department of Health and Social Services created a video profiling Nursing Professionals from across the Northwest Territories. To view the video go to the Department's homepage: www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca and click on the Nursing button on the lower right.

For more information contact:

Damien Healy Communications Department of Health & Social Services Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-8927 E-mail: damien healy@gov.nt.ca





R(16)120509195

# Partnership to Strengthen Tourism Promotion in the North

CALGARY (May 12, 2009) – A new agreement between Canada's three territories and the Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC) will help to promote Canada's North in the competitive global tourism marketplace.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed in Calgary on Sunday, will allow the Yukon, Northwest Territories (NWT) and Nunavut to optimize opportunities and cost savings by marketing their respective tourism products under the shared identity as Canada's North.

Speaking this weekend at Rendezvous 2009, the premier national and international marketplace for tourism in Canada, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod said few destinations in the world can equal the value, diversity, exhilaration and current popularity of the NWT's tourism product.

"The natural combination of our environment, beauty, people, culture, attractions and experiences provide a travel package that is hard to match," he said.

"I would like to thank the CTC for recognizing and working with us as part of Canada's Northern Tourism Partnership," said Tracy Therrien, Chairperson of Northwest Territories Tourism, the NWT's tourist destination marketing organization. "Together, we are establishing a sound supporting infrastructure for our tourism industry."

The NWTT provides destination marketing in the Northwest Territories

The Government of the Northwest Territories is proposing to invest \$8 million in the tourism sector for the coming fiscal year including \$1.4 million to capitalize on unprecedented opportunities to raise the profile of the NWT at the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics in Vancouver.

For more information contact:

Dane Mason Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2302 E-mail: dane mason@gov.nt.ca

Northwest Territories

**News Release** 

R(16)120509196

### **Premier Stresses Urgency of MGP Investment at Meet the North 2009**

**EDMONTON (May 12, 2009)** – The margin of advantage held by the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) is narrowing, Premier Floyd Roland warned delegates at the Meet the North 2009 conference today.

The Premier said that in light of regulatory delays, he is concerned that the MGP is losing ground.

"If we wait too long, we run the risk of being little more than collateral damage in a highly competitive race to meet the demands of North America's energy market," the Premier said.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) believes that construction of the Mackenzie Gas Project could provide the economic stimulus needed to help Canadians counter the impacts of today's current economic challenges.

While estimated costs to construct the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline have fallen during the economic downturn, the MGP's anticipated completion date would line up with the full recovery of natural gas prices.

"We could build low and sell high," the Premier said.

Premier Roland's address at Meet the North 2009 comes on the heels of a visit by the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod, to the United States where government incentives are being touted to promote natural gas interests in Alaska.

"We must find a way to keep an even playing field," Premier Roland said today.

The advancement of the Mackenzie Gas Project is a key element in the GNWT's work to maximize the benefits of resource development for Northwest Territories residents and businesses.

"We must act now – invest now, not because the risk of missing these opportunities is great, but because the benefit of doing so is huge," the Premier said.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew williams@gov.nt.ca

MAY 1 2 2009 Yellowknife, r.

Communications • Office of the Premier and Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111 Meet the North Edmonton, Alberta Date: May 12, 2009

Thank you everyone, and good afternoon. It's a true privilege to speak to you all today.

This conference is exactly the kind of thing that needs to be happening in this country.

Businesses, trades people, service providers, and government getting together, sharing ideas and perspectives, and networking. Looking at the issues and challenges we face... coming up with ideas to address those challenges.... examining ways of capitalizing on our possibilities.

An intersection of creativity, ingenuity, and enterprise.

Those are some of the best aspects of the Northern spirit... which you all share. It's a pioneering, risk-taking, and hardy spirit. It's the same spirit that is going to power the new Canada we want to build. A Canada that's competitive and savvy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

It's the same bold spirit that's going to propel us into the future. Because the North truly is the heart of our country's economic future.

We are no longer out of sight and out of mind – no longer Canada's forgotten family member. Whether we formally change our motto or not, Canadians - and the rest of the world increasingly consider Canada to be a nation from coast to coast to coast. That has changed. We're on the national and international radar

The NWT and its resources has been the subject of media attention around the world. Even in Norway, where I was attending meetings last week, they were asking me about Ice Road Truckers.

It's been said that our people have gone from being trappers to diamond cutters – in one generation. It's a comment that speaks to how far we've come in a relatively short time. For a territory of only 42,000 people, we've made some remarkable achievements.

With growing development, however, we have also been acutely impacted by the up and downs of volatile resource prices. We've gone from what was a frenzied pace at times.... to a rather sudden slowdown.

All of you here today are dialed in to this. You read the papers and watch the news. You know the state of the economy and the current financial challenges around the globe. You don't need me to rehash that.

What I will say is that the NWT government, like other governments in Canada is responding.



Page 1

We recognize that in a downturn, the government is there to act as a counterweight. To provide stability and support for the economy. To help maintain economic activity and help sustain employment.

In the NWT, we are pursuing a record level of capital investment. It will work to maintain construction activity and keep trades people working. And will have derivative benefits for the service industries and communities in our territory. We're pursuing this course of action, so that we can position the NWT for future growth. We're taking action today to prepare for a return to better times ahead.

And my talk today is along those lines.

I think I could sum up my address here in one word: NOW.

Now is the time to seize opportunity. Now is the time to act and to invest. Now is the time for us to make our big plays and take bold actions.

Winston Churchill said, "The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

Well, I choose to be an optimist. I choose to see tremendous opportunity in the face of the current difficulties. If we don't act soon, we'll miss these opportunities. And I know to business people there is nothing worse than a missed opportunity.

I would like to offer today my case for taking action...

-----

First, we must consider the sheer scope of opportunity in Canada's North. Quite simply, it is one of the world's last stable and relatively untapped regions for natural resources.

Our mines and mineral resources are vast. Billions of barrels of estimated oil reserves lie untapped waiting for investors.

An estimated 6 trillion cubic feet of known natural gas reserves... An estimated 55 tcf still waiting to be discovered... Meanwhile, our lakes and rivers have the capacity to generate over 11,500 Megawatts of hydro power.

This rich and diversified resource base offers amazing opportunities for economic growth over the long term - an incredible competitive advantage in a world that will have increasing demand for energy and natural resources.

Sure, commodities prices have taken a hit over the last year, especially oil and natural gas. But ever so slightly, we are starting to see prices beginning to recover.

We know that, in time, the nature and magnitude of our region's natural resources will allow us to rebound from the challenges that now exist. Over the long term, there is enormous upside potential

We've seen unprecedented and coordinated action around the world to address the problems in the financial system. Governments everywhere are taking steps to kick start their economies.

The world may be in recession right now, but make no mistake – this is temporary.

The world will emerge from this period of volatility. And the world will continue to grow. Countries like China and India, and other emerging markets, still have aspirations for development and growth. They will be seeking out the resources they need to power that growth.

We need to position ourselves today to capitalize on this inevitability. Build and pursue resource projects now, in anticipation of rising demands.

Until recently, our economy was operating at a frenzied pace. Resource prices were strong, so everyone was pursuing projects all at the same time. The labour market was extremely tight, equipment and material costs were high. Construction costs were escalating weekly.

The recession has moderated things. There's less competition for goods and people. The labour market isn't as stretched. Prices for material have come down. It's a more affordable time to pursue projects.

As the saying goes, "buy low, sell high". NOW is the time to buy.

\_\_\_\_\_

Secondly, the North's development opportunities fit hand in glove with North America's energy, environment and security objectives.

A major debate in North America over the last 12 months has been the topic of energy. How we produce it... and how we consume it.

People are concerned about the impact of energy use on the environment. They want to be sure their environment is protected. They want their air, water and land to be clean.

The Canadian federal government has stated an objective of generating 90 per cent of Canada's electricity from non-emitting energy sources by 2020... and plans to commit substantial financial support to pursuing this objective.

Our neighbours to the south are also going through debates about energy sources.

The recent U.S. election brought concerns into focus about America's dependence on oil from the Middle East. Many leading voices are calling for America to move away from Middle East oil and move towards greater use of cleaner sources closer to home.

The question in both countries is how to meet these goals - The answer is Arctic natural gas.

Arctic Natural Gas that – if we can get to market - can help to meet the rising continental demand for energy.

Arctic Natural Gas – that thanks to a network of continental pipelines - will provide a secure, ready supply of energy for North American markets.

Arctic Natural Gas - that will add significant new volumes to the continent's supply and work to lower the cost of gas to industrial and residential consumers in Canada and the US; and

Arctic Natural Gas – that will - by making gas more competitive with coal - help to slow the everincreasing growth in greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired electrical generation plants, and play a key role in reducing climate change.

We have a region that contains one-fifth of the world's untapped oil and gas....

A continent at the end of the route that is hungry for that energy...

And Canada's North smack dab in the middle...

Now that's what I call a recipe for opportunity.

When you factor in the scale of resources in the Mackenzie Delta and the Beaufort Sea... and that the Mackenzie River offers a corridor linking the resources of Alberta, the resources of the NWT and the Arctic Ocean... you can easily see how the NWT is poised to be at the crossroads of some major trade flows.

\_\_\_\_\_

My final point is one that I hope – not just to make – but to instill in you as you leave today. It is the overwhelming sense of urgency.

We are not the only player in the Arctic.

It's no accident that countries like Russia have been flexing their muscle... and that countries are engaging in complex territorial claims to parts of the seabed. The North is the last frontier of exploration and potential. And the prize is huge.

As Prime Minister Harper says about the North, we need to use it or lose it. If we don't act NOW to secure a strategic commercial position, then someone else will.

Prime Minister Harper has stated that the federal government is poised to tap the NWT's enormous energy reserves, and to build the pipelines that will deliver that energy to North American markets. We're encouraged by that.

In many ways, we're closer than we've ever been. I must recognize the work of Minister Bob McLeod in keeping our project and our message up front in the minds of the American energy industry.

On a level playing field, our project would proceed first. However, we continue to be plagued by delays in our regulatory process.

And with each day that goes by, the US is taking stronger and bolder steps - with proposed incentives and loan guarantees that will tip the playing field in their favour. The advantage that we once held has begun to narrow and I'm becoming concerned that – instead of moving forward - we are losing ground.

The Mackenzie Gas Project can proceed and be managed in a responsible manner that will result in sustainable development to benefit the NWT and Canada. We continue to support the processes that we have put in place to advance this project in the interest of our people, our Territory, and in fact all Canadians.

However, if we wait too long, we run the risk of being little more than collateral damage in a highly competitive race to meet the demands of North America's energy market – and we will miss out on one of the greatest opportunities we will ever get to build and shape a future for our people, our economy and our Territory.

We must act now.... invest now... not because the risk of missing these opportunities is great – but because the benefits of doing so are so huge.

NOW is the time to move the Mackenzie Gas Project forward.

The costs of constructing the Mackenzie Gas Project have fallen, in light of the downturn.

We can build low and sell high. Building NOW - while prices are soft - will line up the project's completion with the full recovery of natural gas prices.

More importantly – in these times - what better single effective economic stimulus project can there be right NOW - than the construction of the Mackenzie Gas Project?

It will provide lasting, enduring value to this country - \$86.3 billion to the national economy. It most definitely qualifies as a strategic investment in Canada's economic future.

And it will provide incredible benefits across the country. Businesses and industries in other parts of the country will be called upon to supply material and services...meaning jobs and business opportunities for Canadians. In total, building this Pipeline will create over 208,000 person-years of employment.

For NWT and Alberta, the opportunities would be enormous. In the NWT, the project will create 31,300 person-years of employment and generate nearly \$5 billion in labour income. In Alberta, about 78,000 person-years of employment and nearly \$7 billion in labour income.

The Mackenzie project will generate over 57,000 person-years of employment in central Canada, where many workers in the auto and manufacturing sector have lost their jobs – and contribute \$5 billion to Ontario's provincial economy.

Talk about an economic shot in the arm for Canada.

And once finished, it would strategically position our country as never before. It would open up the North and make more exploration possible. It would spin off incredible economic activity, assisting all sectors. It would cement our position as an international resource producer. And it would assert our sovereignty over Arctic lands and resources in a real and tangible way.

But as I say, time is of the essence. We should be moving forward on these opportunities today. To wait is to risk losing them. This point was hit home to the people of the Inuvik region last week when MGM's took steps to restructure their agreement and defer their commitments to drill in the Beaufort Delta.

It's time to get a business deal in place and get this Pipeline built. Every day of delay undermines business confidence about Northern opportunities. Every day of delay generates risk that the Alaskans will eat our lunch. Every day of delay deprives Canadians of countless opportunities.

There are no advantages to waiting. Northerners have been waiting long enough to assume our role as Canada's economic engine.

The NWT is a natural extension of the economic powerhouse that is western Canada. We share the competitive advantage of natural resources. We're eager to join in shaping a bold future for Canada... a future in which our country plays a central role in the global economy and welcomes investment from around the world.

As a country, we're poised for great things. Global economics are changing... new markets are growing....and the international focus is shifting north. Canada's North is rapidly evolving, changing and positioning itself as a key economic leader of tomorrow.

I encourage all of you here today... people of enterprise and innovation.... to see the potential that I see.... and to seize today's opportunities.

Together we will continue to build a bright and prosperous Northwest Territories.

A Territory that looks to the future with confidence. One that realizes its incredible potential. And one that fulfills a great destiny in the amazing story that is Canada.

Thank you.



)140509196

# Top 10 Reasons to Live in the Northwest Territories – Minister McLeod

**EDMONTON (May 14, 2009) -** In his concluding remarks to the Meet the North Conference last night in Edmonton, Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod told delegates that more than any other resource, the Northwest Territories (NWT) needs people.

"To produce goods and services requires resources – not just raw materials and land – but people and entrepreneurship - people to empower our businesses and provide the market for goods and services that will, in turn, create more businesses," he said. "We cannot have a healthy business community without you."

The Meet the North conference and the reciprocal Prospects North Conference in Yellowknife and Whitehorse provide a forum for NWT business interests and entrepreneurs to interact and network in the interest of building and advancing economic development initiatives between Alberta and the NWT.

The event is sponsored in part by the GNWT as part of its commitment to achieve a balanced, diversified and sustainable economy as identified in the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly's vision: Northerners Working Together.

In public consultations leading up to the presentation of the GNWT's 2009/10 Budget, NWT residents identified the recruitment of new residents to the NWT as a priority to mitigate declining population levels and proposed tax increases.

Minister McLeod used his closing remarks to encourage delegates to "LookUpNorth", not just to invest or do business - 'vut to live.

The Minister offered his "top ten reasons" to live in the NWT:

- #10 You can be anywhere in 10 minutes
- #9 And in 10 minutes you can also be in the middle of nowhere
- #8 Live in a tourist's paradise Aurora Borealis and the midnight sun
- #7 The Environment The view in our backyard is "spectacular"
- #6 Consensus Government Individuals can make a difference
- #5 Economic Opportunity For those willing to work and invest with us
- #4 Earning Capacity Earn more; keep more
- #3 Safe Vibrant Communities education benefits and world-class health care
- #2 People Everybody knows your name
- #1 Our Potential It's boundless

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail : drew williams@gov.nt.ca

### Speaking Notes: Minister Bob McLeod

Meet the North – Edmonton (May 13, 2009)

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen

It's a pleasure to be here and to see the strength and diversity of the network of individuals and organizations that are ready and willing to invest in the North and in the NWT's economic capacity and development.

I would like to thank all the organizers of this conference for all of their hard work in organizing this banquet tonight.

I would also like to say a special thank you to His Worship Mayor Stephen Mandel and to you the audience for your continued commitment to the Northwest Territories - and to our economic future.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is working to realize a vision that is characterized by its title "Northerners Working Together".

As an economic and business community, I think that we have gone a long way to embodying that spirit here this week.

These events – and others like the Start Your Engines Conference in Hay River and the annual Inuvik Petroleum Show - offer a great example of the spirit of partnership that has been advanced between Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

The longstanding economic relationship between our jurisdictions is strong.

Yesterday, Premier Roland outlined to you many of the benefits that can be realized by Alberta companies willing to look up north to invest and do business. Last year – alone

 the NWT imported approximately \$3 billion in goods and services from Alberta companies and facilities.

Tonight I would like to talk about our need for an even greater resource. Today, in the Northwest Territories - more than anything else – we need people.

We are going to take the opportunity this evening to represent some of the highlights of our North – both in picture and in entertainment – and encourage you to look north next time - not just to invest or do business - but to visit and perhaps live.

Visiting and living in the Northwest Territories go hand in hand. In fact we say that – when it comes down to it - there are only two kinds of real northerners:

There are those of us that were born in the North and there are those who came North to visit for two weeks – and have never left.

This evening, as we celebrate the successful conclusion of another Meet the North Conference, I would like to offer you my top Ten Reasons to live in the Northwest Territories.

**#10** – In our communities, you can be anywhere you need to be in 10 minutes.

Those of you who live in larger cities in the south may appreciate that my daily commute to work in Yellowknife takes me approximately 30 minutes – I that's when I am walking. It would take less time if I were to drive.

While you can be anywhere in 10 minutes, **the #9 reason** to live in the Northwest Territories is that a 10 minute drive can also put you in the middle of nowhere.

The NWT is a vast, sparsely populated region of Canada. While this presents logistical challenges to us as a government, the reward for residents of our Territory is that 10

Page 2 of 7

minutes after you leave your home, anywhere in the NWT, you can be fishing, hiking, canoeing or simply relaxing in the fresh, clear and pristine Northern wilderness environment.

**Reason #8** to live in the Northwest Territories: It is a tourist's paradise.

According to Gorp International Travel, the Northwest Territories is home to two of Canada's greatest outdoor activities: Casting into the deepest fresh water body of water in North America – the Great Slave Lake - ranks 7th on their list; Rafting on the South Nahanni River ranks 12th.

Other activities considered to be among the best in Canada are camping in the tranquility of our parks and kayaking in the Arctic Ocean.

You can golf 24 hours a day under our summer sun – or in the winter - take crystal clear pictures of the aurora borealis from your front porch.

Every year, thousands of visitors from around the world visit the Northwest Territories specifically to see and experience things that – for us – are just a part of everyday life.

This leads into the **#7 reason** to live in the Northwest Territories – the environment.

From the Nahanni National Park to the Mackenzie Mountains – up the Mackenzie Valley to the frozen Arctic Pingos, the view in our back yard is - in a word – spectacular. A vast beautiful adventure landscape untouched, in many places, except for wildlife.

It might surprise you to know that the NWT now has more protected area than any other place in Canada. Our Protected Areas Strategy not only preserves our greatest natural resources, but our most significant cultural areas as well.

I'm also proud to say that the Northwest Territories leads the country in co-management of natural resources. We are working today to make sure our land, air and water are

Page 3 of 7

available to many, many generations to come. It's a commitment that all of our people share in.

Reason #6 – Consensus Government.

The size and nature of our unique style of government includes a commitment to open dialogue, inclusive decision-making, accommodation, respect and trust. It is more responsive to the needs of individual residents.

With only 42,000 of us in the NWT, the NWT is a place where a person with a vision can make their mark. Individuals can make a difference.

**The #5 reason** to live in the Northwest Territories is why we are all here tonight. That is – the economic and business opportunities that exist.

The NWT has limited financial and labour capacity. We do not have sufficient capital to finance all of the major projects or take advantage of all of the opportunities that exist in our Territory. As a result many partnerships and joint ventures have emerged between northern and southern companies to promote and service development.

Total capital investment in the Northwest Territories in 2009 is estimated at \$1.2 billion dollars, with private investment making up the majority of this expenditure. Last year, the NWT imported over \$3.1 billion in goods and services with almost all of this sourced through Alberta companies or facilities.

These stats underscore the potential and opportunity that exists for investors and companies that are willing to work with us to explore and develop our Territory.

Despite the common stereotype of Canada's Arctic frontier, the majority of the NWT's urban residents enjoy a rich and varied quality of life.

**The #4 reason** – then - to live in the Northwest Territories is Earning Capacity. Simply stated, the more you earn, the more you keep.

Page 4 of 7

On average, our employment rates are traditionally the highest in Canada.

While our residents lay claim to the highest household incomes in Canada we also have some of the lowest personal income tax rates. Generally, people living in the Northwest Territories have after-tax salaries that are at least 10 percent higher than in the rest of the country.

When you consider federal incentives such as the Northern Residency Deduction, we have the third lowest rate on earnings up to \$100,000 per year. Just for the record, that puts us ahead of Alberta.

My #3 Reason to live in the NWT is our Safe, Vibrant, Communities.

As a Government, we are investing heavily in creating a positive environment in which to grow and raise a family. Pristine natural and modern amenities promote a healthy and rewarding lifestyle for our residents and their families.

Our health care facilities are State of the Art. Education spending per student in is three times the national average.

Living in the Northwest Territories has had a very positive impact on the lives of many exceptional NWT residents.

Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of Canada, is the youngest head of any national banking system in the world. He grew up in Fort Smith. In fact, the NWT has laid claim to more than our share of professional and Olympic athletes, Hollywood superstars, Governor General Award winners and Businesses that have earned national accolades.

We like to think that special things happen in the NWT because of the special people who call it home. **The #2 reason** to live in the NWT is our people.

The history, language, arts and cultural customs of our region's original people are an integral part of who we are as residents of the NWT – but so too are the values and

Page 5 of 7

traditions of those – from around the world that have chosen to made the North their home.

Collectively, we are first and foremost northerners – our spirit is proud, resilient and vibrant.

For a territory of less than 50,000 people, we have some amazing success stories. It's all part of living in a place where everybody knows your name...where everyone is part of a supportive network. The NWT is a community.

These 9 reasons that have outlined to you today come together to create what I think is **the #1 reason** to live in the NWT today – That is: our potential.

Even in this time of economic uncertainty, we are one of the most exciting economic jurisdictions in Canada.

We know that downturns are cyclical. In time, the nature and magnitude of our region's natural resources will allow us to rebound from the challenges that now exist. Markets will return, new markets will be found – and when it happens, we will be ready.

Our Territory is rich in untapped natural resources. We have abundant oil and natural gas reserves heavily sought by North America's hungry energy market.

Our mineral potential is vast and varied: Diamonds, gold, silver, lead, zinc, rare earths and precious metals that will continue to drive valuable exploration and interest in every region of our Territory.

Our rivers and lakes offer incredible possibilities for hydro development, and our unique landscape, cultures, traditions, arts and crafts are proving to be a marketable global attraction for visitors from around the world.

Our economy is poised to burst forward in a tremendous and extraordinary rush – one that will signal the beginning of an incredible future for the people businesses and communities of the Northwest Territories.

I would like to invite each one of you here tonight to be apart of our exciting future.

There is a story about a wealthy Alberta businessman who has dedicated his life to finding a way to contact heaven. Eventually, in a church in the NWT, he discovers a special telephone that will allow him to call heaven for only 25 cents.

Being the entrepreneur that he is, the businessman quickly points out to the Priest that a telephone call to heaven should cost considerably more than 25 cents.

"Why?" the Priest asks. "Here in God's country, it's just a local call."

Thank you - enjoy your evening....



R(16)150509197

# Sales Strong for Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 15, 2009)** – Auction sales for Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur were strong last month despite the global economic slowdown. With sales of \$722,000, Northwest Territories (NWT) trappers continued to be the top performers at this year's Fur Harvesters Auction of marten, lynx, wolf and wolverine pelts which attracted up to 250 buyers worldwide.

Auction results also show a 16% increase in the number of active trappers in the NWT.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod said trapper growth is especially evident in the South Slave and Sahtu Regions where the increase in trappers, especially youth and younger adults, can be attributed to investments being made in the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) Take a Kid Trapping and Trapper Training programs.

"Rising participation in the traditional economy is evidence of the sector's continued reliability as an economic contributor even when the overall economy slows down," he said.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is 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.

Through the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs Program, the GNWT works in partnership with NWT harvesters and the fur industry to support and promote the NWT's traditional fur economy. Fur from the Northwest Territories is now recognized as some of the finest wild fur in North America.

The NWT provided the largest single selection of marten (Canadian sable), offering 12,790 pelts, generating an average price of \$62.00 with a high of \$187.00. Production of marten has increased by 31%. The principle buyers were Hong Kong/China, Russia, Greece and Italy

Interest in lynx remained strong with the principle consumer being Russia, with an average \$106.00 and a high of \$312.00. The NWT provided 1,053 pelts, a full 1/3 of the total offering at the sale. Production of lynx has increased by 83%.

Demand for wolf and wolverine was very strong and dominated by the taxidermy trade in the United States. Wolves averaged \$180.00 and a high of \$437.00. Wolverine average \$394.00 and topped out at \$537.00

The NWT has sold 22,759 pelts for a total of \$815,767.00 so far this year. The next sale with Fur Harvesters Auction will occur May 25, 2009. The final sale of the season will take place on June 18, 2009.

For more information contact:

Dane Mason Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2302 E-mail: dane\_mason@gov.nt.ca



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

**News Release** 

R(16)190509198

# 2009 Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients Announced

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 19, 2009)** – The 2009 Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients were announced today by the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA).

"Volunteers and voluntary organizations in the Northwest Territories (NWT) strengthen our communities by providing important programs and services in a variety of areas, including health, social services, education, justice, recreation and the arts," 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 2009 are:

- Outstanding Elder Award Alfred Taniton, Deline
- Outstanding Youth Award Myles Erb, Norman Wells
- Outstanding Individual Award Alana Mero, Inuvik
- Outstanding Group Award Billy Joss Open Committee, Ulukhaktok

MACA 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.

The outstanding volunteers will be honoured at an award ceremony in Inuvik on Friday, May 22, 2009.

For further details about the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards and the 2009 award recipients, please visit MACA's website at <u>www.maca.gov.nt.ca</u>.

For more information contact:

Rebecca Alty Communications/Website Advisor Corporate Affairs Municipal and Community Affairs Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-3092 E-mail: <u>rebecca\_alty@gov.nt.ca</u>



(16)200509199

# New Life for Old Mantra "Northern Control for Northern Resources"

YELLOWKNIFE (May 20, 2009) - Premier Floyd K. Roland said he is pleased to see an acknowledgment by Canada's Senate that it is Northerners themselves who must be in charge of their future.

In its report titled 'With Respect, Canada's North', the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources strongly suggests that the federal government should listen to people living in Canada's North before making decisions on a variety of issues concerning the North.

"Certainly this report reflects the same message that we as a Government have taken to Ottawa many times," the Premier said. "We have seen signs in the last year that this message is being heard. This report is further evidence."

Premier Roland said that the strength of the Northwest Territories (NWT) resource potential, the need for economic stimulus and increasing recognition that sovereignty over Canada's North is best realized through prosperous, healthy and vibrant communities means opportunities long-sought by residents of the NWT may be within reach.

The Premier will convey this message to Aboriginal leaders during their quarterly meeting today in Yellowknife.

Northern control over the administration of lands, the regulatory system and resource revenues is a stated priority of the 16th Legislative Assembly under its goal to realize "*A strong and independent North built on partnerships*".

"Canada and the international community have their eye on our North," the Premier said. "In the absence of a recognized united voice for NWT residents, we risk important decisions about the North being made without the input of NWT residents.

Copies of the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources' can be accessed <u>here</u>.

For more information:

Dane Mason Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2302 E-mail: dane\_mason@gov.nt.ca



#### R(16)210509200

# Premier Floyd Roland Congratulates Governor General's Northern Medal Recipients Bertha Allen and Georges Erasmus

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 21, 2009)** – On behalf of the people and government of the Northwest Territories, Premier Floyd K. Roland extended his congratulations to Bertha Allen and Georges Erasmus on receiving the Governor General's Northern Medal today.

Bertha Allen is a member of the Gwich'in First Nation who has gained national respect through her support for political equality as well as Aboriginal and northern women's issues. Among Ms. Allen's long list of accomplishments are the founding the Native Women's Association of the Northwest Territories, the establishment of the Native Women's Training Centres in both Yellowknife and Inuvik and involvement with the Territorial Hospital Insurance Board and the NWT Judicial Appointments Committee. Bertha Allen is currently working with the Status of Women Council's *Women's Voices Leadership Initiative*.

Georges Erasmus is a national champion of Aboriginal rights and improving living conditions in northern communities. Mr. Erasmus was elected as President of the Dene Nation in 1976 and later served as the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations from 1985 to 1991, following which he was appointed at co-chair of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Georges Erasmus currently serves as chief negotiator for the Dehcho First Nations and as president of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, a foundation created to help mitigate the residual effects residential schools have on individuals and communities.

"Bertha Allen and Georges Erasmus have been continuous voices of advocacy within the North for several decades. The progress that has been made in the recognition of their respective efforts is felt and appreciated all across our Territory and our country," said Premier Roland.

The Governor General's Northern Medal was created in 2005 and is awarded each year to citizens whose actions and achievements have contributed to the evolution and constant reaffirmation of the Canadian North as part of our national identity. The medals will be presented to Georges Erasmus and Bertha Allen by Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëllle Jean, Governor General of Canada in a ceremony today in Ottawa, Ontario.

For more information, contact:

Dane Mason Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2302 E-mail: dane\_mason@gov.nt.ca

LEGISLATIVE MAY 2 1 2009 Yellowknife, N.V.

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



R(16)210509201

### **GNWT** Meets with Regional Aboriginal Governments

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 21, 2009)** – Premier Floyd Roland, Deputy Premier J. Michael Miltenberger and leaders of regional Aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories (NWT) met yesterday in Yellowknife.

Leadership meetings between the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and regional Aboriginal governments are held every four months in locations throughout the NWT. These meetings are working to realize the 16th Legislative Assembly's goal of a strong and independent North based on partnerships.

Leaders in attendance at yesterday's meeting included President Richard Nerysoo, Gwich'in Tribal Council; Chair and CEO Nellie Cournoyea, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation; Chiefs Fred and Edward Sangris and Chief Nitah of the Akaitcho Territory Government; Interim Grand Chief Keyna Norwegian, Dehcho First Nations and Chair Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated.

One of the issues discussed by leaders at yesterday's meeting was electricity regulations, rates and subsidy programs. The high cost of electricity is a territorial issue and a concern to all governments. Leaders discussed the importance of considering sustainable renewable energy alternatives as part of the Territories' energy future.

Host Premier Roland said, "It is important that the GNWT continues to explore all opportunities and avenues to reduce the cost of living, including the cost of electricity and power generation, to NWT residents and businesses."

Leaders also discussed the proposed highway from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk. They agreed on the need to support one another in continuing the necessary work, such as the required survey and engineering work, continued route identification and the sourcing of granular material, to advance this strategic infrastructure project.

The creation of a federal northern economic development agency was discussed and Aboriginal leaders expressed concern about the inclusion and integrity of Aboriginal-specific programming being pooled with other programs that are being proposed to be delivered by the agency. Leaders showed support for the agency's headquarters to be located in the Northwest Territories.

There was agreement amongst all leaders that a renewed focus is needed among NWT leaders to speak with one voice on northern issues. "A strong and self-reliant North should be built by northerners, who are working towards a shared vision of the future," said Premier Floyd Roland.

Leaders received updates on major government initiatives such as the development of an NWT Water Strategy, regulatory improvement, boards and agencies and the status of the NWT's diamond industry.

This is the sixth such meeting between the GNWT and regional Aboriginal governments. Previous meetings have been hosted in Yellowknife and the Sahtu, Beaufort Delta and Dehcho regions. The next meeting will be held this autumn.

For more information contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca

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







#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 2009

#### TRIPARTITE SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS DAY SHELTER

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Health and Social Services, the City of Yellowknife, and BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc. are very proud to announce their partnership to support a new day shelter for homeless men and women in the Yellowknife area. The three partners have committed over \$550,000 in support of the project.

The day shelter will be operated as a pilot project for three years to allow for adequate data to be collected and evaluated on the facility's usage and future capability. Plans are underway to identify a facility and service provider to operate the day shelter, which is intended to be open and ready for use by the fall.

The GNWT is committed to fostering a healthy, educated population as envisioned by the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The Department of Health and Social Services' contribution totalling \$375,000 over the next three years demonstrates the GNWT's commitment to the serious issue of homelessness.

"I am pleased to partner with BHP Billiton and the City of Yellowknife to help address the homelessness issue in the NWT. The day shelter will provide the homeless with a safe place to go during the day and much needed public washroom facilities in downtown Yellowknife", said Minister Lee.

The City of Yellowknife has been working with local businesses to address the needs of the homeless and recognizes that the importance of providing safe and accommodating shelter during the day will help to alleviate the resulting issues that homeless people encounter when day services are not available.

Said Mayor Gordon Van Tighem, "The City is pleased to participate in this next step to provide both support and opportunity to residents and visitors who find themselves in challenging circumstances. As host to the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition, we have partnered on several successful shelter initiatives and see this as a further opportunity to fill a support gap and provide a safe option or choice."

BHP Billiton has been researching the issues of homelessness for over a year and commissioned a study to recommend solutions that will provide homeless people with a safe place to go where they may access day programs and services that meet their needs. As a result of that work, BHP Billiton is providing a total of \$150,000 over the three year pilot to support the day shelter.

"We are excited about this new partnership with Minister Lee's Department and the City of Yellowknife and envision that if the first year is successful, we may be able to garner more support to further address this group of people in need," said Richard Morland, Interim President and Chief Operating Officer of BHP Billiton's EKATI Diamond Mine. "After all, community pride is demonstrated by how we care for others. We are all responsible for the development and wellness of people in our community, and this is one of the ways BHP Billiton can contribute to those in need."

R(16)202

### For more information contact: Umesh Sutendra Communications Department of Health and Social Services Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-3368 Fax: (867) 873-0204

Max Hall City Administrator City of Yellowknife Tel: (867) 920-5624 Fax: (867) 920-5649

### Deana Twissell

Superintendent of Corporate and Community Affairs BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc. **Tel:** (867) 669-6107 **Fax:** (867) 669-9293



R(16)250509203

# Update on the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 25, 2009)** – The working group for the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) Aboriginal Student Achievement initiative has been established. Members include representatives of the Dene Nation, industry and corporate businesses, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Northwest Territory Métis Nation, the Native Women's Association, the NWT Teacher's Association, superintendents of schools and the GNWT.

The first meeting was held April 30 - May 1, 2009 in Yellowknife. The working group reviewed research and consultation materials gathered at workshops that were held over the past four months with teachers, school administrators, the Dene Nation and government staff. As a result, short-term actions have been recommended to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment regarding the promotion of education and attendance as well as the development of a tutoring campaign and a focused research campaign.

The longer-term goal of the working group is to develop and implement a territorial plan to eliminate the achievement gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students.

The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, said, "This is part of the GNWT's focus on ensuring that all Northern children have the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and abilities they will need for the future. Having a well-educated population is important for our future economic wellbeing as a territory."

For more information contact:

Shawn McCann Manager of Public Affairs Education, Culture and Employment Tel: (867) 920-6222 Cell: (867) 444-8492 E-mail: shawn mccann@gov.nt.ca

> MAY 2 7 2009 Yollowknite, N.W.T.



R(16)270509204

# **Premier Roland Delivers Sessional Statement**

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 27, 2009)** – In light of the current fiscal challenges, the Government of the Northwest Territories continues to carry out a coordinated, calculated and forward-looking plan of targeted investment and enhanced program delivery that is yielding positive results.

That was the Premier's message to Members of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly this afternoon as they returned to the House to conclude their third session. In his Sessional Statement to Members, Premier Roland said he is confident and assured that the Government's plan is the right plan for the times and is responsive to the vision, mission and goals laid out by members almost two years ago.

"As members of the 16th Assembly, we are first and foremost Northerners Working Together. This is the greatest and most important source from which I am drawing my confidence for our future," he said.

Premier Roland pointed to responsible fiscal management, increased capital spending, changes to the flow of infrastructure funding to communities and the leveraging of federal economic stimulus programs as key indicators that the Government's plan is on track.

"Much of what we have done to date has been ground work – setting the stage for the second half of our term as an Assembly: improved processes and investment that I believe has and will – and is – already paying dividends."

The Premier said he looks forward to sitting down with Members in the spirit of consensus that was endorsed and defined by all members of the Legislative Assembly.

"A strong and independent North is going to have to be built on partnerships," he said.

For more information, contact:

Dane Mason Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2302 E-mail: <u>dane mason@gov.nt.ca</u>



R(16)250509205

# New Northern Manufactured Product Recognized Under GNWT Business Incentive Policy

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 25, 2009)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories encourages the growth of local production facilities as a means to provide employment and training for northerners, diversify the economy and encourage development.

The Honourable Bob McLeod, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, is pleased to announce that Concept Energy Services Ltd. of Hay River received approval and designation of their product, *Re-locatable Industrial Modular Structures*, under the Business Incentive Policy (BIP) Interim Manufacturing Directive.

Concept Energy Services has been registered under the BIP since 2003. The business is owned and operated by Mr. Pierre (Rocky) Simpson, who employs 20 northern residents year round. His company has been providing training opportunities for apprentices since they began manufacturing modular structures in 2006.

Projects include manufacturing 51 new units to date for customers such as Metrow Construction, Kingland, Nuna Logistics, Beaver Enterprises, the NWT Power Corporation, NWT Housing Corporation and Public Works and Services. Most materials used in these renovations were supplied by local and northern companies.

The *Re-locatable Industrial Modular Structures* will be added to the list of products that have previously been approved and designated as Northern Manufactured Products, including:

- Steel Tanks (King Manufacturing, Hay River)
- Steel Tanks (Paul Bros. Welding Ltd, Yellowknife)
- Steel Tanks (Northern Transportation Company Ltd, Hay River)
- Fiberglass Tanks (Fiberglass North/Canzeal Enterprises, Yellowknife)
- Roof Trusses (Energy Wall and Building Products, Yellowknife)
- Windows (Arctic Front Windows, Hay River)

To date the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Housing Corporation have purchased approximately \$17 million of northern manufactured products.

The new northern manufactured product can be viewed on the Concept Energy Services website at: <u>www.conceptenergyservices.com</u>.

Further information about the BIP Interim Manufacturing Directive can be found on the BIP website at: <u>www.iti.gov.nt.ca/iea/bip/manufacture.htm</u>.

Contact the BIP Monitoring Office at (867) 873-7215 or visit the website <u>www.iti.gov.nt.ca/iea/bip/manufacture.htm</u> for details regarding having a product approved as a Northern Manufactured Product.

For more information contact:

Pam FitzMaurice Communications Industry, Tourism and Investment Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 873 7857 Email: pam\_fitzmaurice@gov.nt.ca



1. 16)010609206

# A Celebration of Northern Hospitality

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 1, 2009)** - Tourism Week (June 1-7, 2009) is a nationwide 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. Not only does it provide income and employment to operators and their staff, but it also provides economic stimulus to other service industries.

"It is an area of investment that has the potential to establish and cultivate viable and sustainable ventures in every one of our 33 communities," said the Honourable Bob McLeod, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI).

Last season, tourism contributed \$137.9 million to the NWT economy through owners and operators and service providers' accommodation, transportation, the food and beverage industry and more.

And this industry is not standing still - it is expanding. With help from ITI's *Tourism Product Diversification Program*, innovative operators are recreating or expanding their tourism products to meet identified and growing markets such as non-consumptive outdoor adventures.

"On behalf of the GNWT, I would like to thank the people who showcase our spectacular Northwest Territories to the world and provide the faces of true northern hospitality," said Minister McLeod.

For more information contact:

David Hastings Director, Tourism and Parks Industry, Tourism and Investment Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 873-7902 E-mail: david\_hastings@gov.nt.ca

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca



R(16)020609207

### Northwest Territories Participants in 2009 Northern Youth Abroad Program

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 2, 2009)** - The final list of participants for the 2009 Northern Youth Abroad program has been released.

Northern Youth Abroad enables youth from age 15 to 21 living in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories (NWT) to develop professional skills and hands-on work experience through a cross-cultural work and learning experience. Participants gain high school credit travelling to southern Canada and abroad, gaining global experience and job training in their chosen field of interest.

Northern Youth Abroad fosters cross-cultural awareness and develops career goals and leadership development. The program promotes international citizenship, self-esteem and life-changing experiences for our Northern Youth.

"Northern Youth Abroad provides a valuable learning experience for our students," said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "It enables them to learn from a global classroom and take those lessons back home with them."

"This program helps to develop our future leaders and good Samaritans," said Minister Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. "The youth complete six-weeks of volunteer work during the program. With the opportunity to volunteer nationally and internationally, the participants develop their leadership skills and then strengthen their community voluntary sector upon their return."

*Building our Future* by investing in children and youth is a key initiative of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). This year, the GNWT increased funding to the Northern Youth Abroad program by \$62,500 to help expand the program and further this initiative.

The list of participants from the NWT is attached.

For more information, please contact:

Shawn McCann Manager, Public Affairs Education, Culture and Employment Tel: (867) 920-6222 Rebecca Alty Communications Advisor Municipal and Community Affairs Tel: (867) 920-3092

JUN 03

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

### Northern Youth Abroad Northwest Territories Participants

### **2009 Canadian Phase Participants**

Julian Lafferty-Gon – Behchokö

Valerie Mackenzie – Behchokö

Kyle Tutcho – Colville Lake

Courtney Vital – Deline

Isabelle Tutcho – Deline

Cheryl Bertrand – Fort Liard

Neil Kotchea – Fort Liard

Chelsea Nerysoo - Fort McPherson

Preston Sabourin-Minoza – Fort Providence

Alina Lizotte - Fort Resolution

Charlene Deneyoua – Fort Simpson

Mallory Nirlungayuk – Fort Simpson

Shawney Larson – Fort Smith

Sam Mantla – Gameti

Susan Arrowmaker – Gameti

Cody Punch – Trout Lake

Brian Raddi – Tuktoyaktuk

Erica Alanak – Ulukhaktok

Zane Kuneyuna – Ulukhaktok

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

#### **2009 International Phase Participants**

Stevie Nande - Fort Liard

Paul Buggins – Hay River

Adam Nitsiza – Whati

Brian Nitsiza – Whati



R(16)030609208

# Public Works and Services Publishes Good Building Practice Guidebook

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 3, 2009)** – The second edition of *Good Building Practice for Northern Facilities* has been published by the Department of Public Works and Services for use by the Northern construction industry.

"The *Good Building Practice* guidebook provides a comprehensive set of guidelines for building in the North," said Minister Michael McLeod. "We have collaborated with northern architects, engineers, building contractors, suppliers, technical service providers and facility administrators and operators to ensure that the second edition of the guidebook reflects the actual building environment here in the Northwest Territories."

*Good Building Practice for Northern Facilities* is the product of forty-five years' experience with the development of facilities designed to withstand the harsh northern climate and to meet unique northern building challenges. This 300-page technical guidebook represents the Northwest Territories building development industry's collective corporate memory and knowledge.

The first edition, published in 2000, was published as an advisory guidebook, designed to support more environmentally friendly building development through the use of sustainable building products and practices by the northern development community.

The second edition of *Good Building Practice for Northern Facilities* updates the recommended best practices for northern construction by incorporating nine years of changed codes and standards since 2000. The guidebook includes recommendations for more environmentally sustainable construction and building products and sets out guidelines for improved energy conservation for all northern buildings.

For more information contact:

Amy Hacala Senior Policy Advisor Public Works and Services Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 873-7445 E-mail: <u>amy\_hacala@gov.nt.ca</u>

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



R(16)040609209

# James Jerome Exhibit on display at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 4, 2009)** - An exhibit of photographs by Gwich'in photographer James Jerome will be on display at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) this summer and fall, and travelling throughout the Gwich'in Settlement Area over the winter.

Jerome was a professional photographer born in Aklavik and schooled in Inuvik. He worked in the Northwest Territories in the 1970s. This exhibit is the culmination of a cataloguing and digitization project, involving over 3500 James Jerome photographs. The selected photos were taken at fish camps between 1977-1979 in the Gwich'in traditional land use areas along the Mackenzie, Peel and Arctic Red Rivers.

In 1979, a house fire claimed Jerome's life and damaged many of the negatives and prints that are now in the NWT Archives, donated by Jerome's partner, Elizabeth Jansen Hadlari, and son Thomas Hadlari. In 2008, the Gwich'in Social and Culture Institute (GSCI) coordinated workshops in the Gwich'in communities of Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson, where elders helped to identify people and places in the photographs. 3,500 of the photographs were given detailed descriptions.

"These photographs are a learning tool and help us celebrate the past of the Gwich'in people," said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "Congratulations to everyone who worked on the project."

The public is invited to the exhibit's official opening on June 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Tea and bannock will be served. The exhibit will be on display at the PWNHC from June 7<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. It will be travelling in the Gwich'in Settlement Area communities of Inuvik, Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic between November 2009 and June 2010.

An online exhibit of Jerome's photography is online at <u>http://pwnhc.ca/exhibits/jerome/index.htm</u>. The online exhibit has four photo galleries: fish camps, northern games, portraits and recreation.

For more information, contact:

Shawn McCann Manager of Public Affairs Education, Culture and Employment Tel: (867) 920-6222 E-mail: <u>shawn\_mccann@gov.nt.ca</u>

IN W. I LEGISLATIVE CON JUN 0 4 2009 Yellowknife, N.W.T



R(16)040609210

# Merlyn and Jean Carter Enter the Canadian Tourism Hall of Fame

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 4, 2009)** – On Wednesday, June  $3^{rd}$ , two distinguished northerners joined ranks with Max Ward in the Canadian Tourism Hall of Fame.

"To become a member of the Tourism Hall of Fame you must have made tourism your life's work and made a positive impact on the industry – and Jean and Merlyn Carter have certainly earned this honour. They lead the way in showcasing our spectacular North," said Bob McLeod, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

Pioneers in promoting Canada's North, Jean and the late Merlyn Carter founded Carter Air Services Ltd. and built their famous fishing lodge at Nonacho Lake where they provided over 40 years of dedicated service to the tourism industry.

A bush pilot for more than half a century, Merlyn was also a tourism aviation pioneer. He transported anglers, their canoes strapped to floats, to rivers throughout the Canadian North and Arctic. Merlyn took hundreds of sightseers and naturalists in his aircraft into Nahanni National Park as well as other scenic locations throughout the Northwest Territories. Additionally, Merlyn was also actively involved in many search and rescue missions for persons who became lost while fishing, hiking or even flying.

In 2005, Jean and Merlyn Carter were also formally recognized by Northwest Territories Tourism for their outstanding and exceptional service given as well their leadership and integrity within the industry.

For more information contact:

David Hastings Director, Tourism and Parks Industry, Tourism and Investment Tel: (867) 873-7902

Drew Williams Communications Coordinator Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304





#### R(16)040609211

### **Training Opportunity for Northern Women**

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 4, 2009)** – Employment options for northern women are expanding as a result of a partnership between the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Status of Women Council of the NWT.

The partnership, under the Council's Northern Women in Mining, Oil, and Gas Project, provides an opportunity for northern women to participate in the summer maintenance component of the Community Airports Training Program. The training is administered by the Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) School of Community Government, using Department of Transportation airport facilities.

"This opportunity supports the GNWT's *Maximizing Opportunities* initiative by improving the skills of participants to perform a job that is needed in almost every community," Minister Michael McLeod said. "I am pleased that my department is a part of this valuable initiative."

The Department of Transportation is providing an in-kind contribution of approximately \$14,000 to support the training. MACA will provide the cost of the instructor and the classroom training facility.

"The GNWT is committed to partnerships to develop programs that serve to promote strong communities and healthy residents," said the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs. "Strong partnerships and investing in education and training programs build capacity which creates sustainable communities."

Status of Women Council Executive Director Lorraine Phaneuf welcomes this opportunity to further expand career options for women in their communities. "We are very happy to help provide this opportunity to women – and to their future employers," she said. "Northern women are a great untapped resource in so many fields." The Council, using resources provided by a number of partners including the Government of Canada's Pan-Canadian Innovations Fund, is providing funding for the course. The Council is also covering travel costs and training allowances for the participants.

For further information, please contact:

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

Annemieke Mulder Project Coordinator Northern Women in Mining, Oil & Gas Project Status of Women Council Phone: (867) 920-8994 Rebecca Alty Communications/Website Advisor Department of Municipal and Community Affairs Phone: (867) 920-3092

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



R(16)050609212

# Premier Roland Offers Congratulations on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 5, 2009)** – On the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA), Premier Floyd Roland offers his congratulations to the Inuvialuit people of the Northwest Territories (NWT).

"The signing of this Agreement in 1984 was a historic moment for the Inuvialuit and the governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories," said the Premier. "As the NWT's first comprehensive land claim agreement, the IFA represented a commitment by all parties to a brighter future - one based on the recognition of Aboriginal rights and the social and cultural identity of the Inuvialuit people. With careful and strategic investments, the Inuvialuit have grown their settlement into a diversified multimillion-dollar pan-national corporation that is providing a proven model for Aboriginal participation and capacity in our emerging economic future."

The Government of the Northwest Territories remains committed to the vision, principles and spirit of a strong and independent North built on partnerships with northern people and their governments, providing all communities and regions with opportunities and choices.

"I look forward to our ongoing work with the Inuvialuit people to fulfill the vision that began 25 years ago," said Premier Roland.

For more information contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca



R(16)050609213

## **Corrections Northern Recruitment Training Program Graduation**

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 5, 2009)** – The first graduation for the Corrections Northern Recruitment Training Program was held today.

This new six-week program provides the basic skills northerners need to be eligible for entry-level jobs in Northwest Territories (NWT) correctional facilities.

"This program is a big part of our long-term northern employment plan," said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Justice. "We want northern residents to consider careers in our justice system. They are in the perfect position to help with all of our efforts to reintegrate offenders back into their communities. We have a number of jobs open right now, and I hope that the new graduates will apply for these positions."

The program was developed by Corrections staff, who also delivered all of the training. It included a range of teaching techniques, from workshops to formal classroom activities to practical training inside NWT correctional centres.

Twelve recruits graduated from the first class. The next group of candidates will be selected in August, and the second program will begin in October.

"The program strengthens awareness of northern identity and uniqueness, and encourages partnerships with community leaders," said Minister Lafferty. "It is accessible, relevant and enhances existing programming. I wish all of the recruits well as they pursue careers in NWT corrections."

For more information, please contact:

Megan Holsapple Communications Department of Justice Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-3130 E-mail: megan holsapple@gov.nt.ca



R(16)050609214

## **Breaking Through the Smoke**

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 5, 2009)** –This year, 4,300 students across the north have participated in Smoke Screening 6, a joint school-based tobacco prevention program developed by the governments of Nunavut, Northwest Territories and Yukon.

The Smoke Screening program, now in its sixth year, provides an opportunity for students to view twelve of the best tobacco education ads from around the world. The ads encourage students to think about smoking from a variety of different perspectives and to discuss the issues with their peers.

The goal of Smoke Screening is not to 'gross out' or frighten young people, but to engage youth in discussions about tobacco, how it is promoted and its effects on health.

Students in grades six to twelve viewed the ads and selected the one they felt was most effective in encouraging them to try and quit or preventing them from starting. Votes from all three territories were mailed to their respective department of Health and Social Services and combined to select the winning ad.

Students selected *Sponge* as the best advertisement for the 2008 contest, which will be aired on local television in the coming months.

One winning ballot was drawn from each territory and the lucky students will receive an iPod Nano.

Youth and teachers responded very positively to the program with comments such as "Because Sponge shows the direct effects of smoking, you can see how disgusting and dangerous it is for someone who smokes. If this commercial was on TV I think it would make parents think twice about smoking!", "It made me want to quit right away", and "Very good, students appreciated being included in the decision making process." Due to the success of this program, plans are underway to produce Smoke Screening 2010.

For more information contact:

Damien Healy Communications Department of Health & Social Services Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-8927 E-mail: damien healy@gov.nt.ca



R(16)050609215

### GNWT Releases 20/20: A Brilliant North Public Service Strategic Plan

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 5, 2009)** – 20/20: A Brilliant North, the Northwest Territories (NWT) Public Service Strategic Plan, was released today by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

This highly anticipated strategic plan and the supporting three-year Action Plan clearly communicate the actions needed to improve human resource management and support the GNWT's strategic priority of effective and efficient government through the delivery of public services with a public focus.

The two-part plan includes both a Strategic Plan which illustrates the mission, vision, long-term strategic goals and key initiatives and a detailed supporting Action Plan which identifies the actions, timeframes and measurable performance results required to make continued progress in implementing the Strategic Plan.

"This plan allows the GNWT to proactively work toward the continued development of our most treasured resource: our employees. When fully implemented, this plan will guarantee that our service to our public, the people of the North, is the best in Canada," said the Honourable Robert R. McLeod, Minister of Human Resources.

20/20: A Brilliant North includes plans to work in collaboration with Aboriginal and community governments to guide the development of public service across the Northwest Territories and to work towards the GNWT becoming the employer of choice in the NWT by 2020.

To obtain copies of *20/20: A Brilliant North* and the supporting Action Plan please visit our web page at: <u>http://www.hr.gov.nt.ca/</u>

For more information contact:

Brenda Norris Communications Officer Human Resources Strategy & Policy Tel: (867)-920-3015 E-mail: brenda\_norris@gov.nt.ca

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



#### R(16) 216

## **TeleSpeech to expand across NWT**

## YELLOWKNIFE (June 10) – The Department of Health and Social Services is expanding its TeleSpeech program across the NWT.

TeleSpeech is the provision of speech language pathology services remotely through the use of Televideo-consultation. Approximately 10 per cent of school-aged children living in remote communities in the NWT need speech language pathology.

Today's announcement will ensure that speech language pathology services are accessible anywhere in the NWT where there is TeleSpeech equipment. Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee, says the program reflects a continuing Government effort to improve the overall health and well-being of the people of the NWT.

Through the Refocusing Government Strategic Initiative, the Department of Health and Social Services is strengthening service delivery through the implementation of new health information systems such as TeleSpeech.

"The expansion of the TeleSpeech program will ensure NWT residents have access to speech language programs without having to leave their community – and regardless of whether their community has a resident speech language therapist," Minister Lee noted.

Stage 1 of the expansion project began in May 2009 and involves the replacement of 14 outdated units currently in use in the TeleHealth network. Stage II will install new equipment in eight health centres and eight schools in late November 2009.

The communities receiving the TeleSpeech units in Stage I include: Norman Wells, Colville Lake, Deline, Tulita, Fort Good Hope, Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Ulukhaktok, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Hay River, Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution.

For more information, contact:

**Damien Healy** Manager, Communications Health and Social Services Tel: (867) 920-8927 Drew Williams Press Secretary Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca



R(16)217

## Annual Don't Be A Butthead Winners Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (June 10) – Five lucky young people from across the Northwest Territories (NWT) will be receiving prizes as a result of promises they made as part of the *Don't Be A Butthead* campaign. Each will have a choice of either a sports or electronics gift package worth \$500.

The *Don't Be A Butthead* campaign is now in its fifth year. It is an initiative that encourages youth between the ages of eight and 14 to remain smoke-free. This year, more than 500 new students made the promise to be smoke-free and more than 1,600 youth renewed their promises from the previous year.

A random ballot draw was made, in each of the NWT's five regions, of youth who have made the pledge to be smoke free. The winners are:

Beaufort Delta – Angik School, Paulatuk – Wendy Ruben, age 12 Deh Cho – Princess Alexandra School, Hay River – Roland Lamalice, age 9 South Slave – Joseph Burr Tyrrell, Fort Smith – Austin Burke, age 12 Sahtu – Chief Albert Wright School, Tulita – Michelle Krutko, age 15 North Slave – St. Joseph School, Yellowknife – Hannah Allan, age 8

The *Don't Be A Butthead* initiative reflects the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly's goal of realizing healthy people and communities and is supported, under the GNWT's Building the Future initiative, by strategic investments in initiatives to encourage healthy choices.

Visit the Don't Be A Butthead website at: <u>www.dontbeabutthead.ca</u> for information about the campaign.

For more information, contact:

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

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



#### R(16)218

## **Electricity Review Team Completes Public Discussion Phase**

YELLOWKNIFE (June 11) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories has completed the public discussion phase of the NWT Electricity Review. Chairman of the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee (MECC), Bob McLeod, says "public response has been strong and comprehensive."

"Northerners are concerned about electricity and have made certain that their views are heard," he noted.

The NWT Electricity Review was initiated with the publication of a discussion paper in December 2008.

A three member Review Team, including Gerry Forrest, Doug Matthews and Mark Cleveland, began work in March. Since that time the Review Team has participated in nine public forums discussing key issues related to electricity including, a long-term vision for electricity in the NWT, costs to the consumer, electrical generation, transmission and distribution, regulation, government subsidy programs and usage levels.

Forums have been held in Inuvik, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith, Fort Resolution and Behchoko.

As well, the Review Team participated in a workshop with representatives of 17 non-tax based municipalities conducted by the NWT Association of Communities. Members of the Panel also met with a variety of individual citizens, including MLAs, organization executives, business people and the general public. To date, well over 300 northerners have participated in the review process.

"We have received comments and suggestions from a wide range of individuals, organizations and companies," said Mark Cleveland, forum facilitator. "The active engagement of the public and the views and values expressed will provide a solid basis for the development of a vision for the future."

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

The Electricity Review Team's next step is to complete a report that will outline what they heard during the forum process. Upon completion of further analysis and research, the Review Team will then provide a final report to the MECC later this summer that will identify broad policy options and recommended actions. The MECC will then develop a GNWT Response and Implementation Plan for release in the fall of 2009.

For more information, contact:

**Drew Williams** 

Press Secretary for Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Phone: (867) 873-9271 drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

Office of the Press Secretary • Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111

24 2009





R(16)219

## **New Career Planning For Students**

#### YELLOWKNIFE (June12) – A new approach to career planning is now available for Northwest Territories students thanks to a partnership between BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc. and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

Called Focusing My Future My Way<sup>TM</sup>, this new career decision-making process is being offered to educators to teach the tools, skills and processes that their students will need to make informed, career choices and decisions to guide their learning and work.

Teachers will help students identify their motivators and preferences, better positioning them to pursue the right on-the-job training, apprenticeships, technical school, and college or university education once they graduate.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty says this latest example of *Northerners Working Together* will also allow students to access quality resources that will make challenging career decisions both easier and more meaningful.

"This investment will support students as they strive to realize their potential and maximize the employment opportunities that await them. It reflects our commitment to build our future by expanding opportunities and choice for our youth."

BHP Billiton is funding the Focusing My Future My Way<sup>™</sup> program implementation in the amount of \$200,000 over three years. The company has also purchased the Career Cruising License to enable all schools, public libraries and career development offices across the NWT to have access to this Internet resource. The Career Cruising website will support students with their career research activities.

"The career planning process is vital to ensuring that our youth are well prepared to make the right choices for themselves upon completion of Grade 12", said Richard Morland, President and Chief Operating Officer of BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc.

"Many northern youth are interested in opportunities in a variety of industries but have no idea what that would entail. Our partnership with Education, Culture and Employment will better prepare youth to plan their future while still in school, because while they learn about the many opportunities available to them, they will also learn about themselves and what they love to do."

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

The Focusing My Future My Way<sup>TM</sup> program is offered to students in junior high and high school. Each grade has a different component suited to student ability, which builds upon the strengths of the students and ensures that their course selections at the high school level enable students to fulfil their aspirations and potential after Grade 12.

#### For more information contact:

Shawn McCann Communications Department of Education, Culture and Employment Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-6222 Fax: (867) 873-0456

#### Deana Twissell

Superintendent Corporate and Community Affairs BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc. Tel: (867) 669-6107 Fax: (867) 669-9293

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to: Office of the Press Secretary • Premier/Cabinet

Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111



R(16)220

## HPV Vaccine Now Available in NWT

#### YELLOWKNIFE (June 16) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will be offering a free vaccine to protect young women against the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), a cause of cervical cancer.

All girls entering grade four in the 2009 school year will be offered the vaccine. A catch-up program will also be offered over the next five years for girls in grades 9-12.

"One death attributed to cervical cancer is too many," Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee says. We are taking action to prevent the spread of HPV but more importantly to save lives.

There have been 14 new cases of invasive cervical cancer in the Northwest Territories (NWT) in the last 10 years. During this time, five NWT women died from invasive cervical cancer.

HPV is one of the most common and widely distributed viruses in the world. There are over 100 types of this virus. Most of them only cause self-limited infection, but a smaller number are associated with the development of cervical cancer in women, some throat cancers, and genital warts.

The testing and approval process for new vaccines is very stringent in Canada. Currently over 93 countries in the world, all provinces and the Yukon Territory in Canada use the vaccine.

For more information on HPV please visit www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca or call your local health centre.

#### For more information contact:

#### **Damien Healy**

Communications Department of Health & Social Services Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-8927 E-mail:damien\_healy@gov.nt.ca

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)221

## **\$20 Million Invested in Territorial Business 2008/2009**

Yellowknife (June 3, 2009) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) invested \$20 million last year in individuals and businesses in the Northwest Territories (NWT) to support economic prosperity and community self-reliance.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) Bob McLeod tabled his Department's annual accounting of its Grants and Contributions Programs in the Legislative Assembly on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Report shows an investment of \$20.7 million in grants and contributions to 1,203 individuals, groups and businesses in the 2008/2009 fiscal year, up 14 percent from 2007/2008, and 39 percent from 2006/2007. The most popular ITI program was once again in the traditional economy sector – over 2,300 payments were made to trappers in the NWT through the Fur Pricing Program.

The Department's contribution to the tourism industry also rose significantly over the previous year, reaching \$4.2 million, a year-over-year increase of 45 percent. The majority of funding was allocated to major NWT-wide agencies like NWT Tourism and the NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation.

ITI Minister Bob McLeod says results outlined in this report are a testament to the commitment made by the Government of the Northwest Territories to provide quality programs and services to its residents. "Even in the face of trying economic times, we have continued to increase our funding commitments – and will continue to offer strong financial support to territorial businesses in the future," he said.

Investment in territorial individuals and businesses is part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' continuing efforts to *Maximize Opportunities by* increasing economic diversification, to increase opportunities and choice for all residents of the NWT.

For more information, contact:

#### **Drew Williams**

Press Secretary Office of the Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Phone: (867) 669-2304

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



#### R(16)222

## **MGP Decisions Needed Now – Premier Roland**

INUVIK (June 17) -- Premier Floyd Roland has called upon decision makers behind the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) to make the immediate, cooperative and deliberate decisions needed to advance the interests and prosperity of the Northwest Territories (NWT) and Canada.

In his address to the  $9^{th}$  Annual Inuvik Petroleum Show, the Premier urged Governments, Industry and NWT residents to restore a sense of urgency to the MGP – and to insure that it does not fall victim to indecision. "If we wait too long, we risk losing the single best economic stimulus we could hope for," he said.

"We'll find one day that the decisions have already been made for us. That global economic forces and international investment decisions have already overtaken any plans we might have once had for our territory... and for our country."

While working to *Maximize Opportunities* for NWT residents from resource development including the proposed MGP and related initiatives, the Government of the Northwest Territories is also working to advance northern decision making over issues such as resource development. "If we don't make these decisions, the certainty is that someone or something will make them for us," the Premier warned.

The full content of the Premier's remarks are available on line at: http://www.exec.gov.nt.ca/currentnews/speechDetails.asp?varStatement\_ID=864

#### For more information, contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: <u>drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca</u>

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)223

## Public Administrator Appointed for Hay River Health and Social Services Authority

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 17, 2009)** – Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee has appointed a new Public Administrator for the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority.

Mr. Michael Maher assumes responsibility for the management of the affairs of the Health Authority replacing Mr. Dana Heide. Mr. Maher has lived in Hay River since 1973. He is currently serving his third term as a town councilor and is the town's deputy mayor.

Minister Lee says she's confident that Mr. Maher's previous experience on the Hay River Community Health Board will benefit him in his new position. "I am pleased that a respected Hay River resident is now fulfilling the role of Public Administrator," she noted. "I welcome Mr. Maher to the position."

Mr. Heide will continue in his current capacity as Acting Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services.

For more information, contact:

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

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)224

### **GNWT Support for MGP Still Strong – Minister McLeod**

# INUVIK (June 18, 2009) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) confirmed its ongoing funding support for the Aboriginal Pipeline Group (APG) in a signing ceremony yesterday in Inuvik.

Support for the APG, and the model it represents for Aboriginal and Northern participation in the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP), is just one part of the GNWT's ongoing work and focus to help position NWT residents to take advantage of exploration and development that the project will provide.

In a panel presentation at the Inuvik Petroleum Show Wednesday, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod, said that despite the long process, he is assured that the challenges facing the MGP are clearly recognized and will be addressed – and that Arctic Gas Development will proceed.

"We remain focused on the goal of diversification, social and economic strength, and a bright future for current and future generations of NWT residents – those who live here today and those who will be drawn to our bountiful, exciting, and dynamic land," Mr. McLeod said.

The Minister also echoed the Premier's insistence that urgent decisions be made. "We must not miss this window of opportunity," he said.

The Government of Northwest Territories is working to advance the sustainable development of its resources to ensure the long term security, self-sufficiency and social well being of NWT residents.

"The Mackenzie Gas Project represents a once-in-a-millennium opportunity to build a healthy, prosperous and vibrant livelihood," the Minister said.

The full content of the Minister's remarks are available on line at: http://www.exec.gov.nt.ca/currentnews/speechDetails.asp?varStatement ID=866

#### For more information, contact: Drew Williams Cabinet Communications/Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew williams@gov.nt.ca

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)225

## **New and Improved Programs for NWT Business**

YELLOWKNIFE (June 19) -- New Government programs and changes to existing programs will stimulate investment and job creation while addressing the impacts of current economic conditions on NWT businesses.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), and Responsible for the Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation (BDIC), Bob McLeod says he's confident new initiatives introduced by the GNWT this month will help small businesses weather tough times and position themselves for future growth.

"NWT small and medium sized businesses are the cornerstone of the NWT economy," he noted. In addition to strong ongoing investment through grants and contributions programs, the GNWT has introduced the following new initiatives in support of NWT business:

- **BDIC Variable Interest Rate Financing**, a flexible loan that allows clients to take advantage of a lower borrowing rate during times of falling interest rates. Clients have the option of locking in the lower rate at their convenience. A variable interest rate fluctuates with the BDIC Prime Rate for the term of the loan.
- Industry, Tourism and Investment Capital Expansion Incentive is a Sector Support Program within the Support to Entrepreneurs and Economic Development Policy, which has been expanded to cover all economic sectors until March 31, 2010. The Program provides an interest rebate of up to \$15,000 annually to eligible businesses to offset incremental loan interest associated with new capital purchases for expansion of businesses.
- **BDIC Interest Rate Reduction**, in which clients who are not in arrears can renew their loans at BDIC's lowest available rate.
- **BDIC Winter/Summer Re-Supply Financing** which offers a short-term loan for clients to take advantage of the most cost-effective way to re-supply their inventory (by winter road or summer barge). Businesses have one year to re-pay the loan.

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

- **BDIC Seasonal Production Financing** is a short-term loan for artists, craft-makers and harvesters who need to buy supplies so they can make or harvest products to sell (maximum of \$25,000).
- **BDIC Working Capital Guarantee Program** includes an Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit that guarantees a business working capital arrangement with its bank (working capital includes lines of credit and overdraft arrangements).

#### For more information, contact:

**Drew Williams** Press Secretary Office of the Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Phone: (867) 669-2304

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



#### R(16)226

### Minister/MLA to Promote NWT Natural Gas to U.S. Markets

# YELLOWKNIFE (JUNE 19) - Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod will travel to Washington D.C. June 22-25 to address US Government officials, Senators and Congressmen on the importance of Arctic Natural Gas to the North American supply.

The Minister will be accompanied by MLA Jackie Jacobson and will use the opportunity to also advance discussions with US officials on issues of concern to the people of the Northwest Territories.

Of primary focus to the Minister and MLA will be: rising energy costs, the decline in southern Canadian gas exports, the need for secure energy supplies and the important role that large gas reserves in the Polar Regions will play in North America's energy supply mix.

Media representatives interested in speaking to Minister Robert R. McLeod in Washington should contact:

**Drew Williams** Press Secretary Office of the Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Phone: (867)-873-2304

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)227

## **National Aboriginal Day 2009**

YELLOWKNIFE (June 19, 2009) – National Aboriginal Day is celebrated across Canada on June 21st. The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) values this opportunity to honour the Aboriginal traditions, lifestyles, and languages that make up the fabric of our territory.

The NWT remains the only jurisdiction in the country to mark National Aboriginal Day as a statutory holiday. "This represents a benchmark for all of Canada and something that I believe all of us can take pride in." "Our celebration reflects the unique and multicultural identity that distinguishes us as residents of the Northwest Territories," said Premier Floyd Roland.

Cultural events and festivities are scheduled to take place across the NWT and will include traditional music, dance, food and artistic displays. All residents are encouraged to celebrate with their families, neighbors' and friends.

In recognition of National Aboriginal Day, GNWT offices will be closed June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams Cabinet Communications Office of the Premier Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: <u>drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca</u>

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)228

## **Premier Roland Remembers Gordon Wray**

# YELLOWKNIFE (June 19) - Premier Floyd Roland says the North lost a founder and a friend Wednesday with the passing of former Member of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Gordon Wray.

"Gordon was an early engineer in the emergence of our North and its Government – always pushing the boundaries of convention and an ever-willing advocate for different directions and bolder newer steps. The tireless, colorful and fervent spirit with which he embraced his work and life here was exemplified in his political passion and genuine love for our Territory and its people. He will be remembered as one of our own," the Premier said.

Mr. Wray moved to the Northwest Territories in 1970 and held positions with the Hudson's Bay Company and community of Rankin Inlet, before joining the Government of the Northwest Territories in 1976. He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1983, representing the constituency of Keewatin North, serving until 1991. In 1984, Mr. Wray was appointed Minister of Public Works and Highways, Minister Responsible for the N.W.T. Housing Corporation and Minister Responsible for the Workers Compensation Board. In 1986, he was named Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and in 1987 he was appointed Minister of Personnel and Equal Employment Directorate. In 1988, he became the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism and in 1989 took on the portfolio of Minister of Transportation.

For more information, contact:

#### **Drew Williams**

Press Secretary for Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Phone (867) 669-2304 drew williams@gov.nt.ca

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)229

## **Minister Profiles Importance of MGP in Washington**

YELLOWKNIFE (June 29) – Minister of Industry, Tourism, and Investment Bob McLeod and Nunakput MLA Jackie Jacobson returned today from meetings with senior U.S. government officials in Washington, D.C.

The meetings were "a success", says Mr. McLeod. "We were able to raise the profile of Natural Gas as a clean fuel, one that will contribute to the transition of a low carbon economy in North America, and to emphasize the importance of Canadian resources in achieving this. I believe we managed to translate these points very well."

While in Washington, Minister McLeod and MLA Jacobson met with Members of both Congress and the House of Representatives. They also conducted a series of interviews with northern, Canadian, and International Media.

The trip culminated in a speech to the Woodrow Wilson Institute, a Washington-based think tank, in which the Minister profiled Arctic Natural Gas in both the United States and Canada as a way not only to provide a cleaner fuel to the North American economy, but also as an opportunity for private investment to sustain economic recovery.

While in Washington, Minister McLeod raised the profile of the Mackenzie Gas Project and the issue of US support for the Alaska Project to highlight the need and importance of federal support and commitment in Canada.

"Our intention was to heighten awareness to some actions and decisions that must be forthcoming to ensure a timely advance this very important project," Minister McLeod said. "We've got people talking again."

The Washington meetings are an example of continuing efforts by the GNWT to *Maximize Opportunities* from resource development and related initiatives in the Northwest Territories.

For more information, contact:	<b>Drew Williams</b> Press Secretary Office of the Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories		
	Phone: (867) 669-2304	N.W.T LEGISLATIV" JUN 2 9 2009	
Media requests for interviews with I	Members of the Executive Council m	ay be directed to:	
	Press Secretary • Premier/Cabinet ritories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife •	NT • X1A 2L9	

Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111



R(16)230

### **Premier Congratulates Public Service Award Recipients**

# YELLOWKNIFE (June 30) – Premier Floyd Roland congratulates three members of the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) Public Service for winning a national *Public Service Award of Excellence for 2009*.

Sukhi Cheema Manager, Technical Support Section (PWS), Bill Wyness Senior Technical Officer, Architecture (PWS) and Siva Sutendra Superintendent, North Slave Regional Office (MACA) were recognized this month for their collective achievement as members of the joint Federal-Territorial Permafrost Thaw Impact Assessment Team.

Together, these individuals developed a low-cost, powerful tool to measure the impact of permafrost degradation on infrastructure in the North. The tool uses geological knowledge of deep permafrost with information on climate and land surface properties observed by satellite remote sensing.

The team also produced maps tracking the impact of climate change on the permafrost active layer. Using the communities of Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Norman Wells and Tulita for a model-based study, the team was able to identify time-frames when building foundations in these communities are likely to be at risk due to climate change.

"The success and recognition that these individuals have achieved is a deserved reflection of their personal dedication and commitment and highlights the innovation and professionalism that exists in our employees," says Premier Roland.

"This award is a testament to the strength of the public service that is working on behalf of all residents in the NWT.

Understanding and mitigating the potential effects of climate change is an important part of the GNWT's plan for *Managing this Land* and helps the GNWT make good decisions about maintaining the infrastructure needed to deliver programs and services in NWT communities.

Together Mr. Cheema, Mr. Wyness and Mr. Sutendra have a combined total of 65 years of service with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

 For more information contact:
 Amy Hacala

 Communications
 Department of Public Works and Service

 Phone (867) 873-7445
 amy\_hacala@gov.nt.ca

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)231

## **NWT Home Care Worker Day**

YELLOWKNIFE (June 30) --Today is Home Support Worker day in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The Government recognizes this day annually in tribute to the dedication and contribution made by Home Support Workers to the overall delivery of health services in the NWT.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Supporting Independence and Safety in your Home".

Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee says Home Support Workers are an invaluable part of the health care team.

"You are instrumental in supporting clients in their homes – enabling them to live independently and safely and enjoy a better quality of life," the Minister said in an online video salute to Home Support Workers in the NWT.

Home care began in the Northwest Territories in 1975. Since that time the program has grown to serve every community in the NWT. Approximately 71 individuals are currently employed by the GNWT in the delivery of home care services to residents.

Through its ongoing support and promotion of training for home support workers, the GNWT is *Building our Future* – investing in the long term well being of NWT residents and the goal of health educated people identified by the  $16^{th}$  Assembly in their guiding vision of the NWT.

"I am pleased to recognize your achievements," Minister Lee said, "and to express my appreciation for your dedication to excellence in Home Care in the NWT."

To view an online video salute to Home Support Workers in the NWT: www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca

#### For more information contact:

**Umesh Sutendra** Communications Specialist Health and Social Services Government of the Northwest Territories Phone: (867) 920-3368

LEGISLAND JUN 3-0 2009

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



#### R(16)232

## **NTPC Review Panel Appointed**

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 30)** -- Premier Floyd Roland has appointed a three-person panel to oversee a review of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC).

The panel will consider the costs and structure of the NTPC, the way it operates, and make comparisons to other relevant utilities to see if there are opportunities for change and improvement.

"The Government of the Northwest Territories believes that reliable and affordable energy should be available in all communities," the Premier said.

The panel's first order of business will be to detail and finalize the terms of reference for its review. The Premier says he intends for this work to be completed in a way that builds on the success of the NTPC.

The panel will include Ron Threlkeld, a former Senior Vice President of BC Hydro and Roger Simpson, a former member of the Office of the Auditor General. It will be chaired by Mr. Jim Guthrie.

Mr. Guthrie has extensive management experience in large and remote supply bases and continues to advise the oil and gas sector on a broad range of logistical and support issues. Mr. Guthrie has worked for Gulf Canada for over 20 years, including several years in the Beaufort and is a past president of the NTPC.

The Government's review is part of a comprehensive approach to advance and evaluate initiatives that may contribute to the growth of stainable, vibrant, safe communities as envisioned in the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly's vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

#### For more information contact:

**Drew Williams** Cabinet Communications Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-2304 E-mail: drew williams@gov.nt.ca

LEGISLATIVE JUN 3 0 2009



R(16)233

## **Community Recreation Leaders Training Program**

YELLOWKNIFE (July 6) – The Community Recreation Leaders Certificate Program will begin delivering in September announced the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA). The first course of the program, "Northern Recreation Leadership," is scheduled in Norman Wells for September 13 to 17, 2009.

"The Community Recreation Leaders Certificate Program is specifically designed to train recreation leaders for our Northern communities," said Minister McLeod. "MACA's School of Community Government is excited to take on the challenge of training recreation leaders to develop, manage and lead our community recreation systems and programs."

The Community Recreation Leaders Certificate Program provides community recreation leaders with practical and relevant training to improve their skills and knowledge in community recreation services, and the Program is community-based which minimizes the time spent away from home while receiving training.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to *Maximizing Opportunities* for residents by investing in education and training programs to improve the skills of individuals living and working in the NWT.

For more information on the Community Recreation Leaders Certificate Program, or to register, please visit the Department of MACA's website at <u>www.maca.gov.nt.ca</u>.

#### For more information, please contact:

**Rebecca Alty** Communication/Website Advisor Corporate Affairs Municipal and Community Affairs Tel: (867) 920-3092

LEG		



R(16)234

## Six GNWT Employees selected to Sit on the Aboriginal Employees' Advisory Committee

YELLOWKNIFE (July 7) – Six Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) employees from across the NWT have been selected to sit for two-year terms as members of the Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee (AEAC). The AEAC is headed by co-chairs Tom R. Williams and Gary Bohnet. Mr. Williams is the Associate Deputy Minister of the Department of Human Resources and Mr. Bohnet is the Deputy Minister for the Department of Environment & Natural Resources. The overall mandate of the AEAC is to increase the number of indigenous Aboriginal employees hired and retained by the GNWT.

The challenge of the AEAC lies in increasing the representation of indigenous Aboriginal people at all levels in the public service as well as strengthening the relationships between the public service and Aboriginal and community governments.

Representation of indigenous Aboriginal people within the public service, and particularly in senior management positions is below the desired level.

"By working together to increase Aboriginal employment within the public service, the Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee will support the GNWT in achieving its goal of being a public service which is representative of the people it serves," said The Honourable Robert R. McLeod.

A request went out in early May of 2009 inviting interested Aboriginal GNWT employees from across the Northwest Territories to apply for a seat on the committee.

The six selected members Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee are:

Ms. Leone Erasmus, Representative for Yellowknife-North Slave Region, has her Bachelor of Arts Degree, Major in Native Studies and has 11 years' service with the GNWT.

Mr. Roger Fraser, Representative for the Yellowknife Region, has his Bachelor of Administration and a Diploma in Renewable Resources and has worked for 18 years with both the territorial and federal governments.

Ms. Sabrina Broadhead, Representative for the South Slave, has served the South Slave Region on committees territorially, nationally and internationally. She has been involved with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs in policy development and also in the development and implementation of a Community Government Human Resource Development System.

Ms. Greta Sittichinli, Representative for the Beaufort Delta Region, has her Bachelor of Education and Management, and has 14 years of experience in managing programs and services locally and territorially for Aurora College.

Ms. Pamela Lennie, Representative for the Sahtu, has served on boards such as the Norman Wells Land Corporation, Financial Corporation, Renewable Resources, Petroleum Limited and Sahtu Business Development Centre and has experience in the financial and management field.

Ms. Connie McNab, Representative for the Dehcho, has her Bachelor of Indian Social Work and has been involved in the health field for 12 years. She has travelled extensively throughout the Dehcho region and is well known to her people who often approach her to support their recruitment and hiring processes.

The AEAC members are expected to provide advice and recommendations on policy changes and initiatives and to identify and recommend approaches to the recruitment, retention, and promotion of indigenous Aboriginal people.

#### For more information contact:

**Brenda Norris** Communications Officer Human Resources Strategy & Policy Tel: (867)-920-3015 E-mail: <u>brenda\_norris@gov.nt.ca</u>

-30-



R(16)235

## NWT Selects Youth to Participate in the Youth Ambassadors Program for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympics Winter Games

YELLOWKNIFE (July 8) – Inspired and talented youth from across the Northwest Territories (NWT) have been selected to take part in the NWT Youth Ambassadors Program for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympics Winter Games today by the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA).

"The 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver and Whistler present a significant opportunity for the development of young northern leaders," said Minister McLeod. "The Youth Ambassadors Program will provide participants with an opportunity to build leadership skills through volunteer assignments at the Games and to represent their communities and the NWT."

Youth were chosen based on their interests, experience and what they hope to achieve from the experience as an Ambassador. Participants will complete a series of leadership development assignments and hospitality training which will be used as a basis for selecting thirty-four Youth Ambassadors who will travel to Vancouver for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympics Winter Games.

Following a training session in Yellowknife in October 2009, Youth Ambassadors will assist with a variety of 2010 Games activities in the NWT, including the Olympic torch relay. During the Games, they will provide assistance to the NWT Games delegation and volunteer with the Vancouver Organizing Committee.

#### For more information contact:

Kevin Brezinski Manager, Policy and Planning

Corporate Affairs Municipal and Community Affairs Tel: (867) 873-7512

N.M.T LEGISLATUT JUL 0.8 2009

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



For R(16)235

## Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games NWT Youth Ambassadors

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	NAME	
Aklavik	Janeta Pascal	
Behchoko	Rusty Mantla	
Behchoko	Tyanna Steinwand	
Dettah	Megan Liske	
Enterprise	Debra Richards	
Fort Good Hope	Cara Manuel	
Fort Liard	Cheryl Bertrand	
Fort Liard	Calvin Lomen	
Fort Liard	Tyson McLeod	
Fort Liard	Ernie Timbre	
Fort McPherson	Jennifer Greenland	
Fort Providence	Shawna McLeod	
Fort Resolution	Robyn Balsille	
Fort Resolution	Glen Collins	
Fort Simpson	Malorey Nirlungayuk	
Fort Smith	Bobby Bourque	
Fort Smith	Brandon Thompson	
Hay River	Michelle Daigneault	
Hay River	Rena Squirrel	
Hay River	Colton Yee	
Inuvik	Nicole Lindsay	

#### Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

Inuvik Jean Marie River N'dilo Nahanni Butte Norman Wells Norman Wells Paulatuk Paulatuk Sachs Harbour Tamara Voudrach Vanessa Sanguez Trevor Betsina Bhreagh Ingarfield Sara Balanuik Myles Erb Vanessa Anikina Jerrita Thrasher Christina Esau

#### **COMMUNITY**

Tuktoyaktuk Tulita Tulita Whati Yellowknife Yellowknife Yellowknife Yellowknife Yellowknife

#### NAME

Virginia Kotokak Twyla Etchinelle Laura Krutko Christan Beaverho Abigail Alty Thomsen D'Hont Jill Gilday Rachel MacNeill Corey Paquin Krystal Shaben

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:







## Media Advisory

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, July 9, 2009 – The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Regional Minister for the North, Minister of Health for Canada, and the Member of Parliament for Nunavut, along with the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs for the Northwest Territories, and His Worship Gordon Van Tighem, Mayor of the City of Yellowknife, invite members of the media to an important infrastructure announcement.

## Avis aux médias

Yellowknife (Territoires du Nord-Ouest), le 9 juillet 2009 – L'honorable Leona Aglukkaq, ministre régionale du Nord, ministre de la Santé du Canada, et députée du Nunavut, ainsi que l'honorable Robert C. McLeod, ministre des Affaires municipales et communautaires des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, et Son Honneur, Gordon Van Tighem, maire de la Ville de Yellowknife, invitent les représentants des médias à une importante annonce d'infrastructure.

Date:	July 11, 2009	Date: le 11 juillet 2009		
Time:	12 noon	Heure	: midi	
Location	<ul> <li>Yellowknife Fieldhouse construction site</li> <li>45 Kam Lake Road Yellowknife, Northwest Territories</li> </ul>	Lieu :	<i>Fieldhouse</i> 45, proment	onstruction du <i>Yellowknife</i> ade Kam Lake e, Territoires du Nord-Ouest
	inclement weather, the event will take ne Yellowknife Multiplex.		de mauvais te owknife Mult	emps, l'événement aura lieu <i>tiplex</i> .
For more i	information, please contact:	Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec :		
Office of (	, Press Secretary Canada's Transport and ture Minister 700	Chris Day, Attaché de presse Cabinet du ministre des Transports et de l'Infrastructure du Canada 613-991-0700		
Infrastruct 613-948-1	ure Canada 148	Infrastructure Canada 613-948-1148		
Departmer	alty, Communications Advisor at of Municipal and Community Affairs ant of the Northwest Territories 092	Rebecca Alty, Conseillère en communications Ministère des Affaires municipales et communautaires Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest 867-920-3092		
Brian Kell City of Ye 867-920-5		Brian Kelln, Gestionnaire des programmes Ville de Yellowknife 867-920-5647		
R(16)	236			Yellowkna



R(16)237

## Minister Outlines Next Steps in Initiative to Improve Service Delivery through GNWT Boards

#### YELLOWKNIFE (July 9) - The Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, Lead Minister for the Refocusing Government Strategic Initiative Committee, today outlined the next steps in the initiative to improve service delivery through GNWT boards.

"The board reform initiative is about improving service delivery for residents of the Northwest Territories, which is more than just changing the number of boards," said "The Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger". "In our discussions with stakeholders and the public last Fall and Winter we heard general support for the goal of efficient and effective delivery of services, but support for the proposed approach to structural change was limited. Based on this, we are now outlining a number of activities related to our main service delivery boards that will let us pursue the shared goal of effective and efficient service delivery as our initial focus."

Early work will center on increasing the focus on the client by examining barriers that limit service integration. Work will be undertaken with service delivery boards to identify current efforts to work together and to identify additional approaches that encourage greater cooperation and place a greater emphasis on case management. The government will also be working to identify specific GNWT policy or administrative changes that may be needed to further support service integration and identifying ways to further expand the use of inter-agency committees at the community level.

A second component of the work will be to continue to work on improving the accountability mechanisms associated with the service delivery boards. To support improved effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery there needs to be improved accountability processes in place that clearly defines roles and responsibilities and mechanisms to report on the implementation of those roles and responsibilities. This work should lead to more standardized contribution agreements with existing boards.

Work will also be completed to develop further consultation materials and background that will support future discussions on structural options and to develop a more inclusive approach to future consultation. Work will continue with regions and communities that have expressed an interest in exploring options around structural change. "We have heard from a number of communities and regions that are interested in discussing pilot projects related to structural change", said the Minister, "We plan to work with these groups to examine the possibilities."

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 on this initiative and has committed to the existing boards that he will provide an update on the various components in late Fall.

#### For more information contact:

#### **Drew Williams**

Press Secretary for Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2304 drew williams@gov.nt.ca



R(16)238

## **NWT Visual Artists Selected for 2010 Olympics**

# YELLOWKNIFE (July 09) – Ten visual artists from the Northwest Territories (NWT) will receive the opportunity of a lifetime – the chance to showcase their talents at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver.

Two artists from each region in the NWT were selected by an independent six person panel with a view to providing a balanced, informative and interactive showcase of the NWTs various genres of traditional art.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod says the participation of NWT artists at the Vancouver Olympics will strengthen national and international awareness of NWT art, highlighting traditional arts and fine crafts, and will serve to promote the NWT as a preferred destination to live, invest and of course visit.

"I'm confident that these individuals will play a proud, distinctive and successful part in promoting our region, its artistic traditions and rich cultures to the world," he said.

#### The ten artists chosen are:

#### **South Slave:**

Brandy Wilson, photography, Fort Smith Cecile Deneyoua, traditional arts/tuffing, Hay River

#### Inuvik:

Mary Okheena, printmaking, Uluhaktok Mary Ann Taylor, carving, Tuktoyaktuk

#### Sahtu:

Janet Grandjambe, traditional arts/beadwork, Fort Good Hope Lucy Yakelaya, traditional arts/beadwork, Fort Good Hope

#### North Slave:

Jennifer Walden, painting, Yellowknife Jamie Look, jewellery, Yellowknife

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

#### **Dehcho:**

Karen Cumberland, birchbark basketry, Fort Liard John Sabourin, carving/painting, Fort Simpson

Support for tourism and the production of traditional arts and crafts is a primary component of the GNWT's work to maximize economic opportunities for NWT residents through the development and diversification of sustainable local economies.

In support of this sector, the GNWT maintains an NWT Arts logo this is promoted widely and aligned with all products produced by NWT artists - allowing consumers, world-wide, to easily identify them as created and produced in the NWT.

Approximately 50 artists responded to a call for submissions from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

"The number of gifted talented and qualified applicants that were considered is a testament to the depth of talent that exists in the Northwest Territories art sector", Minister McLeod noted.

The 14 performing artists are being confirmed. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment will be announcing the performing artists shortly.

#### For more information contact:

**Drew Williams** Press Secretary Office of the Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Phone: (867) 669-2304

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



### Backgrounder NWT Visual Artists Selected for 2010 Olympics

#### 1. How were applications solicited?

A call for submissions was advertised across the entire NWT to ensure all NWT artists were made aware of this opportunity.

In addition, several posters and email notifications were sent out by ITI regional offices and various arts organizations to advise of this opportunity and to encourage artists to apply. Notification and the applications were also made available online at NWTArts.com.

Specific attention was given to both the varying art genres present in the NWT as well as the varying regions of the NWT.

#### 2. Who was involved in the artists' selection process?

Artists were chosen by an independent selection committee made up of 6 individuals from the 5 regions of the NWT. The members of the committee were individuals who are known and respected throughout the Northern arts community for their commitment and contribution to arts in the Northwest Territories.

Committee members were:

- Ms. Laurie Young South Slave Regional Representative
- Ms. Lynn Feasey North Slave Regional Representative,
- Ms. Peggy Pouw Sahtu Regional Representative,
- Mr. Michael Blyth Dehcho Regional Representative,
- Mr. Tony Devlin Inuvik Regional Representative and IRC Inuvialuit Representative,
- Mr. Sonny McDonald Long-time Aboriginal artist and Chair of NWT Arts Council.

#### 3. Who chose the selection committee?

Each of the ITI Regional offices selected members from within their region who they felt would best represent their Artists and art genres of the region on this Committee.

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

#### 4. What were the criteria for artists' selection based on?

Applicants from all backgrounds and artistic genres were considered.

The size and nature of the NWT delegation was influenced by the needs of Arctic House, budget and availability of housing in the greater Vancouver Area during Olympic time. It was determined that a maximum of 10 artists could be financially provided for within the Visual Arts Contingency to represent Northern arts and fine crafts during the two weeks of the Vancouver Olympics.

To ensure equality and maximum Artists involvement, it was identified that two groups of artists would have the opportunity of participating at events within Arctic House, five artists Week 1, and five different artists Week 2, therefore allowing two artists from each Region to participate at the Games. In addition to the artists selected, a 2nd and 3rd choice was made in the event that a 1<sup>st</sup> choice is unable to participate. A total of 30 artists were identified.

The Selection Committee was also given a mandate to ensure that selected artists met a minimum of three of the following six traditional NWT art genres during their selection process to ensure NWT cultural and traditional arts are well represented during Northern Weekend. The genres they were mandated to choose from were:

- Beadwork
- Birch bark Basketry/quillwork
- Carving
- Tufting
- Printmaking
- Painting

In addition to this, the Selection Committee also had to identify those artists that were willing to participate in and have demonstrated experience in the following three areas:

- 1. showcasing,
- 2. retailing, and
- 3. demonstrations/workshops

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



News Release

### Government of Canada funds crime prevention efforts in the Northwest Territories

**YELLOWKNIFE, July 10, 2009** – Today, the Honourable Peter Van Loan, Minister of Public Safety, announced federal support for projects aimed at preventing and reducing crime in the Northwest Territories.

"One of the priorities of this Government is to make sure that our communities and streets are safe. We believe that when it comes to addressing crime we have to take action," said Minister Van Loan. "The funding announced today will provide northern communities with the knowledge, tools and support they need to undertake initiatives that address their crime prevention needs."

Through the National Crime Prevention Strategy, the Government of Canada is contributing over \$9.3 million in funding support for five northern and multi-year crime prevention projects that will provide at-risk youth with alternatives to a life of crime, and professionals in this field with the tools they need to enhance community safety.

The Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, participated in the announcement on behalf of the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Justice and Minister of Education, Culture and Employment for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

"Increasing safety and security is a priority in our Government's work and investment to *Build Our Future*," said Minister Lafferty. "Tackling crime in our communities is a top priority. We are working with frontline responders and community governments to take action on crime, and welcome federal funding to enhance territorial investments. These funds will support our efforts and those led by communities. We are also pleased to see our schools accessing this funding and participating in crime prevention."

"The Government of Canada is taking action to prevent youth crime and keep Canadians safe," said Minister Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. "The funding announced today supports crime prevention projects in the Northwest Territories that will provide those who are most at risk with the tools they need to make positive choices."

The National Crime Prevention Strategy is administered by Public Safety Canada. The Strategy provides funding support to selected projects that help prevent crime and increase knowledge about what works in crime prevention.

Canada

#### Information:

Media Relations Public Safety Canada 613-991-0657

Media Relations GNWT Justice 867-920-3225

R(16)239



Public Safety Sécurité publique Canada Canada

Backgrounder

#### Government of Canada funds crime prevention efforts in the Northwest Territories

The following projects are receiving support from the National Crime Prevention Strategy:

**K'atlodeeche First Nation** - *Helping Youth to Help Themselves* (Hay River, Northwest Territories): This project will work with at-risk children and youth between the ages of 7 and 18 by engaging them in life skills workshops, personal development sessions, employment skills workshops, recreation and outdoor activities and cultural and traditional activities in an effort to reduce their likelihood of engaging in offending behaviour. The funding amount is \$473,874 over 36 months.

**Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Justice, Community Justice Division** – N.W.T. Crime Prevention Knowledge Development Workshop (Yellowknife, Northwest Territories): This project will work with approximately 85 crime prevention professionals in the Northwest Territories. The goal of this project is to help crime prevention practitioners develop professional relationships with each other. The project will also help to create a shared system of knowledge and resources among these professionals. The amount of the funding is \$165,890 over 15 months.

**Government of Northwest Territories, Department of Justice** - *Program for Men Who Use Violence in Intimate Relationships* (Yellowknife, Northwest Territories): This project will research, inform and guide the development of a culturally sensitive prevention program that will target men who are at high risk of using violence in intimate relationships. This approach will begin by reviewing the literature on relevant violence prevention programs and assessing their pertinence to an aboriginal northern context, choosing an appropriate approach and then commissioning a non-governmental organization to develop the full program for later use by northern aboriginal communities. The funding amount is \$159,939 over 15 months.

**South Slave Divisional Education Council (SSDEC)** - *Leadership and Resiliency Program* (Hay River, Northwest Territories): This project will work with at-risk youth between the ages of 12 to 19, who are at risk of criminal involvement. The Leadership and Resiliency Program is designed to enhance youth's internal strengths and resiliency in order to prevent their involvement in substance use and violence and promote optimum youth development. The approved funding amount is \$1,440,619 over 60 months.



**Public Denominational District Education Authority (Yellowknife Catholic Schools YCS)** - *Do Edaeze: YCS Leadership and Resiliency Program* (Yellowknife, Northwest Territories) – This project will work with at-risk children and youth between the ages of 6 and 19 years who are at risk of criminal involvement. The YCS Leadership and Resiliency Program aims to develop positive relationships, coping strategies and assist youth in setting goals by engaging them in individual training and community activities. The approved funding amount is \$7,103,228 over 60 months.

#### TOTAL: \$9,343,550

Ce document d'information est aussi disponible en français.







#### GOVERNMENTS BREAK GROUND FOR YELLOWKNIFE FIELDHOUSE Initiative will create jobs and boost local economy

**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, July 11, 2009** — The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Regional Minister for the North, Minister of Health for Canada, and the Member of Parliament for Nunavut, along with the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Northwest Territories' Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, and His Worship Gordon Van Tighem, Mayor of the City of Yellowknife, attended a groundbreaking ceremony in Yellowknife today to announce joint funding for this \$17-million initiative.

"This investment in the Yellowknife Fieldhouse will contribute positively to the health and well-being of local residents will encourage participation in a variety of sports," said Minister Aglukkaq. "We will continue to work with our partners and with all levels of Government to identify key investments to ensure that our Northern communities can be competitive and prosperous during these difficult economic times."

"Through successful collaboration, the Northwest Territories will be able to develop important infrastructure that will contribute to the development of a strong, healthy and vibrant community for generations to come," said Minister McLeod. "The Yellowknife Fieldhouse is a fine example of several levels of government working together to address the collective needs of NWT residents."

Mayor Van Tighem stated, "It is a credit to the Yellowknife soccer community and to our healthcare professionals working with diabetic and post surgical patients, as well as our seniors, that we have been afforded the opportunity to construct this soccer facility with an indoor walking/running track. Contributions from our federal and territorial governments and the Elks Lodge 314 ensure this facility will be completed debt-free and become a welcome addition to the year round enjoyment of healthful activities. Thank you to all involved in getting this project underway and thereby improving life in the 'knife! A special thanks to the members of the Fieldhouse Development Committee for their ongoing contribution."

When asked about the partnership, Frank Stapleton, Exalted Ruler of the Yellowknife Elks Lodge 314, commented, "The Yellowknife Elks Lodge 314 is very pleased to be able to partner in furthering recreational facilities for the youth of Yellowknife. This partnership allows the Lodge to fulfill its mandate in finding a permanent home for the Yellowknife Air Cadet Squadron, of which we have been a sponsor since 1972."

R(16)-240

The Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan is accelerating and expanding existing federal investments in new infrastructure stimulus funding over the next two years. Through the federal infrastructure plan, the Government of Canada has committed more than \$277 million to infrastructure projects throughout the Northwest Territories.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is working closely with the federal government and the NWT Association of Communities to ensure that infrastructure funds are spent on priority initiatives throughout the territory.

For more information about infrastructure projects in the Northwest Territories, visit <u>www.creatingjobs.gc.ca</u>.

To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

-30-

For further information contact:

Josée Bellemare	Rebecca Alty
Press Secretary	Communications and Website Advisor
Office of the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq	Northwest Territories' Department of
Minister of Health	Municipal and Community Affairs
613-957-0200	867-920-3092
Chris Day	Brian Kelln
Press Secretary	Program Manager
Office of Canada's Transport and	City of Yellowknife
Infrastructure Minister	867-920-5647

Infrastructure Canada 613-948-1148

613-991-0700

Dave Hurley Yellowknife Elks Lodge 314 867-920-5648

# Backgrounder

#### **GOVERNMENTS BREAK GROUND FOR YELLOWKNIFE FIELDHOUSE**

Canada and the Northwest Territories are working together to support key infrastructure under Building Canada, the Government of Canada's infrastructure plan. As part of this plan, the Provincial-Territorial (PT) Base Funding Agreement provides the Northwest Territories with \$185.8 million to support core infrastructure priorities.

Under the PT Base Funding Agreement, provinces and territories must submit Capital Plans, which provide a short summary of the public infrastructure initiatives that will be undertaken with the federal funding provided in a given fiscal year, or over multiple years. The Yellowknife Fieldhouse is a priority initiative identified in the Northwest Territories' 2009-2010 Annual Capital Plan. The total eligible cost of the fieldhouse is estimated to be \$17 million. The Governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories, the City of Yellowknife and the Yellowknife Elks Lodge 314 have partnered together for the completion of this initiative.

Plans for the fieldhouse include two full-size indoor soccer pitches, an indoor playground area, a running track and a multipurpose room that will be completed for use as an Elks Cadet Hall.

Constructed to a high energy efficiency standard, it will utilize waste heat generated by an adjacent arena's ice plant in order to offset a significant portion of the building's heating requirements. The completed sports facility will provide Yellowknife residents with access to quality sporting facilities and serve as a venue to host future sporting events. Construction is scheduled to be completed by September 2010.

The PT Base Fund was established to provide each province and territory with predictable funding over seven years, ending in 2014. Under the federal Economic Action Plan, the Government of Canada is accelerating up to \$1 billion for infrastructure under Building Canada's PT Base Fund. Jurisdictions that demonstrate the ability to put these funds to work quickly can seek to accelerate all remaining PT Base Funding by March 31, 2011.















#### LES GOUVERNEMENTS ENTAMENT LES TRAVAUX DE CONSTRUCTION DU COMPLEXE SPORTIF DE YELLOWKNIFE Une initiative de création d'emplois et de relance économique

**Yellowknife (Territoires du Nord-Ouest), le 11 juillet 2009** — L'honorable Leona Aglukkaq, ministre responsable du Nord, ministre de la Santé du Canada et députée du Nunavut, de même que l'honorable Robert C. McLeod, ministre des Affaires municipales et communautaires des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, et Gordon Van Tighem, maire de la ville de Yellowknife, ont assisté aujourd'hui à une cérémonie d'inauguration des travaux de construction du complexe sportif de Yellowknife pour annoncer le financement conjoint de ce projet de 17 millions de dollars.

« Cet investissement dans le complexe sportif de Yellowknife contribuera à améliorer la santé et le bien-être des résidants locaux et encouragera la participation à divers sports, a indiqué la ministre Aglukkaq. Nous continuerons de travailler avec nos partenaires de tous les paliers de gouvernement pour déterminer les investissements clés qui assureront la compétitivité et la prospérité des collectivités du Nord en cette période économique difficile. »

« Grâce à cette collaboration fructueuse, les Territoires du Nord-Ouest seront capables de construire l'infrastructure importante qui contribuera au développement d'une collectivité forte, vibrante et en santé pour les générations à venir, a fait observer le ministre McLeod. Le complexe sportif de Yellowknife est un excellent exemple de la collaboration de plusieurs paliers de gouvernement pour répondre aux besoins des résidants des T.N.-O. »

Selon le maire Van Tighem, « C'est pour le monde du soccer de Yellowknife et nos professionnels de la santé oeuvrant auprès des diabétiques et des patients opérés, de même que pour nos personnes âgées, qu'on nous a donné la possibilité de construire ces installations de soccer comprenant une piste intérieure de marche et de course. Les contributions des gouvernements fédéral et territorial et de la loge 314 des Elks permettront d'assurer la construction sans dettes de ces installations, qui permettront aux gens de profiter d'activités saines pendant toute l'année. Merci à tous ceux et celles qui ont contribué à mettre sur pied ce projet et à améliorer ainsi la qualité de vie à Yellowknife. Nous aimerions tout spécialement remercier les membres du comité pour la construction du complexe sportif (Fieldhouse Development Committee) pour leur contribution continue. »

Interrogé au sujet du partenariat, Frank Stapleton, le grand maître (Exalted Ruler) de la loge 314 des Elks de Yellowknife, a fait l'observation suivante : « La loge 314 des Elks de Yellowknife est très heureuse de pouvoir former un partenariat pour accroître les installations de loisirs pour les jeunes de Yellowknife. Ce partenariat permet à la loge de remplir son mandat en trouvant une salle permanente pour l'escouade des Cadets de l'Air de Yellowknife, que nous parrainons depuis 1972. »

Le Plan d'action économique du gouvernement du Canada accélère et bonifie sur les deux prochaines années les investissements fédéraux actuels dans le nouveau fonds de stimulation de l'infrastructure. Dans le cadre du plan d'infrastructure fédéral, le gouvernement du Canada s'est engagé à attribuer plus de 277 millions de dollars à des projets d'infrastructure dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

Le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest travaille en étroite collaboration avec le gouvernement fédéral et l'Association des collectivités des Territoires du Nord-Ouest pour veiller à ce que les fonds destinés aux infrastructures soient dépensés pour des initiatives prioritaires sur tout le territoire.

Pour de plus amples renseignements au sujet des projets d'infrastructure dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest, visitez le site <u>http://www.creerdesemplois.gc.ca</u>.

Pour en apprendre plus long sur le Plan d'action économique du Canada, visitez le site <u>http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/fra/index.asp</u>.

#### - 30 -

Pour de plus amples renseignements, communiquez avec :

Josée Bellemare Attachée de presse Cabinet de l'honorable Leona Aglukkaq Ministre de la Santé 613-957-0200

Chris Day Attaché de presse Cabinet du ministre des Transports et de l'Infrastructure du Canada 613-991-0700

Infrastructure Canada 613-948-1148

Rebecca Alty Conseillère en communications et responsable des sites Web Ministère des Affaires municipales et communautaires des Territoires du Nord-Ouest 867-920-3092

Brian Kelln Gestionnaire de programme Ville de Yellowknife 867-920-5647

Dave Hurley Loge 314 des Elks de Yellowknife 867-920-5648

# Document d'information

### LES GOUVERNEMENTS ENTAMENT LES TRAVAUX DE CONSTRUCTION DU COMPLEXE SPORTIF DE YELLOWKNIFE

Le Canada et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest collaborent au financement des infrastructures clés dans le cadre de Chantiers Canada, le plan d'infrastructure du gouvernement du Canada. Selon l'entente sur le Financement de base pour les provinces et les territoires qui a été signée aux termes de ce plan, les Territoires du Nord-Ouest recevront 185,8 millions de dollars pour donner suite aux principales priorités en matière d'infrastructure.

Conformément à l'entente sur le Financement de base pour les provinces et les territoires, les provinces et les territoires doivent présenter des plans d'immobilisations, décrivant brièvement les initiatives en matière d'infrastructure publique qui seront réalisées à l'aide du financement fourni par le gouvernement fédéral pour une année donnée ou pour plusieurs années. La construction du complexe sportif de Yellowknife est une initiative prioritaire figurant dans le plan d'immobilisations annuel 2009-2010 des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Le coût admissible total du complexe sportif est évalué à 17 millions de dollars. Les gouvernements du Canada et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, la Ville de Yellowknife et la loge 314 des Yellowknife Elks ont formé un partenariat pour mener cette initiative à bon terme.

Le complexe sportif comprendra deux terrains de soccer pleine dimension, une aire de jeu intérieure, une piste de course et une salle polyvalente qui servira de salle de réunion aux Cadets de l'Air Elks.

Construit selon les plus hautes normes d'efficacité énergétique, le complexe utilisera la chaleur résiduelle produite par une installation de production de glace d'un stade adjacent pour répondre à une partie importante des besoins de chauffage de l'immeuble. Une fois terminé, le complexe sportif permettra aux résidants de Yellowknife d'avoir accès à des installations sportives de qualité et servira de lieu d'accueil de futurs événements sportifs. On prévoit terminer les travaux de construction en septembre 2010.

Le fonds de Financement de base des provinces et des territoires a été créé pour fournir à chaque province et à chaque territoire des fonds prévisibles sur une période de sept ans se terminant en 2014. Aux termes du Plan d'action économique fédéral, le gouvernement du Canada accélère l'attribution de fonds pouvant atteindre 1 milliard de dollars pour des travaux d'infrastructure entrepris au titre du fonds de Financement de base des provinces et des territoires du Fonds Chantiers Canada. Les administrations qui démontrent qu'elles sont capables d'utiliser rapidement ces fonds pourront recevoir tout le financement de base provincial et territorial restant au plus tard le 31 mars 2011.









#### CANADA AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES STIMULATE NORTHERN ECONOMY Investments will create jobs, boost regional economy

**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, July 11, 2009** – The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Regional Minister for the North, Minister of Health for Canada, and the Member of Parliament for Nunavut, and the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs for the Northwest Territories, today announced that communities across the Northwestern Territories will benefit from over \$1.4 million in joint stimulus investments for shovel-ready infrastructure projects under existing programs and new money allocated in Canada's Economic Action Plan.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, our Government is stimulating our economy and keeping people working during these tough economic times," said Minister Aglukkaq "This investment will improve infrastructure, create jobs and improve the quality of life in the Northwest Territories."

Three infrastructure projects in the Northwest Territories will receive joint federal-territorial and federal-municipal investments totalling \$1,453,000 under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund: the repair and renovation of the reception building at Nitainlaii Territorial Park, the rehabilitation of the utilidor system in the Town of Norman Wells, and the renovation and expansion of the Antoine Beaulieu Community Hall in Fort Resolution. Additional stimulus projects in the Northwest Territories are expected in the near future.

"The three projects announced today are the first selected to receive funds and these projects will improve critical community infrastructure in the Northwest Territories," said Minister McLeod. "I look forward to continuing a strong partnership with Canada and NWT communities to identify projects that will help address the significant infrastructure deficit that exists in the NWT."

Canada and the Northwest Territories are working together to create jobs and boost the economy, while making significant investments that help communities improve their infrastructure. Both governments have agreed to work together to ensure that these funds are delivered quickly and efficiently.

A backgrounder with information on the projects and details about the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund is attached.

R(16)-241

For further information on investments in infrastructure in the Northwest Territories, visit <u>www.creatingjobs.gc.ca</u>.

To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

Contacts:

Josée Bellemare Press Secretary Office of the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq Minister of Health 613-957-0200 Rebecca Alty Communications and Website Advisor Northwest Territories' Department of Municipal and Community Affairs 867-920-3092

Chris Day Press Secretary Office of Canada's Transport and Infrastructure Minister 613-991-0700

Infrastructure Canada 613-948-1148

# Backgrounder

#### INFRASTRUCTURE STIMULUS FUND IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The Government of Canada's Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF) is already at work in the Northwest Territories. Three projects worth \$1,453,000 have been approved for \$726,500 in federal funding. Additional ISF projects will be announced at a future date.

#### About the Nitainlaii Territorial Park Reception Building Project, Inuvik Region

This project involves necessary repairs and renovations to the reception building at Nitainlaii Territorial Park to protect the integrity, security and overall appearance of the building. The Government of Canada will provide up to \$76,500 in ISF funding and the Government of the Northwest Territories will match this amount. The total cost of this project is estimated at \$153,000.

#### About the Underground Utilidor Repair Project, Town of Norman Wells

This \$800,000 project will rehabilitate the utilidor system in the Town of Norman Wells and extend the overall life expectancy of the system by another 15-20 years. The federal government will contribute up to \$400,000 of eligible project costs under the ISF, while the remaining \$400,000 will be covered by the Town of Norman Wells.

#### About the Antoine Beaulieu Community Hall Project, Community of Fort Resolution

The Deninoo Community Council of Fort Resolution plans to renovate and expand the Antoine Beaulieu Community Hall to meet the growing needs of the community. The \$500,000 project will include the addition of a commercial grade kitchen to accommodate community events, utility and furnace rooms with upgrades to the heating and ventilation systems. The Government of Canada will invest up to \$250,000 through the ISF to cover eligible project costs and the Community of Fort Resolution will contribute matching funds.

#### About the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the federal government has established a new Infrastructure Stimulus Fund that provides funding to provincial, territorial and municipal construction-ready infrastructure rehabilitation projects. Funding is available for two years for projects that will be built during the 2009 and 2010 construction seasons.

The Infrastructure Stimulus Fund complements existing federal infrastructure funding by focusing on short-term objectives for economic stimulus. To further this goal of rapid economic stimulus, the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund will focus on construction–readiness as important project selection criteria.





Canada



# Communiqué

#### LE CANADA ET LES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST STIMULENT L'ÉCONOMIE DU NORD

Des investissements créeront des emplois et stimuleront l'économie régionale

**Yellowknife (Territoires du Nord-Ouest), le 11 juillet 2009** — L'honorable Leona Aglukkaq, ministre responsable du Nord, ministre de la Santé du Canada et députée du Nunavut, et l'honorable Robert C. McLeod, ministre des Affaires municipales et communautaires des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, ont annoncé aujourd'hui que les collectivités dans l'ensemble des Territoires du Nord-Ouest profiteront d'investissements conjoints de stimulation dépassant 1,4 million de dollars dans le cadre de programmes existants pour des projets d'infrastructure prêts à être démarrés et qu'elles recevront aussi de l'argent frais alloué dans le Plan d'action économique du Canada.

« Sous la direction du Premier ministre Stephen Harper, le gouvernement stimule notre économie et maintient les personnes au travail en cette période de difficultés économiques, à déclaré la ministre Aglukkaq. Cet investissement améliorera l'infrastructure, créera des emplois et améliorera la qualité de vie dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. »

Trois projets d'infrastructure dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest recevront des investissements conjoints fédéraux-territoriaux et fédéraux-municipaux totalisant 1 453 000 dollars aux termes du Fonds de stimulation de l'infrastructure : la réparation et la rénovation du centre d'accueil du parc territorial Nitainlaii, la remise en état du réseau de distribution sous coffrage de la Ville de Norman Wells, ainsi que la rénovation et l'agrandissement de la salle communautaire Antoine Beaulieu à Fort Resolution. D'autres projets de stimulation de l'infrastructure dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest sont attendus dans un proche avenir.

« Les trois projets annoncés aujourd'hui sont les premiers à être choisis pour recevoir du financement et ils rehausseront l'infrastructure essentielle des collectivités dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest, a dit le ministre McLeod. Je me réjouis à l'idée d'un partenariat solide et continue entre le Canada et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest en vue d'identifier des projets qui aideront à combler le déficit important en matière d'infrastructure qui existe dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. »

Le Canada et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest collaborent pour créer des emplois et stimuler l'économie, tout en réalisant d'importants investissements qui aideront les collectivités à améliorer leurs infrastructures. Les deux gouvernements ont convenu de collaborer pour faire en sorte que ces fonds soient versés rapidement et efficacement. Un document d'information contenant des renseignements sur les projets et des détails concernant le Fonds de stimulation de l'infrastructure est joint au présent communiqué.

-30-

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements sur les investissements dans l'infrastructure dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest, veuillez consulter le site <u>http://www.creerdesemplois.gc.ca/</u>.

Pour en apprendre davantage sur le Plan d'action économique du Canada, veuillez vous rendre sur le site <u>www.plandaction.gc.ca</u>.

Personnes-ressources :

Josée Bellemare Attachée de presse Cabinet de l'honorable Leona Aglukkaq Ministre de la Santé 613-957-0200

Chris Day Attaché de presse Cabinet du ministre des Transports et de l'Infrastructure du Canada 613-991-0700 Rebecca Alty Conseillère en communications et responsable des sites Web Ministère des Affaires municipales et communautaires des Territoires du Nord-Ouest 867-920-3092

Infrastructure Canada 613-948-1148

# Document d'information

#### FONDS DE STIMULATION DE L'INFRASTRUCTURE DANS LES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST

Le Fonds de stimulation de l'infrastructure (FSI) du gouvernement du Canada est déjà en usage dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Le gouvernement fédéral a annoncé l'attribution de 726 500 dollars à trois projets d'une valeur de 1 453 000 dollars. D'autres projets du FSI seront annoncés à une date ultérieure.

Au sujet du projet de construction du centre d'accueil du parc territorial Nitainlaii, région d'Inuvik Ce projet consiste à effectuer les réparations et les rénovations dont a besoin le centre d'accueil du parc territorial Nitainlaii afin de protéger l'intégrité, la sécurité et l'apparence générale du bâtiment. Le gouvernement du Canada attribuera jusqu'à 76 500 dollars du FSI et le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest versera une somme équivalente. Les coûts totaux de ce projet sont estimés à 153 000 dollars.

#### Au sujet du projet de réparation du réseau de distribution souterrain sous coffrage, ville de Norman Wells

Ce projet de 800 000 dollars permettra de remettre en état le réseau de distribution de la Ville de Norman Wells et augmentera de 15 à 20 ans la durée de vie utile du réseau. Le gouvernement fédéral couvrira jusqu'à 400 000 dollars des coûts admissibles du projet au titre du FSI, alors que les 400 000 dollars restants seront déboursés par la Ville de Norman Wells.

#### Au sujet du projet de la salle communautaire Antoine Beaulieu, collectivité de Fort Resolution

Le conseil communautaire Deninoo de Fort Resolution prévoit rénover et agrandir la salle communautaire Antoine Beaulieu pour répondre aux besoins grandissants de la collectivité. Le projet d'une valeur de 500 000 dollars comprendra l'ajout d'une cuisine de classe commerciale pour la tenue d'événements communautaires, d'une pièce de service et d'une chaufferie d'immeuble et l'amélioration des systèmes de chauffage et de ventilation. Le gouvernement du Canada investira jusqu'à 250 000 dollars aux termes du FSI pour couvrir les coûts admissibles du projet. La collectivité de Fort Resolution fournira des fonds équivalents.

#### Au sujet du Fonds de stimulation de l'infrastructure

Aux termes du Plan d'action économique du Canada, le gouvernement fédéral a établi un nouveau fonds de stimulation de l'infrastructure de quatre milliards de dollars dans le but de financer des projets de remise en état des infrastructures provinciales, territoriales et municipales prêts à démarrer. Ce financement de deux ans visera les travaux qui seront entrepris lors des saisons de construction de 2009 et de 2010.

Le Fonds de stimulation de l'infrastructure s'ajoute au financement fédéral existant, en se concentrant principalement sur des objectifs de stimulation économique à court terme. Pour assurer la réalisation de ces objectifs, le Fonds de stimulation de l'infrastructure prendra comme principal critère de sélection l'état de préparation des projets soumis.







**Media Advisory** 

A(16)081

### Premier Roland and Minister McLeod at the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Conference

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 13, 2009)** – Premier Floyd K. Roland and the Honourable Bob McLeod, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, will be attending the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) conference which is taking place July 12-16, 2009 in Boise, Idaho. MLA David Ramsay, Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure (SCEDI), will also be attending.

**PNWER** is a statutory public/private partnership established in 1991. As an organization, its goals are to:

- promote greater regional collaboration;
- enhance the competitiveness of the region in both domestic and international markets;
- leverage regional influence in Ottawa and Washington D.C.; and
- achieve continued economic growth while maintaining the region's natural beauty and environment.

PNWER members include British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

For more information contact:

**Drew Williams** Press Secretary Office of the Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Phone: (867) 669-2304

N.W.T. LEGISLATWER FOR ARY JUL 1 3 2009 Yellowkees

R(16)-242



#### R(16)243

## **Collective of NWT Performers Selected for 2010 Olympics**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 15, 2009)** – 14 performing artists from the Northwest Territories (NWT) will receive the opportunity of a lifetime – the chance to showcase their talents at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver.

The vision for NWT performances at the Vancouver Olympics included representing the various regions of the NWT, demonstrating a variety of traditional and current performance styles, providing a mentorship element for the development of newer Northern talent and creating a show that would encourage people to want to live, work and play in the NWT.

A collective of 14 NWT Performing Artists was developed from nearly 30 applications from individuals and groups from across the Northwest Territories. The performers in this collective will join with NWT Youth Ambassadors and other Northerners that will be participating at the Olympics to deliver a showcase that represents every region of the Northwest Territories.

"These performances will not only show the world what our performing artists can do, they will encourage mentorship and development within our arts community," Commented Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. "Showcasing our Northern talent is part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' plan to maximize opportunities by promoting the NWT as a place to work and live."

The performing artists are:

Gerry Antoine	Dene Drums
Tiffany Ayalik	Storyteller
Brendan Callas	Keyboards, Backup Vocals
Norm Glowach	Drums, Backup Vocals
Leanne Goose	Vocalist
Wesley Hardisty	Fiddler
Aaron Hernandez	Vocalist
Richard Lafferty	Fiddler
Sophie Leger	Vocalist, Guitar, Harmonica, Djembe
Greg Nasogaluak	Guitar
Theresa Pamplin	Vocalist
Gary Tees	Bass
Karen Zaidan	Vocalist, Keyboard

Fort Simpson Yellowknife Yellowknife Inuvik Fort Simpson Yellowknife Hay River Yellowknife Yellowknife Yellowknife Yellowknife Fort Smith

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

A 14th performer, a jigger, will not be confirmed until later in the fall.

The full schedule of performances is still being confirmed, but will include a victory celebration for athletes, and an NWT day during Northern weekend. In addition to the live performances, opportunities to showcase Northern performers continue to develop. These include a call for songs written in the NWT, and a listening station for Northern CDs at Northern House.

Selection for this collective of performers was headed by the contracted Producing Artistic Director, BDK Services, a team of NWT residents with significant experience in music, television, theatre, live performance and management.

#### For more information contact:

Kevin Allerston Public Affairs Officer Education, Culture and Employment (867) 920-6222 Kevin Allerston@gov.nt.ca

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)244

## Preliminary Survey Results Suggest Continued Decline in Bathurst Caribou Herd

**YELLOWKNIFE**, (JULY 15, 2009) – Preliminary results from the recent photographic survey of the Bathurst caribou herd calving ground suggest the herd continues to decline.

The survey was done by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) in June 2009.

The preliminary results are based on a visual count by observers flying at 400 feet above the ground and counting caribou in an 800 m strip. About 13,000 km of transect lines, 10 km apart, were flown between Kugluktuk and the east side of Bathurst Inlet. It was one of the most extensive coverage areas for a survey of the herd to date.

The final count of breeding females from the photographic survey is expected in September 2009.

Observers from the Tlicho Government, Lutsel k'e, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the North Slave Metis Alliance and a staff member from the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board participated in the survey.

Preliminary results from calving area reconnaissance surveys for the Ahiak and Beverly caribou herds also suggest a decline in the numbers of animals on those calving areas.

Results from photographic post calving surveys on the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose East and Bluenose West herds are expected in August.

ENR plans to hold information sharing sessions with Aboriginal leadership, co-management boards and stakeholders later this summer to discuss the status of the Bathurst caribou herd based on both scientific and traditional knowledge. The sessions will also be used to determine what other information is required to develop management actions that will assist in the recovery of the herds.

#### For more information, contact:

#### **Drew Williams**

Press Secretary for Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2304 <u>drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca</u>

N.W.T. LEGISLATIVE LEDARY JUL 1 5 2009 Yellowknife

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)246

## Northwest Territories Joins Pacific Northwest Economic Region

**BOISE, IDAHO (July 15, 2009)** – The Northwest Territories has been accepted as a member of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) during the organization's Executive Committee meeting held as part of its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit in Boise, Idaho July 12-16, 2009. PNWER is a statutory public/private partnership established in 1991. As an organization, its goals are to:

- promote greater regional collaboration;
- enhance the competitiveness of the region in both domestic and international markets;
- leverage regional influence in Ottawa and Washington D.C., and
- achieve continued economic growth while maintaining the region's natural beauty and environment.

Other PNWER members include British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

"The Northwest Territories bring an important complement to PNWER's leadership role in crafting and implementing cross-border public policies that generate cooperation, mutual trust and economic development that recognizes green innovation throughout the U.S. and Canadian Pacific Northwest," incoming PNWR President, Lesil McGuire noted.

The NWT delegation at the PNWER Summit included Premier Floyd Roland, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) Bob McLeod and Mr. David Ramsay, MLA Kam Lake and Chair of the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure (SCEDI).

NWT Premier Floyd Roland says he looks forward to having more direct communication with policymakers on both sides of the border and in participating on the PNWER Northern Pipeline Coordination Council.

"Our territory is privileged to be welcomed into PNWER," the Premier told conference delegates in his keynote address. "Creativity, innovation and enterprise are as synonymous with the Northwest Territories as with the Pacific Northwest Economic Region. We are excited about the new relationships we will establish and the ideas and perspectives we'll learn and the opportunities and choices we are creating for our people and businesses."

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

"The partnerships and leverage that we will gain through PNWER will be beneficial in advancing key opportunities for NWT residents and businesses in areas like northern pipelines, new resource investments, tourism and infrastructure, MLA Ramsey noted. "Our membership marks a coming of age for our Territory and a milestone on our path to being an economic leader – not just in Canada but the entire Pacific Northwest region."

More information about PNWER can be found at www.pnwer.org.

#### For more information contact: Drew Williams

Press Secretary Office of the Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Phone: (867) 669-2304

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)247

### **Electricity Review Team Completes Public Discussion Phase**

YELLOWKNIFE (July 20, 2009) – The review team tasked with completing the NWT Electricity Review has reported to the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee (MECC) of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) on the views, values and visions held by Territorial residents regarding their electrical system.

Their findings are included in a report entitled "A Discussion with Northerners about Electricity" It can be viewed online at: <u>http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/energy/ElectricityReview.shtml</u>

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod is the chairperson of the MECC. He says he's pleased with the results of the first stage of the review process.

"We are pleased with the participation and ideas expressed by people across the NWT," Mr. McLeod said. "Understanding the opinions of the people is the first step in developing a vision that can guide the Territorial electrical system over the next twenty years".

The NWT Electricity Review was initiated in December of 2008. A Review Team composed of Mark Cleveland, Gerry Forrest, and Doug Matthews was appointed and began its work in February of 2009. The Team conducted eight public forums, held in Inuvik, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Fort Smith, Yellowknife, Fort Resolution and Behchoko. In addition, Team members met with nearly 50 other organizations and individuals and received approximately 25 written submissions. During the course of their work, the Review Team heard opinions from over 300 people.

"There were areas of consensus, in the views expressed," indicated Mark Cleveland, speaking on behalf of the Review Team. "However, there are also strongly held, differing views on a number of aspects of the electricity system. The views that have been expressed over the past few months will require further discussion, analysis and, where necessary, leadership to resolve."

The final report of the Review will be completed this summer. It will analyze information and data that was collected during the first phase of the review, summarize research, experiences and strategies that could be useful to the Northwest Territories, and then make recommendations to the MECC on the actions that need to be taken to achieve the Review Team's proposed vision for the NWT electrical sector.

For more information contact:	<b>Drew Williams</b> Press Secretary for Premier/Cabinet
	Government of the Northwest Territories Phone: (867) 669-2304

#### Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)248

# Provincial-Territorial Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Local Government

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 23, 2009)** – The Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, advances key municipal infrastructure funding priorities at the annual Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Local Government meeting held in St. John's, Newfoundland, July 7- 9, 2009.

During the meeting, municipal infrastructure was identified as a key priority for all Local Government Ministers. Although the Federal Government's recent acceleration of infrastructure funding was applauded, the Minister voiced concerns about program design and administration and the need to ensure long-term funding is aligned with provincial and territorial priorities.

"The increase and acceleration of stable, predictable federal infrastructure funding is essential to the sustainability and future of the north," said Minister McLeod. "Federal infrastructure funding programs are necessary to reduce the infrastructure deficit in the NWT, but require corresponding funding for operations and maintenance to ensure the investment in infrastructure is sustainable. This is an area that requires further discussion to ensure maximum effectiveness of future infrastructure investments in the NWT."

Minister McLeod also noted, "Future infrastructure programs need to include a base amount of funding for smaller jurisdictions such as the NWT, as per-capita funding is not sufficient to meet our infrastructure needs."

The Ministers also agreed that constructive, cooperative provincial, territorial and municipal relationships are important and emphasized their desire to enhance the relationship they have with their municipal associations. Enhanced partnerships and collaborations will contribute to the development of innovative, new initiatives and approaches to sustainable communities and municipalities.

Other topics discussed by Ministers include the importance of the democratic process, climate change activities related to the municipal sector and municipal/Aboriginal engagement.

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

Engagement with Provincial and Territorial Ministers represents the Government of the Northwest Territories commitment to building sustainable, vibrant, and safe communities through advancement of key priorities.

The 2010 annual meeting of Ministers Responsible for Local Government will be hosted by the Province of Ontario.

For more information, contact: Rebecca Alty Communications/Website Advisor Department of Municipal and Community Affairs Phone: (867) 920-3092

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)249

### Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee Meet for the First Time

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 24, 2009)** – The GNWT's newly formed Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee (AEAC) met with Minister of Human Resources, Robert R. McLeod for a two-day orientation session this past Thursday and Friday at Sah Naji Kwe Lodge near Behchoko.

Time for change and time for action was the resounding message from all the members of the AEAC. The committee all agreed that although the Affirmative Action Policy (AAP) has helped to bring Aboriginal people into the public service, it has not increased past 31% since 1989.

Minister McLeod addressed the AEAC and spoke to the committee about how the AEAC fits into the overall 20/20: A Brilliant North NWT Public Service Strategic and Action Plan. "In the Strategic Action Plan, we clearly indicate where we expect to be in terms of Aboriginal employment in the GNWT especially the need to increase aboriginal representation in senior management positions," said McLeod.

The AEAC members discussed cultural awareness and the need for sensitivity and respect for cultural diversity in the GNWT. The members also talked about the cynicism many Aboriginal people have about the existing AAP concluding that the policy needs to be revised to reflect the current practices.

The committee wrapped up the orientation meeting with clear goals and a commitment from each member to provide support and guidance to Aboriginal employees in their regions.

The AEAC plans to meet again in the fall of 2009.

#### For more information contact:

**Brenda Norris** Communications Officer Human Resources Strategy & Policy Tel: (867) 920-6948 E-mail: brenda norris@gov.nt.ca

-30-

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)251

## Partners not Stakeholders says Premier Roland

**CALGARY (July 29, 2009)** -- The Premier of the Northwest Territories says he will be holding the Government of Canada to the renewed commitments it made Sunday to work in partnership with Northern residents to realize the full potential of Canada's North.

In particular Premier Roland says he is looking forward to an increased level of engagement from the federal government on key decisions concerning the North.

"While this unprecedented level of federal engagement in our region is welcome, we realize that it is driven by increasing interest around the world in the North," the Premier said. "As the resident custodians and caretakers of the Northwest Territories, the Governments and people of the NWT must play a role in decisions concerning their future."

The NWT Premier says he wants to advance work on key initiatives such as the Mackenzie Gas Project, NWT lands, transportation infrastructure, green energy and Devolution.

With increased awareness of the North – the strength of the NWT's resource potential – and Canada's willingness to embrace northerners as partners as opposed to stakeholders, the Premier says he is looking forward to working in partnership with Aboriginal and federal leaders on initiatives that will develop and protect the political and economic decision making capacity of the Northwest territories into the future. "The time is right to address this issue," he said.

#### For more information, contact:

Drew Williams Press Secretary for Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Phone (867) 669-2304 drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)252

## **Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services Appointed**

**YELLOWKIFE (July 29, 2009)** -- Premier Floyd Roland has appointed Paddy Meade as Deputy Minister, Department of Health and Social Services (H&SS) effective August 17th, 2009.

Ms. Meade is a former Deputy Minister of both Health and Wellness and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development for the Government of Alberta and most recently served as Executive Operating Officer for the Alberta Health Services Board. She brings to her new position a varied and extensive administrative career within the health care industry.

Premier Roland and Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee jointly expressed their appreciation to H&SS staff, senior managers and Acting Deputy Minister Dana Heide who have contributed above and beyond their expected duties, in the absence of a full time Deputy Minister, to ensure the continued delivery of timely and quality health care services to all residents in the NWT.

#### For more information, contact:

**Drew Williams** Press Secretary Office of the Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Phone: (867) 669-2304

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



#### Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services Appointed

Biography - Paddy Meade

An experienced administrator within the health care industry, Paddy Meade is recognized for her ability to effectively develop and implement strategic directions and business plans and build focused multi disciplinary teams with positive impacts.

As the Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness for the Government of Alberta (2004-2008), Ms. Meade's guidance and leadership were instrumental in the establishment of many health innovations such as expanded Primary Care Networks and enhanced children's mental health programs. She worked to establish provincial standards for the care of seniors, a multi disciplinary approach to health care delivery and a capital cost containment strategy for hospital builds.

From 2001-2004, Ms. Meade provided leadership in the development of a new Ministry in the Alberta Government responsible for the direction, policy standards and programs for Aboriginal people. In her capacity as the province's first Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, she managed the establishment of this portfolio to one now built on increased stakeholder and community collaboration.

Prior to her appointment as the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services for the Government of the Northwest Territories, Ms. Meade also served as the Executive Operating Officer for the Alberta Health Services Board where she led the initial coordination and establishment of an accessible sustainable patient-focussed health delivery model for the province.

Ms. Meade is a three-time recipient of Canada's Most Influential Women Award in 2006, 2007 and 2008. She was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 2005 and the Alberta Medal for Community and Public Service in 2006.

A graduate of McMaster University, she is married with two university aged children and enjoys a variety of outdoor activities.

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



Citizenship and Cimmigration Canada I

Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada



R (16)

# **NEWS RELEASE**

#### Government of Canada Signs First-Ever Immigration Agreement with Northwest Territories

**Ottawa, August 5, 2009** – Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney today announced the signing of an agreement to help attract new immigrants to the Northwest Territories. Minister Kenney made the announcement with his territorial colleagues, Education, Culture and Employment Minister Jackson Lafferty and Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister Bob McLeod.

"I am very pleased to announce the very first nominee agreement with the Northwest Territories today," Minister Kenney said. "This pilot initiative will better extend and strengthen the benefits of immigration for the Northwest Territories and allow it to bring in the immigrants it needs faster. Provincial nominee programs are an important part of our government's focus on ensuring that our immigration system aligns with labour market needs."

The Northwest Territories Nominee Program (NTNP) is operated by the Government of the Northwest Territories through an agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The program will help strengthen the Territories' economy by attracting qualified individuals to fill critical labour shortages and promote business development.

"This program will allow us to encourage the migration of skilled workers to the Northwest Territories," Minister Lafferty said. "Foreign workers can assist us in building a strong, balanced and diversified economy that will benefit all Northerners."

Individuals nominated by the territorial government are eligible to have their application processed on a priority basis for permanent residency through CIC. Final authority rests solely with CIC to issue permanent residency.

Applicants can be nominated for permanent residency under one of four program categories:

- Skilled Worker
- Critical Impact Worker (Service and Hospitality Sector Occupations)
- Entrepreneur Business
- Self-Employed Business

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is responsible for the Entrepreneur and Self-Employed Business categories of the program. "Entrepreneurship is important in developing the Northwest Territories' economy. This program is a new way of bringing entrepreneurs into the Territory," Minister McLeod said. "We will all benefit from the arrival of entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds and experiences."



Beginning today, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment will be delivering the NTNP at its service centres. This is a three-year pilot program.

#### - 30 -

#### For further information (media only), please contact:

Alykhan Velshi	Lorraine Lavallee
Minister's Office	Communications
Citizenship and Immigration Canada	Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Government of Canada	Government of Canada
Alykhan.Velshi@cic.gc.ca	204-984-7190
Kevin Allerston	Dragana Beronja
Public Affairs Officer	A/Manager of Public Affairs and Communications
Department of Education, Culture and	Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
Employment	
Government of the Northwest Territories	Government of the Northwest Territories
867-920-6222	867-873-7857
Kevin_Allerston@gov.nt.ca	Dragana_Beronja@gov.nt.ca



R(16)254

# Yellowknife Resident Wins 2009 Council of the Federation Literacy Award

**REGINA (August 6, 2009)** -- Yellowknifer Annie Whane has been awarded the 2009 Council of the Federation Award for Literacy in the Northwest Territories.

In addition to her ongoing studies at the Literacy Outreach Centre in Yellowknife, Ms. Whane is a tireless and committed volunteer with community support groups in the city and, as an aspiring author, provides inspiration from her own life by sharing her story in poems, song lyrics and short stories.

"Healthy educated people are a priority of our Assembly's vision of a Territory comprised of vibrant and sustainable communities," Premier Roland said. "Positive role models like Annie support and strengthen our government's work and investment toward this goal."

"The development of education and literacy skills is an important part of our work in *Building Our Future*," says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. "It is important that we recognize and celebrate successes in this area. Congratulations to Ms. Whane for her achievement!"

The annual Council of the Federation Literacy Award was created in 2003 by the thirteen provincial and territorial Premiers with a view to playing a leadership role in revitalizing the Canadian federation and building a more constructive and cooperative federal system.

For more information, contact:

Kevin Allerston Public Affairs Officer Department of Education, Culture, and Employment Government of the Northwest Territories Phone: (867) 920-6222

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:





# **News Release** R(16)060809255 R(16) 255

#### GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LAUNCH FLEXIBLE AND INNOVATIVE GROWING FORWARD PROGRAMS FOR PRODUCERS

**YELLOWKNIFE, Northwest Territories** – **August 6, 2009** – New flexible and innovative programming is now available to maximize the profitability of the agriculture sector in the Northwest Territories. Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and the Honourable Robert McLeod announced the details of new NWT agricultural programs under the Growing Forward framework today. This announcement follows the signing of the Growing Forward bilateral and contribution agreements by the Government of Canada and the Northwest Territories last month.

"All levels of government are expected to work together to drive Canadian agriculture and this agreement is making that happen," said Minister Ritz. "Growing Forward delivers stable and bankable programs that work for the unique Northern agriculture industry. The agreement we signed in July marks the rollout of these essential programs in the Northwest Territories."

"The Growing Forward agreement recognizes the importance of both the conventional and traditional food production sectors here in the North," said Minister McLeod. "As the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, whose mandate also includes Agriculture, Agri-foods and the Traditional Economy here in the Northwest Territories, I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Minister Ritz for acknowledging these realities. By producing our own food here in the North we will diversify local economies, provide northerners with healthy, locally produced food choices and make a meaningful impact on cost of living."

Growing Forward is a national agriculture framework to coordinate federal and provincial agriculture policy. Federal, provincial and territorial governments are delivering \$1.3 billion for farm families over five years. This Agreement with the Northwest Territories will deliver \$3.2 million for agriculture in the Territory.

Growing Forward programs are tailored with the flexibility to meet the Northwest Territories' diverse regional requirements. The Government of Canada and the Northwest Territories have worked with harvesters every step of the way to develop the Growing Forward framework.

For a complete list of Growing Forward programs in the Northwest Territories, visit www.iti.gov.nt.ca/fursagriculturefisheries or www.agr.gc.ca/GrowingForward.



# Canada



For more information, media may contact:

#### **Media Relations**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Ottawa, Ontario 613-759-7972 1-866-345-7972

#### Meagan Murdoch

Press Secretary Office of the Honourable Gerry Ritz 613-759-1059

#### **Andrew Matthews**

A/Communications Assistant Government of the Northwest Territories 867-669-2302







R(16)060809255

# Canada-Northwest Territories Growing Forward Program 2009 – 2013

#### BACKGROUNDER

Growing Forward is a commitment to Canada's agriculture sector that's focused on achieving results, reflects input from across the sector and delivers programs that are simple, more effective and tailored to local needs.

Governments are investing \$1.3 billion over five years into Growing Forward programs. The funding represents \$330 million more than the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) and is cost-shared on a 60:40 basis between the Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments.

Growing Forward puts emphasis on building a profitable sector through its three strategic outcomes:

- A competitive and innovative sector: From idea to invention to consumer, growing new opportunities that support innovation and competitiveness.
- A sector that contributes to society's priorities: Enabling the sector to contribute to the priorities of increasingly health-conscious and environmentally aware Canadians.
- A sector proactive in managing risks: The programs available through the Business Risk Management (BRM) suite were the first programs available under Growing Forward, offering more responsive, predictable and bankable programs for farmers.

In addition, Growing Forward provides:

- Flexible programs that better meet local needs: Finding the best ways of adapting programs to meet regional needs while achieving common national goals.
- Action on key regulatory priorities: A competitive and innovative sector supported by modernizing regulatory processes and improving regulatory cooperation for the betterment of all Canadians.
- Better service delivery: Simple and more accessible programs and services.

The Canada/Northwest Territories Growing Forward Bi-Lateral Agreement, signed in July 2009, sets out the following programs to be provided to producers in the Northwest Territories:

#### Small Scale Foods Program:

The aim of the Small Scale Foods Program is to establish market gardens in 25 communities across the NWT. Once established, community garden programs will be augmented with training, upgraded equipment and ongoing support to maximize efficiencies and yields.



#### Northern Agri-Foods Program:

The Northern Agri-Foods Program aims to work with producers in the establishment, expansion and development of land based initiatives. The Program also targets existing commercial greenhouse operators with funding aimed at increasing yields and efficiencies. In addition, the Program will examine the potential feasibility of non-timber forest initiatives such as birch syrup production. Finally, the Program will provide support for workshops and seminars aimed at increasing the agriculture and agri-foods knowledge base in the NWT.

#### **Commercial Harvest Program:**

The Commercial Harvest Program continues with work that has been carried out for a number of years involving harvests for commercial markets. The Program is designed to assist NWT First Nations, communities, organizations and governments to implement and conduct commercial harvests for plants, berries, caribou, muskox and other wild species, as shown to be feasible.

#### **Traditional Harvest Program:**

The Traditional Harvest Program is designed to assist Northwest Territories Community/Regional Wildlife Organizations in the local harvest of plants, berries, caribou, muskox and other wild species, as shown to be feasible. The Program consists of three components:

- **Community Harvests**: This initiative provides assistance in conducting community hunts/harvests.
- **Take a Kid Harvesting:** This initiative encourages youth in the NWT to participate in traditional food harvesting practices on the land.
- Small Equipment: This initiative provides assistance for the purchase of harvesting, processing and storage equipment.

#### Intersettlement Trade Program:

The Intersettlement Trade Program provides assistance to ship food products from the point of harvest/production to markets in the NWT, but does not apply to export sales.

#### Agriculture in the Environment:

The Agriculture in the Environment Program will:

- Provide for the development of regional environmental farm plans along with assistance aimed at facilitating implementation.
- Provide support for studies to collect soil, vegetation and water data, and incorporate this data into databases.

#### **Bison Management Strategy:**

The Bison Management Strategy will provide support for research in the control and reduction of transmissible diseases in bison. The Strategy will be implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

More information is available from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

#### **Program Management:**

**Doug Doan**, Assistant Deputy Minister **John C. Colford**, Manager, Traditional Economy Agriculture and Fisheries

#### **Program Delivery:**

Regional Superintendents, Industry Tourism and Investment

Don Craik, Inuvik, 867 777-7286 Andy Short, Sahtu, 867-587-7170 Kevin Todd, North Slave, 867-920-3230 Lloyd Jones, South Slave, 867-872-6430 Gerd Fricke, Dehcho, 867-695-7520

#### **Program Coordination:**

**Gene Hachey** – Agriculture, Agri-foods and Commercial Wildlife Development Consultant 867 874 5408

- Small Scale Foods Program
- Northern Agri-Foods Program
- Commercial Harvest Program
- Intersettlement Trade Program
- Agriculture in the Environment Program
- Liaison with Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Guy Erasmus – Fur Management/Traditional Economy 867 920-6404

- Traditional Harvest Program
- Intersettlement Trade Program

Home Your MLA Departmen 2009 Get Active NWT Wraps-up	nts Publications	Facts NWT M	ip
R(16)256 - Monday, August 10, 2009 YELLOWKNIFE (August 10) – Minister of (MACA) Robert C. McLeod today annou 2009 Get Active NWT campaign.		nmunities Affairs	
Created in 2007, the purpose of Get Act of the health benefits of being physically communities to organize events that sup physically active.	active, and to encou	ırage	
More than 5,000 residents from 25 comr Active NWT was a success," says Minist and communities participate, and it's gre lead and organize events to ensure their lifestyle."	ter McLeod. "We had eat to see the commu	I more residents inities take the	
All participants in the 2009 Get Active N to win a flight for two from First Air or a N following individuals for getting active thi	Nintendo Wii. Congra	tulations to the	
Winners of the flight passes:			
1. Elisabeth Von Rhe'dey – Trout Lake 2. Greg Shae – Fort Good Hope 3. Jennifer Makepeace – Hay River 4. Mark Gordon – Aklavik			
Winners of the Nintendo Wii:			
1. Richard James Blake – Fort McPhers 2. Adrian Bergeron - Yellowknife 3. Henry Cli – Fort Simpson	on		
Thank you to First Air, who generously d Nintendo Wii Game Systems.	lonated the flight pas	sses, and the	
Get Active NWT reflects the 16th Assem people and communities and is supporte Future initiative.			
For more information, please contact:			
Rebecca Alty Communications and Website Advisor Municipal and Community Affairs Phone: (867) 920-3092			
PHONE DIRECTORY CONTACT US	JOB OPPORTUNITIES	SEARCH INFORMA	TION FOR EMPLOYEES



R(16)257

## International Youth Day 2009 – August 12, 2009

YELLOWKNIFE (August 12) - Today is International Youth Day with the theme: *Sustainability: Our Challenge. Our Future.* 

In the Northwest Territories, Minister Responsible for Youth Robert C McLeod says it is important that today's youth take an active interest and get involved in their community.

"You are our greatest and most valued asset," he said to NWT youth. Your actions and involvement can make positive and lasting contributions to the Northwest Territories. You can help create the sustainable, vibrant, safe communities that we envision for our future."

Investment in children and youth is a major component of the Government of the Northwest Territories' *Building Our Future* Initiative. Over four million dollars of new funding has been targeted since 2008 to expanding programming for children and youth in support of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly's goal of "healthy educated people".

The United Nations declared August 12 International Youth Day in 1999 to help focus attention on the needs of young people and recognize their contributions to society.

The Minister also encourages NWT leaders to take the time to support and provide strong mentorship for NWT youth.

For more information, please contact:

**Rebecca Alty** Communications and Website Advisor Municipal and Community Affairs Phone: (867) 920-3092

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)258

## **NWT Youth Centres Receive Funding**

YELLOWKNIFE (August 12) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is investing \$500,000 to assist with operating costs of youth centers and community based facilities offering positive youth programs in 29 NWT communities.

Today's announcement of the 2009 Recipients of the Youth Centres Initiative by Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) Robert C. McLeod coincides with International Youth Day.

"Investing in our children and youth is a key part of the GNWT's *Building our Future* Initiative," says Minister McLeod. "It supports youth programs in communities across the Northwest Territories by providing financial assistance to ensure youth centres can continue to focus on offering positive programming for youth."

Funding for the Youth Centres Initiative was increased by \$250,000 in 2009.

A summary of 2009-2010 funding recipients is attached.

For more details on the Youth Centre Initiative, please visit MACA's website: www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

**Rebecca Alty** Communications and Website Advisor Municipal and Community Affairs Phone: (867) 920-3092

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



#### Backgrounder NWT Youth Centres Receive Funding

#### 2009-2010 Funding Recipients - Youth Centres Initiative

Each of the following communities will receive \$17,241.00 to help support their youth centers.

Inuvik Region		
Aklavik	Aklavik Youth Centre	
Fort McPherson	Hamlet of Fort McPherson Youth Centre	
Inuvik	Inuvik Youth Centre Society	
Paulatuk	Paulatuk Youth Center	
Sachs Harbour	Sachs Harbour Youth Center	
Tsiigehtchic	Tsiigehtchic Youth Center	
Tuktoyaktuk	Tuktoyaktuk Community Corporation Youth Centre	
Dehcho Region		
Fort Liard	Hamlet of Fort Liard Youth Centre	
Fort Simpson	Dehcho Friendship Centre	
Jean Marie River	Jean Marie River Youth Facility	
Nahanni Butte	Nahanni Butte Youth Center	
Trout Lake	Sambaa K'e Dene Band Youth Centre	
Wrigley	Pehdzeh Ki First Nation Youth Centre	
North Slave Region		
D 1 1 1 "		
Behchokö	Rae Edzo Friendship Center	
Gameti	Community Government of Gameti Youth Centre	
Gameti Lutselk'e	Community Government of Gameti Youth Centre Lutselk'e Youth Centre	
Gameti Lutselk'e N'dilo	Community Government of Gameti Youth Centre Lutselk'e Youth Centre N'dilo Youth Centre	
Gameti Lutselk'e	Community Government of Gameti Youth Centre Lutselk'e Youth Centre	
Gameti Lutselk'e N'dilo	Community Government of Gameti Youth Centre Lutselk'e Youth Centre N'dilo Youth Centre	
Gameti Lutselk'e N'dilo Yellowknife	Community Government of Gameti Youth Centre Lutselk'e Youth Centre N'dilo Youth Centre	
Gameti Lutselk'e N'dilo Yellowknife <b>South Slave Region</b>	Community Government of Gameti Youth Centre Lutselk'e Youth Centre N'dilo Youth Centre Side Door Youth Centre	
Gameti Lutselk'e N'dilo Yellowknife <b>South Slave Region</b> Fort Providence	Community Government of Gameti Youth Centre Lutselk'e Youth Centre N'dilo Youth Centre Side Door Youth Centre Zhati Koe Friendship Centre	
Gameti Lutselk'e N'dilo Yellowknife <b>South Slave Region</b> Fort Providence Fort Resolution	Community Government of Gameti Youth Centre Lutselk'e Youth Centre N'dilo Youth Centre Side Door Youth Centre Zhati Koe Friendship Centre Antoine Beaulieu Memorial Hall Youth Centre	
Gameti Lutselk'e N'dilo Yellowknife <b>South Slave Region</b> Fort Providence Fort Resolution Fort Smith	Community Government of Gameti Youth Centre Lutselk'e Youth Centre N'dilo Youth Centre Side Door Youth Centre Zhati Koe Friendship Centre Antoine Beaulieu Memorial Hall Youth Centre Town of Fort Smith Recreation and Community Centre	
Gameti Lutselk'e N'dilo Yellowknife <b>South Slave Region</b> Fort Providence Fort Resolution Fort Smith Fort Smith	Community Government of Gameti Youth Centre Lutselk'e Youth Centre N'dilo Youth Centre Side Door Youth Centre Zhati Koe Friendship Centre Antoine Beaulieu Memorial Hall Youth Centre Town of Fort Smith Recreation and Community Centre Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre	
Gameti Lutselk'e N'dilo Yellowknife <b>South Slave Region</b> Fort Providence Fort Resolution Fort Resolution Fort Smith Fort Smith Hay River	Community Government of Gameti Youth Centre Lutselk'e Youth Centre N'dilo Youth Centre Side Door Youth Centre Zhati Koe Friendship Centre Antoine Beaulieu Memorial Hall Youth Centre Town of Fort Smith Recreation and Community Centre Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre Hay River Community Youth Centre	

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

#### Sahtu Region Deline Fort Good Hope Norman Wells Tulita

Brian Kenny Youth Centre Fort Good Hope Youth Centre Norman Wells Youth and Elder Centre Tulita Dene Band Youth Centre

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





R(16)259

## Aurora College Welcomes New President

FORT SMITH (August 20) -- Sarah Wright Cardinal, a northern born Aboriginal educator from Fort Smith will take over as President of Aurora College on Monday. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty and John McKee, Chair of the Board of Governors of Aurora College announced yesterday.

"We are very pleased to welcome Ms. Wright Cardinal to such an important leadership position in our Territory," Minister Lafferty said.

"Ms. Wright Cardinal's education, work experience, background and intimate knowledge of the North - together with her commitment to working with a broad range of partners on adult and post-secondary education and training in the Northwest Territories – will be valuable assets as we work together to address the training and educational challenges of our future."

Ms. Wright Cardinal, has fourteen years experience in post-secondary education and training, including work experience as an instructor, program coordinator, academic director, senior manager and consultant. She worked as the Campus Director of Yellowknife/North Slave Campus for Aurora College from December 2003 to January 2005.

"Aurora College is proud to welcome back Ms. Wright Cardinal back in her new capacity as President," said Board Chairman John McKee. "Her previous experience with the College will be a significant asset and the Board looks forward to working with her in advancing the cause of post-secondary education in the NWT."

Ms. Wright Cardinal has a Master of Arts in Teaching from the School for International Training and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of British Columbia. She has studied in Southern Canada, the United States and Europe and worked in Asia and Central America before returning to the Northwest Territories to apply her international experience at home.

Ms. Wright Cardinal was born in Fort Smith and is of Cree heritage. She is the granddaughter of Narcisse Cardinal and Agathe Desjarlais.

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

#### For more information, please contact:

**Amy Doerksen** 

Manager, Public Affairs Education, Culture & Employment Phone (867) 920-6222 amy\_doerksen@gov.nt.ca

#### **Tim Gauthier**

Manager, Public and Corporate Affairs Aurora College Phone: (867) 872-7002 tgauthier@auroracollege.nt.ca

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



#### R(16)260

#### **Aviation Career Development Program (ACDP)**

YELLOWKNIFE (August 24, 2009) — Eight scholarships worth \$5,000 each were awarded today to Northwest Territories students to help them pursue their goal of a career in the NWT's aviation industry. Recipients have chosen careers as pilots, an aircraft maintenance engineer, aviation management, and airport firefighting. They were chosen based on their likelihood of success in their career plan and their intention to return to the North for their career.

The Aviation Career Development Program is a partnership between the Department of Transportation, Adlair Aviation, and Discovery Air as funding partners and the Northern Air Transport Association. It is intended to increase the number of skilled NWT employees working in the territory's aviation industry. The Department of Transportation's contribution supports the goal of the Government of Northwest Territories to improve skills for northern workers in the critical NWT aviation industry.

Now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, the Program has awarded more than \$350,000 to students to help pay for their education.

Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod said the Aviation Career Development Program is a great example of how government and the private sector can work together to create more opportunities for northerners. "With our partners, we are helping these young people to pursue their dreams in northern aviation, while meeting the industry's future needs for skilled workers" he said. "Congratulations to this year's recipients, and I wish them well in their studies"

Applicants for the scholarship came from communities across the Northwest Territories. The 2009 recipients are: Alisa Blake, Andrew Wittlinger, Brandon Gelinas, Devan Blacklock, Devon Woodward, Joshua Menard, Kyle Clinton, and Pierre Baldwin-Corriveau.

To learn more about the Aviation Career Development Program, please visit the Department of Transportation's website at: www.dot.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, please contact:

Andrew Matthews Communications Coordinator Department of Transportation Tel: (867) 873-7956



#### **Aviation Career Development Program (ACDP)**

In 2001, the Department of Transportation, in partnership with the Northern Air Transport Association, established an annual bursary program to help Northwest Territory (NWT) students enrolled in aviation-related academic studies. The goal of the program is to support students in their work towards a career in the northern aviation industry.

In 2007, Discovery Air and Adlair Aviation joined the program as funding partners, allowing a total of eight scholarships of \$5,000 each to be distributed.

Since 2001, the Aviation Career Development Program has awarded 76 scholarships worth \$5,000 each. To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be an NWT resident for a minimum of two years;
- Be accepted, conditionally or fully, to a recognized academic or technical aviation program;
- Intend to return to work in the NWT upon completion of studies.

#### Selection Process:

Applicants are selected by a committee made up of representatives from the different partners of this program and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. A candidate must provide:

- An essay outlining the applicant's career plan and interest in a career in northern aviation
- scholastic history,
- two letters of reference, and
- a resume.

2009 Recipients:

- Alisa Blake
- Andrew Wittlinger
- Brandon Gelinas
- Devan Blacklock
- Devon Woodward
- Joshua Menard
- Kyle Clinton
- Pierre Corriveau



R(16)26Ø

## Healthy Active Youth Key Priority for Canada

YELLOWKNIFE (August 24, 2009) – Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation identified key measures last week aimed at increasing physical activity levels in Canadian children and youth. (Reference http://news.gc.ca/web/article-eng.do?m=/index&nid=474239)

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod represented the interests of the Northwest Territories (NWT) residents in discussions aimed at ensuring effective government support for advancing physical activity initiatives among children and youth.

Ministers endorsed the importance of after-school physical activity programs for children and youth and the continued importance of coordinating efforts to meet pan-Canadian physical activity targets established in 2008.

Minister McLeod says it is imperative that the GNWT continue to work closely with education and community officials to encourage more youth to become physically active. "As few as fourteen percent of NWT children and youth achieve the recommended ninety minutes of physical activity each day," he noted.

The Minister also encouraged the Government of Canada to work with Provincial and Territorial governments to address the need for recreation infrastructure in smaller jurisdictions such as the Northwest Territories.

"Per-capita funding is not sufficient to improve available infrastructure needed to increase physical activity rates," he said. "Future recreation infrastructure programs will need to include a base amount of funding."

Under its *Building Our Future* Initiatives, the GNWT is working to expand programming for children and youth as prioritized by the 16th Assembly in its goal to realize a Territory of *Healthy Educated People*.

For more information, contact:	Rebecca Alty
	Communications and Website Advisor
	Municipal and Community Affairs
	Phone: (867) 920-3092

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)262

## **Deputy Minister of Human Resources Appointed**

YELLOWKIFE (July 29, 2009) -- Premier Floyd Roland has promoted Tom Williams to the position of Deputy Minister, Human Resources effective today (August 31, 2009).

A Métis, born and raised in the Northwest Territories (NWT), Mr. Williams brings more than 22 years of Human Resource Management experience to his new capacity - both in the Public Service sector and with Aboriginal organizations. Since first joining the NWT Government as a Personnel Officer in 1986, he has held positions including: Regional Superintendent to Assistant Land Claim Negotiator and Minister's Executive Assistant.

Most recently, Mr. Williams served as Chief Operating Officer with the Gwich'in Tribal Council from 2001 to 2008 before returning to the GNWT last year in the role of Associate Deputy Minister of HR.

An active hockey volunteer and coach, he now resides in Yellowknife with his wife Pamela and two children Aurora and James.

Mr. Williams replaces Debbie Delancey who retired from the position earlier this year.

For more information, contact:

**Drew Williams** Press Secretary Office of the Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Phone: (867) 669-2304

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)261 3

#### NWT Trappers Recognized by Fur Institute of Canada

#### YELLOWKNIFE (September 2) – Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod extends his congratulations today to two Northwest Territories trappers honoured with prestigious awards from the Fur Institute of Canada (FIC).

Robert Alexie of Ft. McPherson was presented the Jim Bourque Award for his devotion to the principles of sustainable use of wildlife resources, improved animal welfare, the furthering of indigenous people's cultures and the vital stewardship role that trappers play in the conservation of our wildlife resources.

Glen Guthrie of Norman Wells was awarded the Lloyd Cook Award recognizing his commitment to excellence in trapping, trapper education and public understanding of wildlife management. Mr. Guthrie facilitates and coordinates school projects with elders and trappers that focus on traditional wildlife economy helping to ensure that young people maintain ties to the region's wildlife resources and to their Dene and Mètis culture.

"Mr. Alexie and Mr. Guthrie have shown remarkable commitment and leadership in the support of the Canadian Fur Industry and the traditional lifestyle of Aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories," the Minister notes.

The FIC makes a practice of annually recognizing outstanding individual achievements in the Canadian Trapping Industry. Minister McLeod, himself, is a former recipient of the Jim Bourque Award and previously served as Vice President of the organization.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment aims to improve local traditional economies and provide residents with the opportunity to pursue traditional livelihoods - the benefits of which are often measured in non-economic values.

#### For more information please contact:

#### Dragana Beronja

Manager, Public Affairs and Communications Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment Phone: 873-7857 Dragana\_beronja@gov.nt.ca

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)263

## **Credit Rating Confirmed for GNWT**

# YELLOWKNIFE (September 10) – Minister of Finance J Michael Miltenberger says a high investment grade credit rating by Moody's Investors Service provides assurance that the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) fiscal plans are sound.

Moody's Investors Service yesterday published its credit opinion on the GNWT summarizing its rationale for the GNWT's Aa1 credit rating. The credit opinion was published following Moody's annual review of the GNWT's fiscal plans and outlook – and in particular the government's borrowing activity.

According to Moody's, the rating reflects: "prudent fiscal policies that have, over the past several years, limited debt accumulation. A well-developed fiscal framework (including a *Fiscal Responsibility Policy* which guides the NWT's fiscal policies and use of debt) should help to ensure that the debt burden remains low and affordable."

Moody's high investment grade rating also reflects the territorial economy, which, while narrowly based and focused on resource development, generates high employment and GDP per capita.

While upheavals in the global economy over the past year have put pressure on governments to respond, the GNWT has been well positioned, fiscally, to face this uncertainty. "We have adopted fiscal policies that have supported the economy by maintaining spending and by investing significantly in infrastructure, but remain committed to our goal of long-term fiscal sustainability," Minister Miltenberger said.

Moody's also noted the GNWT's relatively low level of debt: "Over the past four fiscal years, the NWT did not have short-term debt outstanding at year-end. At March 31, 2008 the only net debt on the government's balance sheet consisted of capital leases, loans due from the NWT Housing Corporation to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, debt related to the immigrant investor program as well as a liability respecting the Deh Cho Bridge, which was financed through a public-private partnership."

The GNWT's rating is on par with that of Ontario and Saskatchewan. The highest possible credit rating issued by Moody's is Aaa, one level above the GNWT's.

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

For more information, contact:

#### **Drew Williams**

Press Secretary Office of the Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Phone: (867) 669-2304

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)264

### "Made in the NWT" Campaign Shows Early Success

YELLOWKNIFE (September 11) - The NWT Chamber of Commerce and Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) are pleased to report the "Made in the NWT" promotional campaign has, thus far, been a tremendous success.

In just two months, the Program – which is designed to help highlight Northwest Territories-based manufacturers – has already received orders for its entire first order of printed labels.

"We're thrilled with the initial response from the manufacturing sector," said NWT Chamber President Ann Marie Tout. "It's clear northern companies see value in letting people know their goods are made in the NWT and we will be having more labels printed as soon as possible."

With the support of ITI, "Made in the NWT" stickers are distributed to any requesting manufacturers free of charge through the Chamber office. When potential customers see the "Made in the NWT" label, they will recognize the jobs and other economic benefits tied to this sector and consider those before making their purchasing decision.

"We have been very pleased to work with the Chamber on the "Made in NWT" promotional campaign" said ITI Minister Bob McLeod. "I would like to congratulate everyone involved in this project on its initial success and encourage Northerners to look for the "Made in the NWT" label when shopping."

Manufacturers can obtain labels by clicking on the "Made in the NWT" link on the Chamber's website, <u>www.nwtchamber.com</u>. Simply complete the electronic form and allow a couple of weeks for delivery.

#### For more information, please contact:

John Curran Executive Director NWT Chamber of Commerce (tel) 867-920-9505 admin@nwtchamber.com www.nwtchamber.com **Dragana Beronja** Manager, Public Affairs and Communications Industry, Tourism and Investment (tel) 867-873-7857 Dragana beronja@gov.nt.ca

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)265

#### **GNWT Working to Prevent Spread of H1N1 in Schools**

## YELLOWKNIFE (September 10, 2009) – The Government of the Northwest Territories is taking efforts to ensure students, parents and teachers have the knowledge and ability to actively prevent the spread of H1N1.

The best defence to the H1N1 virus is ensuring people take basic precautions to avoid catching the flu and limit its spread by staying home if they have influenza-like symptoms.

Information packages including the *H1N1 Flu Slow the Spread!* brochure have been provided to NWT schools for distribution to students. It stresses the importance of properly covering coughs and sneezes and reminds young people not to share personal items like drinks and food with others.

In an accompanying letter, parents are also reminded not to send sick children to school. Students who appear sick at school with influenza-like symptoms will be separated from other students and arrangements made for their immediate and safe return home.

All Government departments are working together to ensure the NWT is prepared to respond to the outbreak of H1N1 in our communities.

As part of this proactive approach to H1N1 preparedness, School Superintendents will meet next week in Fort Smith. Vince Rodgers, a continuity planning specialist from the Alberta School Boards Association will work with Department officials and NWT school administrators to identify contingency plans and ensure procedures are in place in preparation for an H1N1 outbreak in NWT schools. Mr. Rodgers has worked extensively with Alberta school boards in the development of their pandemic plans.

For more information, contact:

Amy Doerksen Manager, Public Affairs Education, Culture and Employment Tel: (867) 920-6222 Email: <u>Amy\_Doerksen@gov.nt.ca</u>

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)266

#### **Inuit Games Athletes Announced for 2010 Winter Games Showcase**

YELLOWKNIFE (September 16) – Eight Inuit Games athletes and two coaches have been selected to help showcase the Northwest Territories (NWT) at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The athletes will demonstrate traditional Inuit games alongside Northwest Territories artists and performers in a variety of venues during the 2010 Winter Games.

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), Robert C. McLeod says the opportunity will allow youth to highlight their individual talents, while promoting a significant traditional aspect of northern Aboriginal culture.

"We are fortunate to have such talented athletes in the Northwest Territories, and we are proud to have them represent us at the largest sporting event in the world," he said.

The athletes were selected based on their athletic performance, their commitment to a healthy lifestyle, and their knowledge of the cultural importance of Inuit Games.

"The 2010 Winter Games offer a unique opportunity to share Inuit culture and promote the North to visitors from around the world," says Mr. Roy Ipana, Chair of the Northern Games Society. "On behalf of the Northern Games Society, and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, I wish the Inuit Games athletes and coaches the very best in Vancouver."

The following athletes and coaches were selected:

- Kyle Kuptana Inuvik
- Noel Leigh Cockney Inuvik
- Kristen Green Paulatuk
- Marion Toutuk Green Paulatuk
- Vanessa Anikina Paulatuk
- Matthew Anikina Tuktoyaktuk

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

- James Williams Yellowknife
- Stacey Bengts Yellowknife
- Karis Gruben Inuvik (Alternate)
- Dwayne Illasiak Paulatuk (Alternate)
- Donald Kuptana Jr. Inuvik (Coach)
- Lena Kotakak Tuktoyaktuk (Coach)

Minister McLeod is especially pleased to welcome Mr. Abel Tingmiak, a respected elder from Inuvik, who will perform with the athletes during the 2010 Winter Games as a Blanket Toss specialist.

Athletes will take part in a training and orientation event in Yellowknife from October 3-5<sup>th</sup>.

Through its investment in the 2010 Winter Games, the GNWT is working to Maximize Opportunities by highlighting the NWT's arts, culture and traditions to promote the NWT as a place to live and visit. Strengthening awareness of the NWT's northern identity and uniqueness will work to promote a strong and independent North as versioned in the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly's Vision of Northerners Working Together.

#### For more information, contact:

**Rebecca Alty** Communications/Website Advisor Municipal and Community Affairs Tel: (867) 920-3092

#### **Roy Ipana**

Chairperson Northern Games Society Tel: (867) 678-2429

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)267

## **Canada's Education Ministers Meet in Calgary**

YELLOWKNIFE (September 16) – Eliminating achievement gaps and increasing literacy are top priorities for educators across Canada says GNWT Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty following meetings of the Council of Ministers of Education Canada (CMEC) last week in Calgary.

Minister Lafferty says he was particularly pleased with the level and extent of discussion that took place around Aboriginal education. CMEC Ministers signed a joint declaration in April *Learn Canada 2020*, recognizing the importance of removing the learning disparity between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal learners.

"In the NWT, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is working closely with Aboriginal governments, and our many community partners to develop and implement a strategy that attracts our students to school and keeps them there," Minister Lafferty said. "It is not just about getting bodies in the seats but engaging our youth. We want them to be active participants at school and to maximize their potential."

Promoting essential skill development through literacy efforts was also addressed by CMEC Ministers. The CMEC provided an update on their Literacy Action Plan and governments across Canada are adopting a collaborative approach to engage partners and stakeholders in the pursuit of increased literacy. Other matters discussed at the CMEC meeting include education data and research as well as H1N1 preparedness.

"I am encouraged by the shared commitment that exists on important initiatives such as Aboriginal education and achievement, literacy, and building our post-secondary capacity," Minister Lafferty said

#### For more information, please contact:

Amy Doerksen Manager, Public Affairs Education, Culture and Employment Tel: (867) 920-6222 Email: <u>Amy\_Doerksen@gov.nt.ca</u>

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)268

## **Minister of Transportation and Mayors Sign MOUs**

INUVIK (September 16) -- Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod today signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) which will lay the foundation to meet regulatory requirements for an all weather road between Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk, and improve gravel access for the Town of Inuvik.

Minister McLeod was joined by Inuvik Mayor Derek Lindsay and Tuktoyaktuk Mayor Merven Gruben for the signing of an MOU which committed the parties to a partnership advancing the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk portion of the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

"As a result of this agreement, the parties are going to work together on environmental and engineering work to ensure that the regulatory requirements needed to move this important project forward are properly met," Minister McLeod said. "The Mackenzie Valley Highway to Tuktoyaktuk is a priority for the Government of Northwest Territories. It will improve economic opportunities and lower the cost of living for communities along its right of way."

Mayor Gruben welcomed the agreement with the Department and the Town of Inuvik. "This is a huge step forward in making this all weather road a reality and connecting all of Canada from sea to sea," he said. "I look forward to working with the territorial and federal governments in making this all weather road happen. It's time to quit dreaming and studying and get some actual work done on this project."

Mayor Lindsay said the agreement was a positive step forward. "After sitting on the Tuk-Inuvik Highway Committee since 1996, I am absolutely thrilled that the federal government has shown the vision and committed the funding to achieve so many economic and sovereignty goals for the Region and Canada," he said.

Minister McLeod was then joined by Mayor Lindsay for the signing of a separate MOU which formalized the Town of Inuvik's access to a gravel source located at the Mike Zubko Airport. The agreement is effective immediately. "It is great to formalize the use of the quarry as it is one of the few sources of bedrock within the Town of Inuvik," Mayor Lindsay "I would like to thank the Minister for all his assistance getting this agreement finalized."

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

"This agreement will help the Town of Inuvik control costs of granular material, which is used for foundations, roadways, and construction in the community," Minister McLeod said. "All Inuvik residents will benefit from lower costs as a result of this agreement."

#### For further information, please contact:

#### **Earl Blacklock**

Manager of Public Affairs and Communications Department of Transportation (867) 873-7712 (867) 445-3494

Derek Lindsay

Mayor Town of Inuvik (867) 777-8608

#### Merven Gruben

Mayor Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk (867) 977-2286 (867) 678-0044 (Cell)

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



#### R(16)269 NWT Leads in Aboriginal Resource Development – Premier

VANCOUVER (September 15) -- Premier Floyd Roland says the Northwest Territories is a leader in its recognition of Aboriginal participation in the sustainable management of land and resources.

Speaking to the Aboriginal Land and Resource Management Conference in Vancouver yesterday, the Premier highlighted the significant and growing roles of northern and Aboriginal businesses and investments in the NWT's resource development.

"It requires meaningful inclusion in all aspects of resource development. Not just at a peripheral level – but as investors and business people - as benefactors - and especially, as decision-makers."

The Premier pointed to joint efforts taken with the NWT's diamond industry as an example of how made-in-the-NWT decisions and initiatives have resulted in real benefits for Aboriginal people and NWT residents and businesses in the development of the Territory's diamond sector.

"Today, we continue to build on the approach we began with the diamond industry to increase the participation of Aboriginal people as investors and business owners in other areas of the economy as well."

The Premier also told delegates that rising interest in the NWT, increased federal engagement in northern sovereignty and the need for nation-wide economic stimulus will continue to provide "a window of opportunity through which the entire nation can seize opportunity".

"Our evolution as a Territory and as Aboriginal people has been fast and it has been dramatic. It will be no less so in the future," he said. "We are seizing our future in ways that engage and benefit the Aboriginal people that call our Territory home," he said.

The Premier's Speech is available on line at:

http://www.exec.gov.nt.ca/currentnews/speechDetails.asp?varStatement\_ID=870 For more information, contact: Drew Williams Press Secretary, Premier/Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2304

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)270

## Youth and Seniors Learning Together (Sept 20-26<sup>th</sup>)

# YELLOWKNIFE (September 21) – This is Senior Citizens' Week in the Northwest Territories (September 20-26<sup>th</sup>). It is being celebrated with the theme: "Youth and Seniors Learning Together".

Seniors throughout the Territory are looking forward to working with schools to promote shared learning experiences between youth and seniors. NWT Schools have received an Event Planning Guide, produced by the NWT Seniors' Society, to help develop ideas and plan events and activities involving children, youth and elders.

"Youth and seniors have many opportunities to learn from one another and share ideas and knowledge. Each should take advantage of the chance to interact and learn," says Minister Responsible for Seniors, Sandy Lee.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment in partnership with the NWT Seniors' Society, has made funding available to youth centres across the NWT to carry out literacy events and activities during Senior Citizens' Week and Literacy Week (September 27 to October 3, 2009).

This initiative will bring seniors and youth together in literacy events and community activities bridging the generation gap and helping to make new and positive connections between younger and older adults. Activities will include developing cook books with recipes from Elders, documenting Elders' stories and community histories, teaching Senior's computer skills such as email use, and having youth learn traditional harvesting skills from Elders.

"We have much to be proud of with our own culture and heritage. The opportunity to learn from our Elders adds to the overall education of our young people and helps them to develop a strong sense of identity," Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty says.

For more information, contact:

#### **Damien Healy**

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

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)271

## New Chief Judge of the Territorial Court

## YELLOWKNIFE (September 22) – Minister of Justice Jackson Lafferty has appointed the Honourable Robert Gorin as Chief Judge of the Territorial Court.

In announcing the appointment today, Minister Lafferty noted that Judge Gorin's many years of experience in the Northwest Territories (NWT) will serve him well as Chief Judge. "I am certain that under his leadership, our Territorial Court will continue to meet the needs of NWT residents," he said.

Judge Gorin was appointed to the Territorial Court in 2005 after practicing law for 15 years in the NWT, and has sat as a judge in communities across the territory. His appointment as Chief Judge is effective October  $2^{nd}$  at 5pm for a five-year term, expiring in 2014. His appointment follows the retirement of the Honourable Brian Bruser as Chief Judge.

"Chief Judge Bruser served the people of the NWT admirably," Minister Lafferty said. "I thank him for his twenty years of dedicated service to our Territorial Court, and particularly for his work as Chief Judge."

The Territorial Court hears both criminal and civil matters, including family law, child protection and civil claims of up to \$10,000. In addition to sitting as judge, the Chief Judge has general supervision and direction over arranging the sittings of the Territorial Court and assigning judges for Territorial Court hearings.

The Territorial Court also includes Judge Bernadette Schmaltz, Judge Christine Gagnon and one vacancy due to the retirement of Chief Judge Bruser. The Minister of Justice has asked the Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee to recommend candidates for appointment to the Territorial Court to fill the vacancy in accordance with the *Territorial Court Act*.

For more information, please contact:

Megan Holsapple Communications Department of Justice 920-3130 megan\_holsapple@gov.nt.ca

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)272

## K'alemi Dene School Opens its Doors in Ndilo

YELLOWKNIFE (September 23) – Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty will join Ndilo community members and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to celebrate the official Grand Opening of the new K'alemi Dene School on Friday.

The public is also invited to attend the opening ceremony beginning at 11:00am - to be followed by a community fish fry.

The completion of the new school has been eagerly awaited by the community. Its construction has been a community-wide priority and shared by the many students, teachers and community members who have been consulted and engaged in its planning.

"There is an incredible sense of ownership here. This is truly something the entire community helped create," Minister Lafferty said. "They can see their ideas and input put into action. A child's education really is a community wide responsibility."

Last week, approximately 90 students explored the halls and classrooms of the K'alemi Dene School for the first time. The new facility, offering schooling from pre-school to grade 12, boasts 6 classrooms and several facilities including a high tech computer lab and a cultural area that has quickly become the hub of activity in the school. With its wide open space and unique design, the cultural area hosts healthy breakfast and hot lunch programs, as well as drumming lessons and community gatherings.

Designed by Pin Taylor Architects, the school's distinctive architecture complements the surrounding landscape of Ndilo. In many areas of the school, Canadian Shield rock is incorporated into the layout and a unique nature wall reinforces the important relationship the Dene People have with the Land.

The K'alemi Dene School project was a joint venture involving the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Public, Works and Services.

For more information, please contact:

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

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)273

## **Survey Confirms Continued Decline in Bathurst Caribou**

YELLOWKNIFE (September 24) -- Results of this summer's photographic survey of the calving grounds of the Bathurst caribou herd confirms an accelerated decline in the number of animals.

The survey was done by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) in June 2009.

The estimated number of breeding females found on the calving grounds has dropped from 55,600 in 2006 to 16,600 plus or minus 4,500 animals in 2009. The overall population estimate of the herd is 31,900 animals plus or minus 11,000.

"Although caribou herds traditionally cycle, these low levels and rapid decline indicate tough decisions must be made for the herd to recover," Minister of Environment and Natural Resources J. Michael Miltenberger said. "We are working with the Tlîchô Government to develop a Joint Proposal on management actions for herd recovery."

The ENR/Tlîchô Government Joint Proposal will be submitted to the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) by the end of October.

The WRRB, established under the Tlîchô Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement, is the main instrument for wildlife management in the Wek'èezhii area. The WRRB will make recommendations on recovery of the herd.

Consultation with other Aboriginal governments and stakeholder groups will be held in November to determine recommendations for recovery of the herd in areas outside of Wek'èezhii.

"ENR biologists are working with independent biologists, population modellers and statisticians to review all current data on the herd," added Miltenberger. "These analyses will be used to produce a technical report which will be provided to the WRRB to assist in its deliberations on recovery actions."

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

Observers from the Tlîchô Government, Lutsel k'e, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the North Slave Metis Alliance and a staff member from the WRRB participated in the survey.

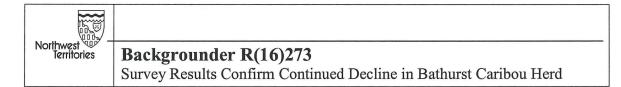
Results of the surveys done on the Cape Bathurst, Blue-nose West, Ahiak and Beverly herds will be released after being provided to co-management partners.

For more information, contact:

#### **Judy McLinton**

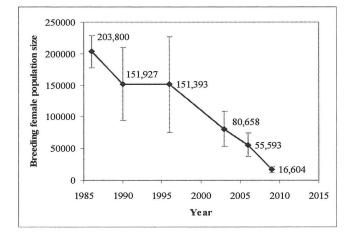
Manager, Public Affairs and Communications Environment and Natural Resources Tel: 867-873-7379 Email: judy\_mclinton@gov.nt.ca www.enr.gov.nt.ca

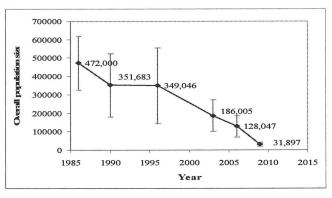
Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



(June 2009)

Estimated number of Breeding Female on Calving Ground (June 2009)





Estimate of total Herd population - Bathurst

- Bathurst calving ground survey was done from June 3 12, 2009.
- Pregnant cows return to, or near, the calving area every year in early June.
- Satellite-collared cows are monitored to determine when they have reached the calving ground.
- Small aircrafts are then used to map the calving grounds and determine where most of the cows are concentrated.
- The calving grounds are then divided into blocks of high, medium and low density of caribou.
- Transects are flown in each block at the peak of calving, using a specialized photo plane that takes large format stereo photos while flying at altitudes of 600 metres (2000 ft.).
- The photos are used to count the number of animals, generally breeding females, calves and nonbreeding females, on the calving ground.
- Observers on the ground check the proportion of breeding cows.
- This information is used to determine a population estimate of the herd.
- In 2009, about 14,000 km of survey lines were flown from Kugluktuk to the east side of Bathurst Inlet and form the Arctic coast south to the treeline and near the diamond mines.
- 21 people participated in the survey including observers from First Nations.
- About 90 hours in a fixed wing aircraft and 30 hours in a helicopter were flown for the survey.
- Estimated cost of the survey is \$350,000.



R(16)274

## NWT to Host Conference on the Canadian Francophonie

YELLOWKNIFE (Sept. 28) -- Canada's federal, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for the Canadian Francophonie will be coming to the Northwest Territories (NWT) next year as Yellowknife hosts the 15<sup>th</sup> *Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie* June 22- 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Conference accepted the invitation offered by NWT Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty when they met in September. Minister Lafferty's offer to host the conference included a gift package of traditional Bannock (recipe included) for a small taste of what they can expect in the North.

The ministers will have an opportunity to meet with residents of Yellowknife and Behchoko to learn more about the languages of the NWT.

"This will be a unique opportunity for my colleagues and the Federal Minister of Canadian Heritage to gain an appreciation for the NWT's many languages and the challenges associated with having 11 official languages," Minister Lafferty said.

The Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie was created in 1994 and provides a forum for federal, provincial and territorial ministers to meet annually to deal with various issues related to the Canadian Francophonie and to provide direction for intergovernmental cooperation.

For more information, please contact:

Amy Doerksen Manager, Public Affairs Education, Culture and Employment Tel: (867) 920-6222 Email: <u>Amy\_Doerksen@gov.nt.ca</u>

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)275

## NWT Youth/Seniors Mark Literacy Week (Sept 27-Oct 3)

YELLOWKNIFE (September 28) -- Teachers, students and seniors across the Northwest Territories (NWT) are celebrating the theme: *Youth and Seniors Learning Together* as communities across the Northwest Territories (NWT) mark Literacy Week (Sept. 27 – Oct. 3) with a variety of events.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) is sponsoring a series of projects in youth centres across the NWT in support of literacy among young people. They are designed to bring seniors and youth together in literacy events and community activities - bridging the generation gap and helping to make new and positive connections between younger and older adults.

Activities will include developing cook books with recipes from Elders, documenting Elders' stories and community histories, teaching Senior's computer skills such as email use, and having youth learn traditional harvesting skills from Elders.

"We have much to be proud of with our own culture and heritage. The opportunity to learn from our Elders adds to the overall education of our young people and helps them to develop a strong sense of identity," Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty says.

NWT residents are encouraged to participate in *TV-Free Night* on Thursday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> by engaging in literacy activities with friends and family.

On Friday, recipients of the 2009 Council of the Federation and 2009 Ministerial Literacy Awards will be honoured at a ceremony and luncheon at the Northern United Place Auditorium. The public is invited join in celebrating this year's recipients.

#### For more information, please contact:

Kevin Allerston Public Affairs Officer Education, Culture, and Employment Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-3059

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)276

## **Northern Victims of Crime Conference**

YELLOWKNIFE (September 29) -- Minister of Justice Jackson Lafferty today welcomed delegates from across Canada to the *Northern Approaches and Responses to Victims of Crime Conference*. The conference, hosted by Justice Canada, is taking place at the Explorer Hotel in Yellowknife September 29-October 1.

"It's appropriate that this conference is being held here, given our history, current situation and future challenges," Minister Lafferty said. "Northern victims are especially likely to know the people who hurt them. Often, the people who harm our residents are part of their families and communities. It creates a unique environment for victim services, one that demands unique approaches and responses to victims of crime."

The goal of this week's conference is to increase the ability of service providers to help victims. All of the conference participants work with victims of crime in Canada's northern regions. Service providers from 14 NWT communities and all provinces and territories are in attendance.

The conference will focus, specifically, on the needs of northern victims – and particularly the needs of Aboriginal victims. Participants will also discuss ways to make sure that victims have an effective voice in the criminal-justice system.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) supports victim-services programs in Inuvik, Fort Good Hope, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Behchoko, Yellowknife and Fort Smith, with outreach to other communities as needed. The federal government also funds programs in Paulatuk and Aklavik: the GNWT provides training, mentoring and administrative support to the workers in these communities.

The Government's work in this area is key to the development of sustainable, vibrant, safe communities, and strengthens the role of local organizations as they work to improve the well-being of residents. The program works through partnerships with local organizations, and the focus is always on appropriate supports for clients.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple Department of Justice (867) 920-3130 megan\_holsapple@gov.nt.ca

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)277

### **2009 Volunteer Summit Report Released**

YELLOWKNIFE (September 28, 2009) – The 2009 Volunteer Summit report was released today by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) Robert C. McLeod. It will be used to develop the "2009-2012 Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) Volunteer Support Initiative (VSI)."

The report outlines the goals, objectives, and key findings of the GNWT-sponsored Volunteer Summit held in Yellowknife last March. The summit provided an opportunity for volunteers to express their needs, concerns, and ideas surrounding the voluntary sector.

"Volunteers and the voluntary sector play an important role in developing and maintaining sustainable, safe, and vibrant communities," said Minister McLeod. "Through the Volunteer Support Initiative, MACA is committed to supporting volunteers as they continue to play a vital role in the wellbeing and sense of community in the North."

The VSI will focus on initiatives that improve training opportunities for volunteers, with a particular emphasis on community capacity building; promoting the social and health benefits of volunteering to all residents; engaging NWT youth as new volunteers; and supporting the development of resources to complement these activities.

Updating and refocusing the Volunteer Support Initiative is a key part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' *Building our Future* initiative, and is an important step to improve support for the voluntary sector.

For a copy of the report, please visit the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs website at <u>www.maca.gov.nt.ca</u>.

For more information, contact:

**Rebecca Alty** Communications/Website Advisor Municipal and Community Affairs Tel: (867) 920-3092

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)278

## **Premier Roland Marks the Passing of Tom Eagle**

## INUVIK (October 1) -- Premier Floyd Roland says it is with regret that he recognizes the passing (Tuesday) of a veteran and passionate advocate for Canada's Aboriginal people.

"Mr. Eagle fought for his country and - following his transfer to primary reserves - for the wellbeing, socio-economic and political development of Aboriginal Canadians. He was a man whose life's trail of work will always be marked by the laughter, passion and tireless energy that he held – all of which will be missed."

Tom Eagle was a member of the Tootinawaziibeeng (Valley River) Ojibway First Nation in Manitoba. He completed two tours of military duty in West Germany and served with the United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Cyprus before finding his way North. Mr. Eagle was one of the forerunners in the formation of Aboriginal political organizations such as the National Association of Indian Friendship Centres and The Native Council of Canada. He served more than 20 years as the Director of the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre in Yellowknife – realizing his vision, in 2006, of a new facility that would advance the centre's self-sufficiency. In his capacity as Chairperson of the Northwest Territories/Yukon Friendship Centre Association, he was also responsible for the development of Friendship Centres in Fort Smith, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Fort Providence, Rankin Inlet, and Fort Rae. Following his retirement in 2002, Mr. Eagle was a relentless advocate for Aboriginal veterans in Canada. He maintained an active and passionate interest in politics until his death – never taking no for an answer, and rarely missing a chance to contribute to constituency meetings in Yellowknife Great Slave.

For more information, contact:

**Drew Williams** Press Secretary for Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Phone (867) 669-2304 <u>drew\_williams@gov.nt.ca</u>

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)279

## **Territorial Admissions Committee for Long-Term Care**

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 23)** – Changes to the application process for long-term care in the Northwest Territories (NWT) take effect today to ensure fair and equitable access to programs and services based on a person's needs.

"We are working to ensure that NWT residents have access to the appropriate level of care as close to home as possible," Minister of Health and Social Services, Sandy Lee says.

A new Territorial Admissions Committee (TAC) has been established to streamline the application process for long-term care into the NWT's 10 long-term care facilities. Committee Members have been selected based on their knowledge, expertise and interest in fulfilling the needs of persons requiring long term care placement.

The committee will oversee one coordinated, prioritized placement list; use a uniform assessment instrument, common definitions and common criteria for long-term care; maintain an inventory of available beds; ensure effective and efficient administration of applications for admission to long-term care facilities and place applicants as close to home as possible.

Placement of applicants will be based on assessed need and the long-term care facility's ability to respond to the individuals assessed needs and preferences. Applications for long term care will continue to be coordinated through the health and social services authorities.

For more information on the TAC or on the Department's programs and services, visit the website at: <u>www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca</u>.

For more information, contact:

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

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)280

## Safe Travel Choices Needed to Reduce Injuries and Deaths From Traffic Collisions

YELLOWKNIFE (October 1, 2009) – The 2008 NWT Traffic Collisions Facts report is now available. The report, which summarizes information on collisions on the roads, streets, and trails of the Northwest Territories (NWT), shows an almost 17% increase in the number of collisions in 2008 over the previous year.

"In releasing the report, Minister of Transportation, Michael McLeod today expressed concern over the increased number of collisions – and particularly deaths - in 2008.

"As drivers, we can all take steps to reduce the risk of being involved in a collision," Minister McLeod said. "It is the choices and decisions, that we make individually - to reduce speed and distractions; pay careful attention to the changing road and weather conditions; and never to drive impaired - that are the difference between safe travel and tragedy."

Speed and alcohol are the two principal contributors to collisions that result in injuries or death. There were 18 collisions resulting in personal injuries or fatalities in 2008 that involved alcohol, with two of those resulting in a fatality. Driving too fast for conditions was a major contributing factor in 20 personal injury or fatal collisions, with two of the collisions resulting in death. Losing control of the vehicle resulted in 137 collisions, with 35 injuries and one death.

In three out of four motor vehicle fatalities in 2008, the person who died was not wearing a seat belt. (The fifth fatality involved an all-terrain vehicle.) Overall, the risk of serious injury or death is significantly greater for those who do not wear appropriate safety equipment such as seat belts, properly installed child restraints, or helmets.

On average, 5% of NWT licensed drivers were involved in a collision in 2008. Those who are 45 and older were the least likely to be involved in a collision. The 15-24 age group were much more likely to be involved in a collision, with a greater than 50% likelihood that a young driver will be involved in at least one collision before his or her 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Collisions involving wildlife continue to increase. In 2008, 43 collisions involved wildlife, principally bison. This represents a 72% increase over the previous year. There are multiple factors that are contributing to the increased number of -collisions involving wildlife:

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

- On Highway 3, bison have migrated closer to Yellowknife, resulting in a significant jump in the number of bison collisions between Yellowknife and Frank's Channel.
- There has been a substantial increase in commercial traffic over the past ten years, particularly on Highway 3
- Most bison collisions occur after dusk or at night. Those who drive at a speed appropriate for weather and road conditions, particularly at night, can significantly reduce their risk of being involved in a bison collision.

The Department of Transportation is taking steps to reduce the number of collisions, injuries, and fatalities in the NWT. Legislation is now in place to double fines for speeders in construction zones and school zones. The Drive Alive travel safety information program is working with the RCMP and other enforcement agencies to raise awareness on safe travel choices.

To obtain a copy of the 2008 NWT Traffic Collision Facts report, please visit the Department of Transportation website at www.dot.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

**Earl Blacklock** Manager, Public Affairs and Communications Transportation Tel: 867-873-7712 earl\_blacklock@gov.nt.ca

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:



R(16)281

### **Gameti Celebrates School Addition and Grade Extension**

# YELLOWKNIFE (October 1) - The Tlicho community of Gameti today celebrated the official opening of its new school retrofit and the first year of a high school program for students.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty, joined in the celebrations along with the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Robert C. McLeod and the Minister of Public Works and Services, Michael McLeod.

The completion of a  $870m^2$  addition to the school includes a culture room, seminar room, two classrooms, a foods area, storage and washrooms, a gymnasium, change rooms and an office. Furthermore, the addition has paved the way for grade extensions in the community.

This school year marks the beginning of high school programs being offered in Gamètì. The school is offering the grade 10 curriculum this year and plans to add grades 11 and 12 in subsequent years. There are 8 students registered in grade 10 who are all looking to becoming the first high school graduates from Jean Wetrade Gamètì School.

"I am very pleased to join with the people of Gameti to celebrate the opening of this great new school," Minister Lafferty said, "I know that it means a great deal for students to be able to complete their education in their home community. I look forward to returning to congratulate them when they graduate from grade twelve."

All students in JWGS are taught in both English and in the Tlicho language. Students also have many opportunities throughout the school year to participate in traditional activities on the land and interact with Elders and community members.

"The new gym addition provides an excellent opportunity to broaden the sport, recreation and physical activities offered in Gameti," said Minister Robert C. McLeod. "MACA is pleased to be a part of this project which will contribute to improving the health and well-being of all Gameti residents."

"The classroom expansion and addition of a gymnasium to the Jean Wetrade School in Gameti is a key piece of public infrastructure which will support the building of a stronger community for many generations to come," said Minister Michael McLeod. "I am very pleased that Public Works and

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

Office of the Press Secretary • Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111 Services were part of the partnership between governments, departments, boards and agencies, and industry which resulted in the high quality of achievement that we see on this project."

Jean Wetrade Gameti School (JWGS) is a modern community school originally constructed in 1992. The school is named after Jean Wetrade - a respected Tlicho elder who was a member of the original six families that settled in Rae Lakes in the mid 1960s. He passed away on April 15, 1994.

For more information contact:

**Drew Williams** Press Secretary to Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2304

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

Office of the Press Secretary • Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111



R(16)281

### **NWT Fire Service Merit Award Recipients Announced**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 5)** – The Tulita Fire Department has been awarded the 2009 NWT Fire Service Merit Community Award.

Fire Service Merit Awards are presented annually to individual firefighters and/or community fire departments that have made significant contributions to the Northwest Territories' fire service and community fire protection.

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) Robert C. McLeod says that volunteer fire fighters take on enormous responsibility as they strive to protect people and property from fire.

"Fire fighters are essential for sustainable, vibrant safe communities," said Minister McLeod. "These annual awards are a way of acknowledging the volunteer fire fighters who show great dedication to their work, communities and residents."

The NWT Fire Service Merit Awards are awarded each year during National Fire Prevention Week. During the week, residents are encouraged to take the time to remove any potential fire hazards in their home, and to thank the men and women in their local fire department who work hard to keep our communities safe.

For more information about the NWT Fire Service Merit Awards Program please visit MACA's website at <u>www.maca.gov.nt.ca</u>.

For more information, please contact:

**Rebecca Alty** Communications/Website Advisor Municipal and Community Affairs (867) 920-3092

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

Office of the Press Secretary • Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111



#### R(16)285

### Teacher at K'alemi Dene School marks World Teachers' Day with Prime Minister's Award for Excellence

**Yellowknife (October 6)** – Mrs. Eileen Erasmus, a teacher at K'alemi Dene School (KDS), was presented with the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence at a ceremony in Ottawa yesterday. This distinguished award recognizes teachers across Canada who make a difference. Eileen was one of 84 educators who received the prestigious distinction.

"We are so proud to have a teacher like Eileen Erasmus working in our northern schools," says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. "Her hard work, innovation, enthusiasm and dedication are invaluable. She is a true gift to our education system."

Cecilia Beaulieu, an Education Counsellor with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, nominated Eileen for the award this past April. Eileen has been with KDS for over nine years and has taught a variety of different grade levels. Presently, she is heavily involved in creating and supporting an alternative educational setting for "at risk" students.

Eileen's nomination highlighted her ability to successfully use technology in the classroom as a teaching tool to enhance the learning experiences of her students. She is also committed to a holistic approach to education. A non-Aboriginal teacher, Eileen has embraced the Dene culture through celebrating the traditions, languages and heritage of her students. In addition to supporting culture based learning, Eileen has also designed several life skills courses for students.

To celebrate her accomplishment, Eileen is attending a variety of events this week in Ottawa including a visit to 24 Sussex Drive for high tea with Mrs. Harper. Eileen returns to Yellowknife late Thursday evening. The K'alemi Dene School and the Ndilo community are celebrating her award at the school's Thanksgiving Feast and Open House on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at noon. The public is welcome to attend and join students, teachers and community members in congratulating Eileen.

#### For more information, contact:

#### **Amy Doerksen**

Manager, Public Affairs Department of Education, Culture and Employment Tel: (867) 920-6222 Email: <u>Amy\_Doerksen@gov.nt.ca</u>



R(16)286

### **Finance Minister Considers Tax Mix Options for NWT**

YELLOWKNIFE (October 6) -- Minister of Finance Michael Miltenberger has released a discussion document to stimulate public discussion on territorial tax options at this week's 2009 Roundtable on Revenue Options.

"We want to take a close look at how we generate revenues in the NWT, to see if there are changes to our tax system that might further our economic, social and environmental objectives, without increasing the total amount of taxes we collect," the Minister said.

The focus of this week's Roundtable, in part, will be to explore ideas and identify options in the NWT's tax mix that will ensure that the NWT tax system is competitive, able to fund essential programs and services, and works to achieve the goals set out by the Members of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

The Finance Minister is looking beyond next year's Budget. "We want to take a longer-term view of our tax policies. Changing the tax mix can create winners and losers," said Miltenberger, "We need to be sure we've done our research and discussed the options with NWT residents before making any changes."

Last fall, the Minister consulted stakeholder groups representing the NWT's political, business, labour, social and environmental communities on revenue options available to the government. Building on last year's success, the Minister has invited these NWT organizations to return for a second discussion this week in Yellowknife.

The discussions and feedback generated this week could guide the development of policy to ensure that the GNWT's tax structure is aligned with its vision and goals.

The discussion document is available on the Department of Finance's website at: <u>www.fin.gov.nt.ca</u>.

NWT residents are also encouraged to view the document and provide comments by November 2, 2009. Comments can be sent electronically to <u>Revenue\_Options@gov.nt.ca</u> or by mail to:

Tax Options Consultations Fiscal Policy Division Department of Finance PO BOX 1320 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

For more information, contact:

**Drew Williams** Press Secretary to Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2304

For technical information, contact:

John Monroe Department of Finance Tel: (867) 920-6436 Email: john\_monroe@gov.nt.ca



R(16)287

### **GNWT** Public Works and Services to Host Project Management Conference

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 9, 2009) -** To promote closer ties within the Northern construction industry, the Department of Public Works and Services will be hosting a project management conference in Yellowknife from November 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

The theme of the conference is *Latest Trends and Innovative Approaches in Project Management – Helping Northerners Prepare for Tomorrow.* It is designed to encourage cooperation within the construction industry, and help prepare it to better meet economic, legal and technical challenges, while maximizing economic benefits for the industry.

Over 300 representatives are expected to attend. They come from the private sector and all levels of government, including officials from Crown corporations, communities, local housing authorities, school and health boards, consulting and contracting companies, associations, manufacturers and suppliers.

In keeping with the Legislative Assembly's priority of Northerners Working Together, the department holds this professional development conference once every two years to help people in the Northern construction industry connect with each other and keep up to date with the best practices and latest trends and innovations in the industry.

"The construction industry forms the foundation of the Northwest Territories," said Minister of Public Works and Services Michael McLeod. "This conference will help build cooperation and partnership among the men and women who have built – and continue to build – our North."

During the conference, the Northwest Territories Construction Association will be hosting a Northern Construction Trade Fair, to provide a venue for northern manufacturers, suppliers and service providers to promote their products, supplies and services.

The conference program and registration form are available electronically at <u>http://www.pws.gov.nt.ca/asset/conference.htm</u>.

For more information, please contact: Amy Hacala Communications Contact/Coordinator, Department of Public Works and Services (867) 873-7445

..../2

Or:

Sukhi Cheema, P.Eng. Director, Design and Technical Services, Department of Public Works and Services (867) 920-8088



R(16)288

### Diavik selected as one of Canada's Top 100 Employers

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 9, 2009)** – Diavik Diamond Mines Inc., operator of the Diavik Diamond Mine, has been selected as one of Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2010.

"I would like to congratulate Diavik Diamond Mines and its employees for attaining this distinction," said Minister Bob McLeod. "We recognize the positive impact Diavik has had in the NWT and its commitment to Northern workforce development. We are very pleased that they have been acknowledged for their efforts, and look forward to working with them into the future."

Employers are evaluated by the editors of Canada's Top 100 Employers using eight criteria: physical workplace; work atmosphere & social; health, financial & family benefits; vacation & time off; employee communications; performance management; training & skills development; and community involvement. Employers are compared to other organizations in their field to determine which offers the most progressive and forward-thinking programs.

#### For more information, please contact:

Andrew Matthews Communications Officer Office of the Premier and Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories Phone: (867) 669-2302 andrew\_matthews@gov.nt.ca



R(16)289

### World Wildlife Fund Report Supports NWT Work on Water Stewardship Strategy

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 15, 2009):** A new report on Canadian rivers at risk supports Northwest Territories (NWT) work to develop a NWT Water Stewardship Strategy.

The report, Canada's Rivers at Risk, was produced by World Wildlife Fund – Canada (WWF-Canada) to assess the status of environmental flow in 10 Canadian rivers and provide a forecast of likely future conditions. The concept of environmental flow provides the scientific foundation for defining how much water a river and the watersheds it supports needs to remain healthy and productive.

"The Rivers at Risk report echoes some of the same concerns that are driving the development of an NWT Water Stewardship Strategy," said J. Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. "It notes the work being done by our Government, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Aboriginal governments to protect the waters of the NWT from these threats, many which lie outside of the NWT."

The Athabasca River is also included in the Rivers at Risk Report. The report notes rapidly increasing water demand for oil sands mining poses a serious threat to environmental flows in the lower Athabasca. It suggests an ecosystem-based flow would strengthen a water management framework to regulate withdrawals from the river by the oil sands industry.

"An ecosystem-based approach to integrated watershed management is a key component of the draft NWT Water Stewardship Strategy," added Miltenberger. "The Strategy will guide all decisions about water resource stewardship in the NWT and be a strong basis for negotiations of bilateral agreements with neighbouring jurisdictions such as Alberta and British Columbia."

The draft NWT Water Stewardship Strategy is scheduled for release in early November.

For more information, contact:

Andrew Matthews Communications Officer Office of the Premier & Executive Council (867) 669-2302



R(16)290

### Minister McLeod to Push for NWT Interests at Committee of Internal Trade

**WHITEHORSE (October 15, 2009)** The Honourable Bob McLeod, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, is attending a federal/provincial/territorial meeting on the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) being held October 15<sup>th</sup> in Whitehorse.

This is the annual meeting of the Committee of Internal Trade. Eight Ministers from the provinces and territories are attending.

Topics being discussed will include chapters on Agriculture, Energy, Labour Mobility, Dispute Resolution, Regulatory Harmonization, Procurement and accession by Nunavut to the AIT.

The Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) is an intergovernmental trade agreement signed by Canadian First Ministers that came into force in 1995. Its purpose is to reduce and eliminate, to the extent possible, barriers to the free movement of persons, goods, services, and investment within Canada and to establish an open, efficient, and stable domestic market.

While in Whitehorse, the Minister will also meet with the Yukon Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Archie Lang. They will speak about future economic opportunities, including those arising from the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline, and oil and gas development.

#### For more information, contact:

Dragana Beronja Manager, Public Affairs and Communications Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment Phone: 867-873-7857 Dragana beronja@gov.nt.ca



R(16)291

### Initiatives and Investments Advancing Vision of 16th Assembly, Premier Says

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 15, 2009):** The Government of the Northwest Territories has identified and implemented over 140 initiatives and investments to advance the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly's vision of *Northerners Working Together* Premier Floyd K. Roland told Members of the Legislative Assembly today.

"These initiatives and investments – above and beyond our day-to-day work as government – recognize and reflect the importance of looking...towards our future," the Premier said today in his Sessional Statement opening the Assembly's 4<sup>th</sup> session.

"During a period that has been challenged by the difficult and emotional task of putting our financial house in order, the economic realities of a global recession and the need to address critical issues such as H1N1 and the dramatic decline of the Bathurst Caribou herd – we have initiated, implemented and completed an incredible amount of work."

The Premier also outlined the GNWT's priorities for the months to come. They include championing the development of transportation infrastructure, finalizing a deal on Devolution and resource revenue sharing, and advancing the Mackenzie Gas Project over its final hurdles.

"These are important initiatives," said the Premier, "and it is my hope that we can also advance work towards a common vision for the political development of our territory to ensure that, in the future... key decisions affecting the NWT, are made here in the NWT."

#### For more information, contact:

Andrew Matthews Communications Officer Office of the Premier & Executive Council (867) 669-2302



R(16)292

### **GNWT Fiscal Plan Continues Support for Northerners**

YELLOWKNIFE (October 19) -- Minister of Finance J. Michael Miltenberger confirmed that the Government will continue to provide substantial support to the NWT economy during the downturn, despite a forecast drop in tax revenues.

In a statement to the Legislative Assembly Monday, the Finance Minister advised Northerners that the government's fiscal actions have made a difference in the territory's economy. "Despite the prospect of lower corporate income tax revenues in 2009-10, we made the decision, early into the current fiscal year, to stay the course on spending and investment," said Miltenberger.

"This fiscal year we will invest a record \$484 million in infrastructure, including the stimulus funding received from the federal government. Approximately 75 per cent of the projects in the 2009-10 Capital Plan are currently underway. Our increased capital spending will be responsible for about 1,000 person years of employment over this year and next."

On Friday, the Finance Minister presented the Government's 2010-11 Capital Estimates, which propose \$222 million in capital spending next year. Together, the 2009-10 and 2010-11 Capital Plans represent the largest planned investment in community and government infrastructure in the history of the GNWT. This infrastructure spending will create significant contract and employment opportunities and address infrastructure needs across the NWT - for schools, health facilities, highways, airports and other vital projects.

Minister Miltenberger did warn that corporate income tax revenues in 2009 could be \$32 million lower than the amount forecast in the Government's Budget last February. Miltenberger added that the revenue outlook for 2010 is also uncertain, but that "our decisions must also be based on what is in the best interests of NWT residents, given that our fiscal situation is sound and that we have some latitude for risk."

MLAs will review the 2010-11 Capital Estimates during the current Session of the Legislative Assembly. The 2010-11 Budget will be presented during the Winter Session of the Assembly, scheduled to begin in late January.

#### For more information, contact:

Andrew Matthews Communications Officer Office of the Premier & Executive Council 669-2302



#### R(16)293

### **GNWT Prepared for H1N1; Immunizations to Begin Monday**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 22, 2009)** The Northwest Territories is well-prepared for the H1N1 virus, members of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly heard today. With an immunization schedule announced yesterday and an extensive emergency response plan developed in the past months, the Ministers of Health and Social Services and Municipal and Community Affairs today detailed the work that has been done.

"Thanks to the extensive planning and preparation the GNWT has undertaken, immunization schedules were announced just hours after the vaccine received federal approval," Health Minister Sandy Lee told the Assembly. "On Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, we will begin delivering the biggest immunization program in NWT history... Our goal is to vaccinate as many NWT residents as we can, as soon as we can."

The territorial government has also developed plans for maintaining services over the coming months. Minister Responsible for the Territorial Emergency Response Committee (TERC) Robert C. McLeod described the work done in response to H1N1. "Departments, governments and agencies are working together to ensure that the business of government, from operating schools to maintaining roads, continues smoothly. By placing an emphasis on prevention and planning, I am confident that the GNWT and its partners will be able to respond to this second wave of H1N1 successfully."

The Chief Public Health Officer reminds residents that vaccination is the best way to protect themselves and others from the H1N1 virus. There will be no order of priority for immunization, as the federal government has recognized the entire territory as a priority region and a full shipment of vaccines has already been received. To find out when and where the immunization clinics will be held, visit <u>http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/</u>.

#### For more information, contact:

#### **Andrew Matthews**

Communications Officer Office of the Press Secretary Premier & Executive Council (867) 669-2302



R(16)294

### **GNWT Announces Aboriginal Student Achievement Projects**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 23, 2009):** New funding being provided to education authorities across the NWT is designed to promote greater academic success among Aboriginal Students. The money is being provided through the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)'s new Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative, which is dedicated to closing the achievement gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students.

Pilot projects in each region are focusing on developing partnerships between schools and community members to increase attendance amongst Aboriginal students.

"We know there is a clear link between good attendance and academic achievement. There is no one solution to improving student achievement, but I believe projects like these will help many students reach their full potential," said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty.

In the Dehcho region, the money is funding a regional counsellor who will visit all communities and schools in the region. Working closely with students and families, the councillor will help them overcome barriers to good attendance and improve their success in school.

In the Sahtu, schools and communities are partnering to ensure students have healthy food each Friday, the day when attendance is lowest. They are also incorporating creative weekly and monthly incentives for perfect attendance.

The Yellowknife Catholic School Board (YCS) is offering a mentorship program connecting students with community members. Mentors will model healthy lifestyle choices and act as an additional support to students wishing to improve in school. As well, YCS is rewarding improved attendance by offering students monthly rewards when improvement is shown.

Students in the Tlicho region are preparing video presentations and print materials highlighting the benefits of school attendance. Each school will host a film festival to share their work with the community. Tlicho schools are also working with elders to assist students who have difficulty making it to school, and will have rewards for students with good attendance.

The new Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative reflects the  $16^{th}$  Legislative Assembly's goal of developing healthy, educated people and supports investments made under the *Building Our Future* Initiative to promote the long term well being of NWT residents.

..../2

For specific information on the above pilot projects and others, please contact:

#### **Amy Doerksen**

Manager, Public Affairs Education, Culture and Employment Tel: (867) 920-6222 Email: <u>Amy Doerksen@gov.nt.ca</u>



R(16)295

### **Upcoming Ferry System Closures**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 23, 2009)** – Operations of the Louis Cardinal ferry, which crosses the Arctic Red River on Highway 8 (the Dempster Highway), are expected to end for the season as early as noon on Sunday, October 25. Until the season ends, the ferry is operating on a 24 hour per day basis. This will be the first closure of the 2009 ferry season.

Depending on weather conditions, Highway 8 ferry service over the Peel River near Fort McPherson (Abraham Francis) will close early in the week of October 25. Highway 1 ferry service crossing the Mackenzie River near Fort Simpson (Lafferty) and at the N'Dulee Mackenzie River Crossing (Johnny Berens) could close by mid-week the week of October 25.

The five year average closing date for the Louis Cardinal ferry is October 26, for the Abraham Francis ferry is October 25, for the Lafferty ferry is November 3, and for the Louis Cardinal ferry is October 25.

The ferry on Highway 3 crossing the Mackenzie River near Fort Providence (Merv Hardie) is operating normally. The 5 year average closing date for the Merv Hardie is January 19. However, weather and ice conditions can cause early short term or seasonal closures with little or no notice.

All drivers are advised to use extra caution on ferry approaches, which can be slippery, particularly in snow or ice conditions.

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 <u>www.dot.gov.nt.ca</u>.

#### For more information, contact:

**Earl Blacklock** 

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



R(16)296

### **GNWT Celebrates National School Library Day**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 26, 2009)** – Today marks National School Library Day, themed "*Now more than ever, your library, your world*". In the NWT, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is providing \$400,000 to bring books to Northern school libraries, to improve literacy.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty says by increasing funding for school libraries, the GNWT is opening up a world of knowledge and possibilities to northern students.

"I am happy to support literacy in our communities, and want to thank NWT librarians and staff for the important work they do," he said. "I encourage people across the NWT to spend time in their school libraries enjoying reading a book."

The concept of literacy is ever evolving and includes new mediums of communications beyond books and print, from computers to iPods to cell phones. Media and computer literacy is also an essential skill required for the future success of NWT students. To help Grade 12 students in small communities acquire media literacy skills and prepare for post secondary pursuits, ECE is giving them computer laptops to use. Schools will get the funding directly so they can decide which laptops are best suited for their students.

In addition to increased funding for school literacy efforts, ECE is investing \$250,000 to improve youth literacy outside the formal school system. ECE is targeting out-of-school youth aged 16 to 25 and working with youth centres to develop literacy programs within the centres. Across the territory, youth centres have already brought in elders to work with youth, sharing traditional stories and promoting the value of education. Youth centre staff will also be offered training on proposal writing and incorporating literacy programs into their centres.

A youth literacy working group is in the process of developing a youth literacy action plan based on objectives in the *NWT Literacy Strategy*. This action plan will be finalized once a youth literacy gap analysis is completed.

#### For more information, contact:

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



R(16)297

### **GNWT Releases "Foundation for Change" Health Strategy**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 3, 2009):** "A Foundation For Change – Building a Healthy Future for the NWT 2009-2012" has been released by the Honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services. The plan sets out changes that need to occur in the next three years to ensure wellness of Northerners, accessibility and sustainability of the NWT health and Social Services system.

'A Foundation for Change' will continue to emphasize the importance of building a future for the Northwest Territories through promotion of healthy choices and wellness, one of the strategic priorities of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has budgeted \$313 million for health and social services in 2009-2010. This plan does not call for a reduction in spending, but does target priorities and actions that will allow for more efficiency and a 'bend in the trend' of health and social services spending in the NWT.

The document includes a vision statement around the health and social services system in the Northwest Territories, and priorities and actions within the three key goals of wellness, accessibility and sustainability.

"'A Foundation for Change' is about sustainability," said Minister Lee. "We need to make changes to our health and social services system now, to ensure our communities and our children continue to have access to affordable, quality health care and social services in the future."

Full copies of the plan will be available at <u>www.foundationforchange.ca</u> and at local Health and Social Services Authorities across the NWT.

#### For more information, please contact:

Shawn McCann Coordinator, Consultation and Communication Reform and Innovation Health and Social Services (867) 920-6300

#### **Secondary Contact:**

Damien Healy Manager, Planning and Communication Department of Health and Social Services (867) 920-8927 Damien Healy@gov.nt.ca



R(16)298

### NWT Science Agenda Supports Scientific and Traditional Knowledge

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009)** - The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is recognizing the importance of science in supporting effective public policy decisions through the first Northwest Territories (NWT) Science Agenda.

The NWT Science Agenda establishes a strategic framework for science in the NWT. It sets a path for this Government and the people of the Northwest Territories to play a leadership role in the development and management of science knowledge, and the use of traditional knowledge in all scientific and other research conducted here.

The GNWT has identified five core priority areas for research: cultural sustainability, environmental sustainability and stewardship, health and wellness, natural resource management, and sustainable communities. These priorities are the broad areas where the GNWT believes research should be focused in order to improve the quality of life of NWT residents and maintain the integrity of NWT cultures, ecosystems, environment and communities.

"The NWT has always been, and continues to be, an important area for scientific research by governments, regulatory bodies, industry and academic institutions," said Environment and Natural Resources Minister J. Michael Miltenberger. "We need to play a key role in the direction and management of science because it is a critical component of ensuring environmental sustainability, health and wellness, cultural retention and economic diversification and development."

While many scientists and researchers study the North, many areas of importance to NWT residents are often overlooked or under-represented in the research. As a way to better represent Northern interests, new research into cultural sustainability is being conducted in partnership with community groups.

"Research in this field helps us gain a better understanding of various pressures felt by Aboriginal governments, organizations and peoples," said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE). "This work prepares our students with an understanding of how important science is to the NWT, and I hope it attracts students into careers in the sciences."

..../2

To support cultural sustainability in the classroom, ECE developed Experiential Science textbooks highlighting the vast breadth of traditional knowledge held within the NWT. In addition to teaching the scientific method, the textbooks include traditional stories, showing how there are many ways to learn about the land and cultures of the North.

A copy of the GNWT's Science Agenda, *Building a Path for Northern Science*, may be found online at <u>www.enr.gov.nt.ca</u>.

#### For more information, contact:

Andrew Matthews Communications Officer Office of the Premier and Executive Council (867) 669-2303



R(16)299

### Minister & MLA to Represent Territory at Economic Leadership Forum

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009):** Two members of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly will be working towards NWT interests at the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Economic Leadership Forum this week. Bob McLeod, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, and Member of the Legislative Assembly Mr. David Ramsay, Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, will be travelling to the Forum to be held November 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> in Regina, Saskatchewan.

"PNWER provides a tremendous chance for us to advertise the economic opportunities the NWT possesses, and to work towards creating even more opportunities for the future," said Minister McLeod. "The GNWT is committed to building a strong and diversified economy for our residents, and this is one of many ways we work towards that."

During the Forum, the Minister and MLA will attend an organizational meeting of the Northern Pipeline Coordinating Council, established to coordinate cross-border logistics, workforce issues, and other key topics surrounding northern pipelines.

The Northwest Territories became a member of PNWER in July 2009. PNWER is a statutory public/private partnership established in 1991. In addition to the Northwest Territories, PNWER members include the governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

As an organization the goals of PNWER are to:

- promote greater regional collaboration;
- enhance the competitiveness of the region in both domestic and international markets;
- leverage regional influence in Ottawa and in Washington D.C.; and
- achieve continued economic growth while maintaining the region's natural beauty and environment.

#### For more information, contact:

Andrew Matthews Communications Officer Office of the Press Secretary (867) 669-2302



R(16)300

### Take our Kid to Work Day Celebrates Career Week, Nov 2-6

## **YELLOWKNIFE** (November 4th, 2009) – Students across the Northwest Territories (NWT) joined parents and sponsors in their workplaces today for the annual *Take Our Kids* to Work Day.

Many businesses opened their doors to grade nine students to give them a glimpse of different career options and unique work environments.

Communities throughout the NWT are busy celebrating *Career Week* with workshops, career fairs, open houses and presentations.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) Jackson Lafferty was joined at work by his daughter Cheyenne.

"The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to ensuring that our youth have the skills and resources they need to realize their full potential," he said. "I hope residents will take advantage of the opportunities identified this week to advance and develop careers for the future."

Regional ECE Services Centres promote career development and are actively engaging the public in *Career Week* activities. Career Development Officers help clients realize their career goals through various education and training opportunities.

ECE has partnered with BHP Billiton on an exciting new pilot project called *Career Focusing* designed to help students get ready for post secondary educational pursuits.

*Career Focusing* recognizes everyone's uniqueness and celebrates the importance of diversity. It provides a clear process for students to learn what motivates them and focus on their personal goals, which then helps students make career decisions by matching their focus with opportunities in the work world.

As the lead financial partner, BHP is covering all costs related to training instructors to administer *Career Focusing* in schools. Teachers and career development officers are being trained to deliver the program that will enable NWT residents to reach their full potential, lead rewarding lives and contribute to a strong and prosperous society. ..../2

For more information on what's happening in your community this Career Week, contact

Amy Doerksen Manager, Public Affairs Education, Culture and Employment Tel: (867) 920-6222 Email: <u>Amy\_Doerksen@gov.nt.ca</u>



R(16)301

### **Draft NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Released**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 4th, 2009)** - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada are pleased to release the draft NWT Water Stewardship Strategy.

The draft Strategy promotes an ecosystem-based approach to integrated watershed management in order to improve water stewardship in the NWT, and reflects the deep and fundamental relationship between residents and the waters of the NWT. To be most effective, the Strategy recognizes the importance of combining the best available local, traditional and scientific knowledge.

"As stewards of water we have an obligation and a responsibility to adopt more sustainable water management practices", said Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Michael Miltenberger. "Together with our water partners, we have created a draft Strategy that will result in more effective water stewardship to ensure NWT waters will remain clean, abundant and productive for all time."

The NWT Water Stewardship Strategy is a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach to the responsible management of water resources flowing both within the NWT and from other jurisdictions. The draft Strategy is intended to improve decision-making processes, information sharing, and communication among all parties involved in water stewardship activities in the NWT.

"Stewardship is a shared responsibility. To effectively look after our water resources we must work together at all levels," said Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. "Clean water is fundamental to life and essential to the social, cultural and economic well-being of NWT residents. The development of the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy provides a unique opportunity for multiple parties to work together towards a common goal."

As representatives on the steering committee guiding this initiative, Aboriginal governments have played a key role in the development process to date. Additionally, other governments, regional organizations, communities, environmental non-governmental organizations, commanagement boards and agencies, industry and residents have contributed their voice to the development of the draft Strategy.

The draft Strategy respects Aboriginal and treaty rights as well as rights and processes set out in settled land claim and self-government agreements.

By actively participating in the upcoming engagement process, residents of the NWT can help define the future of territorial water. Public engagement opportunities will take place between November 2009 and March 2010. Input collected during this period will inform the final version of the document, which has a target completion date of summer 2010.

For the full text of the Strategy, visit the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' website at <u>http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/</u>

**For more information, contact:** Andrew Matthews Communications Officer Office of the Premier and Executive Council (867) 669-2304



R(16)302

### NWT Minister of Justice Pushes for Northern Issues at National Conference

**FREDERICTON (November 5, 2009):** Canada's Ministers of Justice have confirmed their commitment to Aboriginal justice issues following a conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Minister of Justice Jackson Lafferty attended on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, and lauded the conference's work.

"With the territorial and provincial Ministers, I am calling for more federal funding for Aboriginal policing," said Minister Lafferty. "First Nations policing doesn't just happen on reserves, it happens everywhere First Nations people live. We are asking the federal Minister of Public Safety to provide additional aboriginal policing funding for all of the jurisdictions with large numbers of aboriginal people. This is key to our efforts to get a new agreement with the federal government that would acknowledge that northern policing is unique."

The Ministers formally supported a comprehensive review of the First Nations Policing Policy, which provides funding and flexible policing models for Aboriginal communities. While that review is underway, the three northern Ministers will continue to work on implementing a territorial policing policy framework designed to address the unique needs of Northern residents.

At the meeting, Minister Lafferty gave a presentation about access to justice for people with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and spoke with the other Ministers about the use of conducted energy weapons, also known by the brand name Taser.

#### For more information, contact:

Andrew Matthews Communications Officer Office of the Premier & Executive Council (867) 669-2302



R(16)303

### Beverage Container Program Celebrates 100 Million Containers Returned

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 5, 2009):** More than 100 million beverage containers have been returned to depots in the Northwest. First started four years ago, the Beverage Container Program reflects the Government of the Northwest Territory's commitment to maintaining our environment and creating opportunities for Northerners.

"This is a remarkable achievement," said Minister of Environment and Natural Resources J. Michael Miltenberger. "NWT residents should be truly proud of themselves for what they have accomplished in embracing this program, and demonstrating how much they value the maintenance of our pristine environment."

The Minister, speaking at the Yellowknife Bottle Depot, particularly thanked the workers who operate the licensed depots across the Northwest Territories, run by stores, schools, non-profit groups, band development corporations, individuals, and businesses. To date, the depots have processed over 800 tons of aluminum and 17 million plastic containers.

#### For more information, contact:

Ella Stinson Communications Planning Specialist Department of Environment and Natural Resources Tel: (867) 920-3310



R(16)304

### **GNWT Launches New Accountability Resource**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 5, 2009):** A new interactive website from the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) gives NWT residents an online tool for reviewing and tracking the progress the GNWT is making as it works to advance the priorities and goals of the 16<sup>th</sup> legislative Assembly through its strategic initiatives and capital spending.

Minister of Finance J. Michael Miltenberger introduced the website (<u>workingtogether.gov.nt.ca</u>) to his colleagues today.

"We recognize that the people of the Northwest Territories have a right to know what their government is doing and how it is expending public funds," he said.

The website's creation is a response, in part, to requests from Members of the Assembly for easily accessible up-to-date information on the initiatives undertaken by the Government.

A companion document to the new website titled: *Northerners Working Together: Fulfilling our Plan* provides an overview and guide of the vision goals and priorities of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly and the specific Government actions, projects and investments that support it.

Premier Floyd Roland says the significant work that has been initiated by the GNWT provides a foundation from which it will advance real and significant progress on some of the NWT's biggest issues and opportunities.

"I believe that this Assembly – thanks to the vision that it holds, the work that it has done and the commitment, courage and foresight of its Members – is positioned to move forward and improve the lives of our residents, build a vibrant and sustainable Northwest Territories and contribute to a stronger Canada."

#### For more information, visit the website at <u>http://workingtogether.gov.nt.ca</u> or contact:

Andrew Matthews Communications Officer Office of the Premier & Executive Council (867) 669-2302



R(16)305

### **Olympic Torch Completes Tour of the NWT**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 6, 2009):** The 2010 Olympic Torch Relay has completed its tour through the Northwest Territories (NWT). The Town of Inuvik was the first NWT community to be visited by the Olympic Torch on November 4, followed by Yellowknife, Dettah, and N'Dilo on November 5, 2009.

"The 2010 Olympic Torch Relay was a unique celebration that shed light on the people, places and pride of the NWT," said the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister Responsible for Sport. "It was a great way for Northerners to take part in the celebration of our country hosting the Olympic Winter Games, and to showcase our artists and cultural performers to the world through our community celebrations."

After completing its tour of the NWT, the Torch will now travel to Cold Lake, Alberta to continue its tour across Canada.

Over the course of the Torch Relay, there will be nearly 200 community celebrations from coast to coast to coast, and the Torch will have traveled by air, canoe, horse carriage, skis, kayak, snowmobile, tractor, bike and ferry.

Through its investment in the 2010 Winter Games, the GNWT is working to Maximize Opportunities by highlighting the NWT's arts, culture and traditions to promote the NWT as a place to live and visit. Strengthening awareness of the NWT's northern identity and uniqueness will work to promote a strong and independent North as envisioned in the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly's Vision of Northerners Working Together.

#### For more information, contact:

Rebecca Alty Communications/Website Advisor Municipal and Community Affairs Tel: (867) 920-3092





R(16)306

### Joint Proposal on Caribou Actions Submitted to Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board

**YELLOWKNIFE** (November 6, 2009): A joint proposal outlining caribou actions in Wek'èezhii was submitted to the Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) today. The proposal was developed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) in collaboration with the Tłįchq Government (TG) to assist in the recovery of Bathurst caribou herd.

"This joint proposal recommends some tough management actions," said Environment and Natural Resources Minister Michael Miltenberger. "But given the importance of the Bathurst herd to many of our communities, these actions are needed to help this herd recover."

"This is about sustainability and about guaranteeing that there will be caribou for future generations and it has to start now," said Tłįchǫ Grand Chief Joe Rabesca.

The proposal was developed following a number of community meetings and workshops held by both Governments on the 2009 summer survey results. Results of the 2009 calving ground survey showed the herd numbers had dropped from just over 100,000 animals in 2006 to 32,000.

The WRRB is a wildlife co-management authority established by the Tłįcho Agreement. It is responsible for managing wildlife in the Wek'èezhii area and reviews all resource management action proposals.

ENR and TG reached consensus on a number of proposed management actions for the herd including establishing mandatory reporting of harvest and eliminating all commercial, outfitter tags and resident hunting for a three-year period. Other proposed actions deal with increasing the number of collars on females, maintaining current levels of protection of the herd's calving grounds and increasing compliance and public education of harvesting practices.

No consensus could be reached on two recommendations relating to limiting Aboriginal or subsistence harvest. As a result, the joint proposal contains separate ENR recommendations and TG resolutions regarding female and bull harvests.

Communications • Office of the Premier & Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111



The proposed management actions are intended to help the herd stabilize and recovery during the next several years. A calving ground survey of the Bathurst herd is scheduled for 2012. The GNWT will consult with other Aboriginal governments, harvesters, and stakeholders on the proposed management actions during November.

All partners involved in the management of the Bathurst herd agree management actions should be implemented before the winter hunting season begins

The Tłįcho Agreement and case law require that priority be given to subsistence harvest over commercial and resident harvest.

A copy of the joint proposal can be found online at <u>www.enr.gov.nt.ca</u>

#### For more information, contact:

Andrew Matthews Communications Officer Office of the Premier and Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2302





R(16)307

### **GNWT Tables Electricity Review**

YELLOWKNIFE (November 6, 2009) -- The team tasked with conducting a Review of Electricity Rates, Regulations and Subsidy Programs in the Northwest Territories has delivered their report to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Chair of the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee (MECC), Bob McLeod, tabled "Creating A Brighter Future: A Review of Electricity Regulation, Rates and Subsidy Programs in the Northwest Territories" in the Legislative Assembly yesterday.

The GNWT will now develop a detailed response to the recommendations contained in the Review Team's Final Report. Minister McLeod has committed to completing comprehensive response to the Review Team's recommendations by March 2010.

"Communities, stakeholders and residents of the Northwest Territories have stated many times that they would like to see change to our electricity system," Minister Bob McLeod said. "Collectively, we need to find a way of designing the system that is fair to all NWT communities and provides all residents with the opportunity to succeed. The Government of the Northwest Territories welcomes the report of the independent panel and believes that it has given us excellent material for consideration."

"Our Team believes that electricity is an essential service in our communities and it is critical that northerners have equitable access to affordable electricity," stated Mr. Cleveland, Chair of the Electricity Review Team. "The electricity system is complex and our recommendations are aimed at decreasing complexity, making the entire system more efficient as well as transparent," he added.

Jane Groenewegen, Chair of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning says, "Any change needs to work for all communities in the NWT and Members of the Legislative Assembly will be discussing the issues raised in the report with our constituents and the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee over the coming months"

The Review of Electricity Regulation, Rates and Subsidy Programs (Electricity Review) began last December with the publication of the MECC Discussion Paper titled *A Review of Electricity Rates, Regulations and Subsidy Programs in the Northwest Territories.* The discussion paper



was broadly distributed and served as the basis for public discussions and the work of the Electricity Review Team.

The Review Team, composed of Mr. Mark Cleveland, Mr. Gerry Forrest, and Mr. Doug Matthews, was appointed in February of 2009. The Review Team conducted eight public forums, held in Inuvik, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Fort Smith, Yellowknife, Fort Resolution and Behchokö. In addition, Team members met with nearly 50 other organizations and individuals, received 25 written submissions, and heard from over 350 people in total. These discussions are reflected in a report released this past July titled "A Discussion with Northerners about Electricity".

The next step is for the GNWT to develop a detailed response to the recommendations contained in the Review Team's Final Report. The GNWT has committed to tabling a comprehensive response to the Review Team's recommendations in the Legislative Assembly in March 2010.

#### For more information contact:

Drew Williams Press Secretary for Premier/Cabinet Government of the Northwest Territories Phone: (867) 669-2304

Mark Cleveland Electricity Review Team Phone: (867) 444-9655

Communications • Office of the Premier & Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111





### BACKGROUNDER

The NWT Energy Plan, released in March 2007, contemplated a review of the NWT Electricity System. In December 2008 the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) released a public discussion paper that posed a number of questions for public discussion. The first question posed was "What should be our vision for the future of electricity in the Northwest Territories?"

The GNWT appointed a three-member team to solicit and report back on public views and to present options. Biographies are attached for that team, which consisted of Mr. Mark Cleveland, Mr. Gerry Forrest and Mr. Doug Matthews. The team was asked to solicit public input and provide options regarding:

- reducing electricity costs where possible;
- equitably distributing electricity costs; and
- ensuring affordable electricity.

The Electricity Review Panel undertook an extensive public discussion process. It held public meetings in Inuvik, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Yellowknife, Behchokö, Hay River, Fort Smith and Fort Resolution. The team also worked with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities to hold a two day work shop to receive input from smaller communities. In total, the panel heard from over 350 residents and organizations.

In June 2009 a summary of what was heard during this public process was released, entitled *"Electricity Review: A Discussion with Northerners About Electricity."* The public discussions, as well as a number of written submissions to the Review Team, are reflected in that Report.

The Review Team has now also presented the GNWT with a series of comprehensive recommendations in a report called "*Creating a Brighter Future*", which is available through the Legislative Assembly's web page at <a href="http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca/live/pages/wpPages/tableddocuments.aspx">http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca/live/pages/wpPages/tableddocuments.aspx</a>. Recommendations contained in this Report are solely those of the Review Team.

The next step will be to develop a comprehensive Government of the Northwest Territories response to the Review Team's report. The Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee, working closely with the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning, will develop a comprehensive response to the Electricity Review, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Review and the ATCO proposal by March 2010.



#### THE ELECTRICITY REVIEW TEAM

**G. D. (Gerry) FORREST** – G. D. (Gerry) Forrest is a professional public administrator who has been involved in Canadian public policy and energy regulatory arena for nearly four decades, the last 15 years of which have been in the energy regulatory sector. Gerry's career path includes roles as Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, Urban Affairs and Rural Development, and former Chair and CEO of the Public Utilities Board of Manitoba.

Gerry has become a nationally and internationally recognized expert in the field of public administration and public utility regulation and has served as a university guest lecturer and conference/workshop speaker across Canada and the United States. In 2003, through USAID and the World Bank, Gerry was invited to make a presentation on the regulation and organization of public utilities to the senior administrators from a number of third world countries including Nepal, Bhutan, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Gerry was recently engaged by the Province of Saskatchewan to update its regulatory system. The Northwest Territories will gain from his vast national and international experience.

**DOUG MATTHEWS** – Doug Matthews has been involved for over 30 years in northern resource development with experience in the mining, petroleum, pipeline and electricity sectors of the Northwest Territories economy.

Doug spent twenty-five years with the GNWT, living in Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik and Yellowknife; has worked with most communities in the NWT; and has sought to resolve energy issues with groups ranging from hamlet councils to committees of the United States Senate.

**MARK CLEVELAND** - Mr. Mark Cleveland has over thirty years of public policy experience in the north, with most of those years at a senior level. Mr. Cleveland's experience includes six years as President of Arctic (Aurora) College and ten years as a Deputy Minister in the departments of Education, Culture and Employment, Health and Social Services, Executive, and also served as Secretary to the Financial Management Board and Comptroller General for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Cleveland is well-known for vision, commitment to innovation, and his dedication to the north. His knowledge of NWT communities and experience in building sustainable communities was gained through many years of working closely with community and territorial organizations. Mr. Cleveland has been responsible for conceiving, organizing and managing a wide range of organizational and program change initiatives.





http://workingtogether.gov.nt.ca

Maximizing Opportunities

R(16)308

### **Dene Games Athletes Announced for 2010 Winter Games Showcase**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 9, 2009)** – Eight Dene Games athletes, two coaches and two Dene Games alternate athletes have been selected to help showcase the Northwest Territories (NWT) at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and the Minister Responsible for Youth, the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, says the opportunity will create strong future leaders who are proud of their culture.

"These talented athletes will be performing Dene Games in front of crowds larger than their home communities. It is a remarkable opportunity, and I know they will rise to the occasion and come back stronger, more confident and ready to continue to be positive leaders in their community," he said.

MACA, in cooperation with the Aboriginal Sport Circle of the Northwest Territories (ASCNWT), held selection camps to identify the Dene Games athletes and coaches. Through the camps, the athletes were selected based on their athletic performance, their commitment to a healthy lifestyle, and their knowledge of the cultural importance of Dene Games.

"Dene Games are an important part of preserving and strengthening Dene culture. Having the opportunity to promote Dene Games at the Olympics to a world-wide audience is an amazing opportunity," said Greg Hopf, Executive Director of the ASCNWT. "On behalf of the Aboriginal Sport Circle of the Northwest Territories, I wish all of the Traditional Games Performers and coaches the very best at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games."

The following Dene Games athletes and coaches were selected:

- Crystal Koe Aklavik
- Carly Gon Behchokö
- Robyn McLeod Fort Providence
- Shawna McLeod Fort Providence
- Warren Baton Deline
- Lyndon Kakfwi Fort Good Hope
- Lawrence Sittichinli Inuvik



- Peter Lennie Inuvik
- Shaylene Allen Fort McPherson (Alternate)
- Dale Kakfwi Fort Good Hope (Alternate)
- Jason Horesay Fort Providence (Coach)
- Andy McKay Hay River (Coach)

Through its investment in the 2010 Winter Games, the GNWT is working to maximize opportunities for Northerners by highlighting the NWT's arts, culture and traditions to promote the NWT as a place to live and visit. Strengthening awareness of the NWT's northern identity and uniqueness will work to promote a strong and independent North as envisioned in the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly's Vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

#### For more information, contact:

**Rebecca Alty** Communications/Website Advisor Municipal and Community Affairs Tel: (867) 920-3092

#### **Greg Hopf**

Executive Director Aboriginal Sport Circle of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 669-8346





http://workingtogether.gov.nt.ca

Maximizing Opportunities

R(16)309

### Premier Pays Tribute to NWT Tourism Industry

Yellowknife (November 9, 2009): Premier Floyd Roland paid tribute to the Northwest Territories' tourism industry Saturday.

Speaking to the Annual General Meeting of NWT Tourism in Yellowknife, the Premier recognized the many partners, organizations and contributors who collaborate to promote the NWT to visitors and travellers from around the world.

He saved his highest accolades for the 300 plus operators and service providers who comprise the front line of the NWT's tourism industry itself.

"The success and significance of our tourism industry in the NWT is a tribute to those of you who continue to work and build your operations on service and reputation," he said.

The Government of the Northwest Territories invested over \$10 million in tourism last year to support and enhance the NWT tourism experience – and to build the NWT's \$130 million tourism sector through training, research and marketing initiatives.

Significant investments are being made to *Maximize Opportunities* during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics in order to highlight NWT talent, art and culture and to promote the North as a premier destination to live, visit and invest.

The Premier says Government investments in the tourism sector reflect the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly's priority to support the development of sustainable local economies and to meet the goal of a diversified economy that provides all regions with opportunities and choices.

"The tourism sector has the potential to stimulate viable and sustainable ventures in almost every NWT community," the Premier noted. "Your Government is committed to tapping into the tremendous potential that exists and growing the tourism industry in the Northwest Territories."

For more information, contact:

Andrew Matthews Communications Officer Office of the Premier & Executive Council (867) 669-2302





http://workingtogether.gov.nt.ca

Maximizing Opportunities

### R(16)310

## *Qilalukkat: Beluga Whales* first of diorama exhibit series on display at Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

YELLOWKNIFE (November 10) -- A life-like diorama of mother and calf beluga whales swimming in the Beaufort Sea is fast becoming a favourite attraction for visitors to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC).

The exhibit is called *Qilalukkat: Beluga Whales*. It features a touch-screen display with video and audio presentations showing the link between the Inuvialuit people and the land.

*Qilalukkat: Beluga Whales* is one of many *Voices of the Land* exhibits planned for the North and South galleries. *Voices of the Land* displays include life-like dioramas of Northern landscapes, touch-screen presentations and artifact displays. To ensure cultural and scientific accuracy, new material for the museum is based on a story-centred approach developed in consultation with traditional knowledge experts, scientists and community members.

Upcoming dioramas include muskrat on the Mackenzie Delta, migrating water fowl in the Slave River Delta, taiga shield with rocks, lichen and various bird species, moose near the Mackenzie River, fish species and ice break up in Great Bear Lake, barren-land caribou, bull muskoxen on Banks Island and a polar bear on winter sea ice.

Dioramas are not the only recent additions to the museum. Over the last 25 years archaeologists made many exciting discoveries in the Northwest Territories (NWT), and over 250 Inuvialuit artifacts are now on display in a new exhibit, *Kuukpak: Ingilraan, A Long Time Ago*. The artifacts represent nearly three decades of archaeological research led by Dr. Charles Arnold, former director of the PWNHC.

To increase accessibility to exhibits and collections for NWT residents living outside Yellowknife, the PWNHC is digitizing its records and display information to create on-line databases and virtual exhibits. This includes the addition of thousands of digitized photographs and new displays accessible on the museum's website at <u>http://www.pwnhc.ca</u>



The collection and renewal of exhibits at the PWNHC supports the GNWT's ongoing work to promote the NWT as a premier place to live and visit. It is part of the Government's initiative to *Maximize Opportunities* for NWT residents though a diversified economy and investments in the tourism sector.

#### For more information, or to request photos of the exhibit, contact:

Amy Doerksen Manager, Public Affairs Department of Education, Culture and Employment Tel: 867-920-6222 Email: Amy Doerksen@gov.nt.ca





R(16)311

### Notice of Date Change for the Supplementary Health Benefits Program and Catastrophic Drug Cost Program

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 10, 2009)** -- The implementation date for the Supplementary Health Benefits Program and the Catastrophic Drug Cost Program has been changed to September 30, 2010.

The delay will ensure that interested NWT residents have the opportunity to receive full and accurate information and can provide input into the program redesign.

This will be accomplished through direct discussion with key stakeholders, public input, and comprehensive data analysis. It will ensure a fair and equitable program which meets the needs of eligible stakeholders - including low income families, seniors and those with catastrophic drug costs.

A Supplementary Health Benefits reference group has been established comprised of community representatives of Non-government Organizations for seniors, persons with disabilities, and low-income residents.

"We have heard the concerns of NWT residents and are confident that, through this process, we can develop a program that meets their needs and addresses their issues," Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee said.

#### For more information, contact:

Damien Healy Manager, Communications Department of Health and Social Services (867) 920-8927 Damien\_Healy@gov.nt.ca





R(16)312

### **Premier Marks Remembrance Day**

**INUVIK (November 10, 2009):** Premier Floyd K. Roland will attend ceremonies in Inuvik tomorrow to mark the National Day of Remembrance, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Premier encourages all NWT residents to pay tribute to those whose lives have been lost in the service of their country - and to reflect on the cultures, beliefs, governments, religions and freedoms that they are allowed to celebrate today.

"We are fortunate, as modern Canadians, never to have experienced war on our soil. This should not, however diminish the relevance of this day and our observation of it. To do so would be to take our rights and freedoms for granted," the Premier says.

"I hope Northerners will join me in marking this day solemn occasion that unites us all as Canadians."

For more information, contact:

Andrew Matthews Communications Officer Office of the Premier & Executive Council (867) 669-2302





R(16)313

### **Premier Stresses Importance of Northerners Working Together**

# YELLOWKNIFE (November 16) -- Premier Roland says it's the collective responsibility of northerners to work together to ensure that the voices and interests of NWT residents are heard.

Speaking Friday to a luncheon jointly sponsored by the NWT Chamber and Aboriginal Business Association, the Premier pointed to motions championed by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce as an example of the successes that can be realized when *Northerners Work Together*.

"You have demonstrated that we are stronger and more effective advocates for northern people and their interests when we can speak and act collectively," he said. "A unified Northern voice is more successful in garnering the attention and understanding of decision makers in our federal government, internationally and elsewhere."

Speaking alongside Western Arctic Senator Nick Sibbeston, the Premier said he believes that significant advances can be made, in the next two years, on projects that like the Mackenzie Gas Project, the Taltson Hydro Expansion Project, the Mackenzie Valley Highway and a common vision for political development in the North – projects he says are implicit in the vision, goals and priorities of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

"It is my assertion that this Government is destined to put in place many of the resources, tools and processes that will allow us to realize some of biggest opportunities that have ever existed here in the NWT," the Premier noted. "We all call this place home. We all have a vested interest in making sure that we put the best pieces in place for our future."

#### For more information, contact:

Andrew Matthews Communications Officer Office of the Premier and Executive Council (867) 669-2302





R(16)314

### Deh Cho Boulevard Extension Open to Traffic

**YELLOWKNIFE** (November 17, 2009) – The extension of the Deh Cho Boulevard to Highway 3 is open today, allowing motorists direct access to Yellowknife's Kam Lake industrial area, the Engle Business District, and the Yellowknife airport lands. The extension is also expected to reduce traffic congestion in other parts of the city.

Construction to install street lighting and asphalt surfacing is continuing and is expected to be completed next summer. Motorists are advised to exercise caution and reduce speed in construction areas.

The project was a partnership between the City of Yellowknife and the GNWT Department of Transportation, with the Government of Canada making a contribution under the Build Canada Plan.

Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod said the construction of the Deh Cho Boulevard extension is an example of Northerners Working Together. "Through our partnership with the City of Yellowknife and the Government of Canada, we have improved access to Yellowknife's industrial areas and airport lands," he said. "By improving access, we have also improved safety.

The new Deh Cho Boulevard will provide an alternative route for the transportation of hazardous goods that avoids more heavily populated areas of the city.

"Having worked on this issue for over a decade, I'm very happy to see the road finally in place," Kam Lake MLA Dave Ramsay said. "An alternate access to the city has many benefits, but the biggest benefit for all residents of our city is the safety aspect. Industrial bound trucks will no longer have to drive through the city, and in the event there are ever any problems on the road into the industrial park or into the city, there is now an alternative way in and out."

Yellowknife Mayor Gordon Van Tighem also welcomed the completion of Phase 1 construction. "It is exciting to see this long anticipated project nearing completion. The more direct access to industrial areas comes just in time for this winter road season, and we look forward to full completion next summer."

..../2



#### For more information, please contact:

Earl Blacklock Manager, Public Affairs and Communications Department of Transportation Tel: 867-873-7712 earl blacklock@gov.nt.ca

Dennis Kefalas Director, Public Works City of Yellowknife Tel: 867-920-5639 dkefalas@yellowknife.ca





R(16)315

### National Addictions Awareness Week is November 15 to 21, 2009

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 17, 2009)** – In support of National Addictions Awareness Week, the Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) is encouraging NWT residents to embrace healthy choices and lifestyles.

National Addictions Awareness Week, November 15 to 21, is observed each year to gain awareness and understanding of addictions. This year's theme is "Living the Good Life" to promote addictions-free lifestyles for individuals, families and communities.

"The Department of Health and Social Services is dedicated to raising the profile of addictions across the NWT, and to strengthening regional and local treatment and aftercare programs in communities," said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is making significant investments under its *Building Our Future* strategic initiative to address the issues of mental health and addictions by providing more resources at a community level, and by putting referral processes in place to assist persons with residential treatment needs.

Health and Social Services Authorities continue to deliver the Community Counseling Program, providing community awareness, prevention and promotion activities as well as counseling, referral and aftercare services.

The GNWT is also initiating pilot projects to help evaluate possible program enhancements such as community-based culturally relevant services and aftercare services.

As part of the "Foundation for Change" priorities, HSS will begin implementing new programs targeting mental health and addictions, including a pilot program for aftercare in the Beaufort Delta as well as a three-year addictions social marketing campaign to address the unique needs of NWT residents.

For more information on National Addictions Awareness Week, visit <u>www.addictionsawareness.com</u> or the Department of Health and Social Services at <u>www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca</u> for information on services and help for addictions.

.../2



### For more information, contact:

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





R(16)316

### National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 18, 2009)** – Today, November 18<sup>th</sup>, is the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims in Canada. Each year, more than 150 people are injured or killed as a result of avoidable collisions on the streets and highways of the Northwest Territories. Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod is asking NWT residents to use this Day to pause and think about collision-related losses, and how they might be prevented.

"When we hear about a vehicle collision, we don't always take the time to grasp the full effect that crash may have had on peoples' lives," Minister McLeod said. "This Day of Remembrance is an opportunity for people across Canada to pause and consider how we can reduce the number of collisions, injuries, and deaths on our roads."

Drive Alive, the GNWT's travel safety information program, reminds motorists of the three most important steps they can take as a passenger or while driving to significantly reduce their risk of injury or death:

- 1. Drive at a speed appropriate for weather and road conditions. Don't exceed the speed limit, especially at night or in poor weather.
- 2. Avoid impairment, fatigue, or distractions. Don't get in a vehicle with a reckless, impaired, fatigued, or distracted driver.
- 3. Use properly sized occupant restraints. Infants and younger children should be in an appropriate sized infant seat or child car seat. Children who are too old for a child car seat should wear a seat belt that fits snugly around their hips. If they are using a shoulder belt, they may need a booster seat to ensure the belt fits properly over their shoulder.

There have been five fatalities and several serious injuries on NWT roads to date in 2009. Most collisions can be prevented by good driving behaviour and by taking responsibility for your own safe travel. Remember, we can all do more to reduce the number of collisions on NWT streets and highways.

#### For more information, please contact:

**Earl Blacklock** Manager, Public Affairs and Communications Department of Transportation Tel: 867-873-7712 earl blacklock@gov.nt.ca





R(16)317

### Celebrating our Youngest Citizens on National Child Day

**YELLOWKNIFE (Thursday, November 19) – With tomorrow's celebration of National Child Day, the Government of the Northwest Territories invites all NWT residents to join people across Canada in recognizing our youngest citizens.** This year the day is of special significance as it marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, honouring the rights of children everywhere.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is doing its part to honour children with events planned in communities across the Northwest Territories on and around November 20. As active members of our communities, children deserve respect for their rights, opinions and contributions. There are many simple ways you can show your support year-round, from asking a child for advice, to donating your time or money to children's charities.

"National Child Day reminds us of all the ways children enrich our society. Our youngest citizens often have a way of seeing things the rest of us may miss and add colour to our lives," said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. "I hope all Northerners will join me in marking this occasion."

The origins of National Child Day stem back to 1989 with the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*. In 1993, the Government of Canada passed *The Child Day Act*, making November 20 of each year National Child Day to recognize the important role children play in our communities.

For details on National Child Day events and activities in your region, contact your regional ECE Early Childhood Consultant, or:

Kevin Allerston Public Affairs Officer Department of Education, Culture and Employment Tel: (867) 920-3059 Kevin\_Allerston@gov.nt.ca





R(16)318

### **GNWT Addresses Barriers and Solutions to Economic Development**

YELLOWKNIFE (November 20, 2009) --An improved regulatory system, the successful conclusion of Aboriginal rights agreements and a deal on Devolution and resource revenue sharing are the essential next steps in advancing northern economic development.

That was the message delivered yesterday by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development in Yellowknife.

"The successful conclusion of these issues is required for the NWT to reach its full economic growth potential," Premier Floyd Roland said. "We are trusted to run our health care system, our education systems, our transportation systems – but do not have jurisdiction over the one area that could bring our governments revenue to support these programs and more."

Minister of Environment and Natural Resources J. Michael Miltenberger told committee members that it is impossible for the GNWT to effectively manage sustainable development when it does not control land and water resources.

"Shared jurisdiction results in regulatory gaps, overlaps and competing priorities," Minister Miltenberger noted. "There is a need for a higher level of cooperation and coordination among governments to effectively deal with the cumulative impacts of increased development."

Presenting on behalf of Minister Bob McLeod, Deputy Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Peter Vician also highlighted the need for continued federal support and investment in NWT energy, transportation and community infrastructure. Projects like the Taltson Hydro Expansion, the Mackenzie Gas Project and the Mackenzie Highway Connector were identified as essential ingredients to the NWT and Canada's future.

The House of Commons Standing Committee is seeking the input of northern residents in identifying the barriers and solutions to ensuring economic growth in the Northwest Territories.

"While the Northwest Territories has enormous challenges, it also holds enormous opportunities," the Premier reminded them.

.../2



### For more information, contact:

### **Andrew Matthews**

Communications Officer Office of the Premier & Executive Council (867) 669-2302 andrew\_matthews@gov.nt.ca







#### R(16)319

### **Teaching Literacy Through the Arts**

Yellowknife, NT (November 23, 2009) – Supporting literacy learning in Northern schools will be the topic of discussion in Yellowknife this week as Northwest Territories teachers and artists meet to learn more about how they can work together.

*Learning Through the Arts (LTTA)*, the largest arts-based education program in the world, returns to Yellowknife following last May's successful introductory workshops. This ground-breaking program from The Royal Conservatory has transformed lesson plans and curriculum teaching in 400 elementary and secondary schools across Canada and in 14 countries.

Thanks to a partnership arrangement between the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association (NWTTA), the LTTA, the Salamander Foundation, and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), there is no registration fee for teachers and artists attending this 3-day conference.

The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister for Education, Culture and Employment, lauded the opportunity for teachers to learn how to integrate and infuse arts into their K-12 literacy programs. "It is exciting to have NWT students engaged in a wide variety of art projects while they learn about northern culture and develop literacy skills. This type of experience lets teachers build upon the creative talents of their students. It can open new doors to learning."

With a focus on northern Aboriginal perspectives, this *Literacy through the Arts* conference brings together NWT educational expertise and northern artistic talent. David Reid, the President of the NWTTA, said "It is important for education to connect with the community. Students benefit when teachers and community members come together and build upon local strengths and talents."

NWT teachers can expect to get tips and advice from five accomplished Canadian artists, including three of Aboriginal descent: Sgaan Jaada, Shelley MacDonald, and Aaron Paquette.

Jaada is a textile artist whose education started 30 years ago with her grandmother. Her robes, tapestries, and sketches portray the essence of North West Coast Peoples. She also works in other mediums like deer skin, cedar bark, moose hide, antler, and rawhide shell to mention a few.

As a performing artist, educator, and filmmaker from the Mi'kmaq nation, MacDonald is passionate about arts based projects with youth. She spent the last 10 years as an Aboriginal and



community outreach worker for the Vancouver School Board developing theatre and film projects with the Gitxsan and Musqueam Nation.

Aaron Paquette is of Cree, Cherokee and Norwegian decent. He shares his passion for incorporating Aboriginal traditions and culture in art through his work in goldsmithing, stained glass, poetry, and painting.

Jaada, MacDonald, and Paquette join Dr. Ann Patterson, the International Director of Research for LTTA at The Royal Conservatory, and visual artist John Scully to provide learning opportunities rich in Aboriginal culture and traditions to northern teachers and artists.

The LTTA program incorporates ongoing professional development for teachers and artists in the areas of writing lesson plans, curriculum development, in-class delivery, and continuous assessment. Lesson plans for all academic subjects are available online at <u>http://www.ltta.ca</u>

#### For more information, please contact:

Amy Doerksen Manager, Public Affairs GNWT Education, Culture and Employment (867) 920-6222

Gayla Meredith Coordinator – Member Services Northwest Territories Teachers' Association (867) 873-8501







R(16)320

### Fort Smith Opens First Youth Health Centre

**FORT SMITH (November 24, 2009)** Youth health services will be available at a Fort Smith school for the first time when P. W. Kaeser High's new Youth Health Centre opens its doors tomorrow.

The Health Café, so named by local youth, will offer youth access to a variety of health services in the school setting. "The hope is to provide a friendly facility for health services", explained Mary Carothers, the lead program developer of the Health Café. "Fort Smith youth have expressed concerns over the stigma associated with accessing health services, particularly related to sexual health, and the need for enhancing comfort level when accessing any type of health service. Providing a health service on their own turf has the ability to address these issues."

The Health Café was developed based on recommendations from the report "When Youth Have a Voice." The report highlights information collected from youth in the community during focus group discussions in the spring of 2009. Over a hundred youth between the ages of 14 and 19 shared their insight into concerns regarding sexual health and the barriers to accessing sexual health services.

The grand opening of the Health Café will be on November 25, 2009 at PWK High School at 11am. Media and the public are invited to attend.

### For more information, or for full copies of the report, please contact:

### **Robert Tordiff** Chief Executive Officer Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority (867) 872-6257





R(16)321

### Seventh GNWT – Regional Aboriginal Leaders Meeting

**DETTAH (November 25, 2009)** – Leaders of the seven NWT regional Aboriginal governments met with Premier Floyd Roland and Deputy Premier Michael Miltenberger in Dettah on Monday for the seventh GNWT - Regional Aboriginal Leaders meeting.

"These meetings provide an opportunity to address the present and future challenges and opportunities that we share as NWT residents – and to promote and develop the relationships that must exist between our Governments to realize the full potential of our shared future," Premier Floyd K. Roland said.

Leaders discussed the importance of implementing land claim agreements and the work of the Land Claims Agreements Coalition and agreed that these issues need to be discussed at the national level.

Leaders discussed the importance of major strategic infrastructure projects to the NWT economy and residents. In particular, discussions focussed on the Mackenzie Valley Highway from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk and the benefits the project would provide to Northern residents.

Leaders also discussed the Mackenzie Gas Project and the important contribution this project will make to the Canadian and NWT economies and in responding to the increased need for cleaner, more secure energy supplies for North America.

Leaders received an update on Devolution efforts, agreed to continue with regional information sessions and to meet again to discuss this issue.

A significant issue at this time is the protection of the NWT caribou populations. Leaders agreed that a multi-faceted approach must be taken and that governments will continue to work together to do their part to ensure that caribou populations recover.

Leaders also discussed renewable energy sources including hydro, biomass, solar, wind, geothermal and residual heat capture. Leaders noted the importance of exploring these renewable energy alternatives in order to reduce the cost of living in NWT communities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

There was discussions between the Leaders to find a balance with Social Housing and other forms of Income Support to ensure residents that are in need of support are provided for and



other residents are encouraged to participate in the NWT's growing economy and employment opportunities.

Leaders agreed that the recent vaccination of NWT residents against the H1N1 flu virus is one example of NWT governments, communities and residents effectively working together. Leaders recognized the important contribution of NWT residents in continuing to practise effective prevention measures and noted that over 50% of NWT residents have received vaccinations. Leaders also acknowledged the contributions of the many health care workers, community leaders and elders involved in ensuring the success of the vaccination program.

Leaders discussed and supported the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to co host one of seven national events by the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Inuvik, NWT.

"It was a pleasure to host territorial leaders in the Chief Drygeese territory. For many leaders it was their first visit to our new government building in Dettah. We gathered here for the benefit of our constituencies as well as the whole territory. When leaders work together it makes us all stronger. It creates understanding and positive working relationships." said Chief Sangris.

#### For more information, please contact:

Andrew Matthews Communications Officer Office of the Press Secretary Premier & Executive Council (867) 669-2302





R(16)322

### New Exhibition Shares the Inuit Residential Schools Experience

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 25, 2009)** - The stories of eight courageous Inuit are now part of a new exhibition, '*We Were So Far Away..': The Inuit Experience of Residential Schools,* at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) in Yellowknife.

*"We Were So Far Away..."* tells the Inuit experience through the words of former residential school students. Illustrated with historical pictures from Canadian residential schools as well as personal objects and photographs from students, the exhibition presents a poignant reminder of what life was like in the schools for so many Aboriginal people.

"Documenting the experiences of Aboriginal Peoples during this dark period in our history is extremely important. I hope this helps former residential school students across the North on their healing journeys," said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty.

The exhibition officially opens Thursday, November 26, 2009. The public is invited to join the exhibition partners at a special opening ceremony from 7pm to 9pm at the Heritage Cafe.

While the stories represent Inuit experiences, the goal of the exhibition is to help all Aboriginal people affected by residential schools. Another important goal is to educate the public about Canadian residential schools. The eight who shared their stories represent a diverse group from across Canada, including two Northwest Territories residents from the Inuvialuit Settlement Region: Lillian Elias of Inuvik and Abraham Ruben, formerly of Paulatuk.

"I hope that, through educational initiatives such as the 'We Were So Far Away...': The Inuit Experience of Residential Schools exhibition, all Canadians will become aware of their past and of the need to work together to renew the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples," said president of the Legacy of Hope Foundation Richard Kistabish. "The Legacy of Hope Foundation remains committed to all Residential School Survivors, their healing journeys and the hope of reconciliation in the future."

*"We Were So Far Away..."* was developed by the Legacy of Hope Foundation in partnership with Library and Archives Canada and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. The exhibition is on display at the PWNHC until January 31, 2010. It will then travel to the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre in Fort Smith during the month of February 2010.



A private viewing is planned for former residential school students on Wednesday, November 25, 2009 from 7pm to 9pm. Due to the sensitive nature of the exhibition, support services will be available at both events.

For more information about the exhibition, please contact:

Isabella Tatar Executive Director Legacy of Hope Foundation Tel: 1-877-553-7177 www.legacyofhope.ca info@legacyofhope.ca Barb Cameron Director Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Education, Culture and Employment Tel: (867) 873-7551 barb\_cameron@gov.nt.ca





25 November 2009

### **Flu Activity this Week**

Public health officials are reporting the NWT is experiencing the second wave of H1N1 flu activity. However, we have reached our peak. Flu activity is now declining.

Active cases have been identified in 26 of the 33 NWT communities. H1N1 is the only influenza strain circulating in NWT communities at this time.

There have been no new hospital admissions but two late reports of NWT residents hospitalized with H1N1 influenza were received last week, for a total of 50 lab-confirmed H1N1 hospitalizations to date of which 6 were admitted to ICU. Included among the late reports is an infant less than 6 months of age who was not eligible for vaccination.

The Health and Social Services Flu Line received 40 calls last week. The Flu Line continues to refer people needing further care to health centres or clinics. The majority of people suffering with the flu in the NWT are experiencing mild to moderate symptoms and have been recovering on their own.

Schools have seen higher rates of absenteeism from this outbreak, but all NWT schools have remained open. Self-isolation continues to be the best way to reduce the spread of the flu between people. Normal social contact between healthy people does not present an increased risk of spreading the flu.

Last week, the first H1N1-related death occurred in an individual with chronic medical conditions.

### **Developments/Announcements this Week**

Over 25,000 NWT residents, or 58% of the NWT's population, have received the H1N1 vaccine to date. Approximately 75% vaccine coverage is our target goal to optimally combat the spread of H1N1 in our communities. However, we can attribute the current decline in flu activity to rapid uptake of H1N1 vaccine in the NWT.

The H1N1 mass vaccination campaign ended last week. However, local public health clinics and community health centres will continue to offer the vaccine for the next few weeks. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the Health and Social Services website.

There have been very few cases of people exhibiting unusual reactions to the flu shot. Out of 25,000 shots administered, only 34 people have experienced uncommon side effects. There have been no cases of true anaphylactic reactions to the shot.

1

New guidelines on vaccinating children aged 3-9 against H1N1 were issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). Children in this age group require only one half-dose of the adjuvanted vaccine and will not need to get a second shot. Children aged 6 months to under 3 years may need a second shot pending clinical trial data.

### **Public Information**

Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Kami Kandola held a press conference on November 12, 2009 to update media on current flu activity, vaccine uptake and flu-related hospitalizations to date.

Information about the H1N1 influenza vaccine has been posted to the HSS website, along with myths and facts about the influenza vaccine.

A full range of information on preventing the flu, caring for the sick and taking steps to protect individuals is available on the Health and Social Services website at <u>http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca</u>.

### For more information

The *Government of the Northwest Territories Influenza Update* is distributed weekly and includes the most recent information on flu activity in the NWT.

For more information about protecting yourself from the flu or about the GNWT's H1N1 plans and activities, please visit the Health and Social Services website at <u>http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca</u>.

2

You may also call the Flu Line at 1-888-920-3026 or the Health Line at 1-888-255-1010



R(16)324

### 7<sup>th</sup> Biannual LINX Conference Begins Next Week

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 27, 2009)** – Career development and client services professionals from across the Northwest Territories will gather in Yellowknife on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for the biannual LINX Conference.

The two-day event brings together public and private sector employees that work in all areas of career development and client services. It is a great opportunity for delegates to discover new career skills, resources, and network with their northern peers.

"Career practitioners play a critical role in helping to ensure the people of the Northwest Territories have the supports and services to be successful throughout their lives," said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty.

Delegates to this year's conference will have the opportunity to attend workshops and presentations from leading career development experts including:

Dr. Norm Amundson will be presenting *Hope-Filled Engagement*. Amundson, a professor of counselling psychology at the University of British Columbia, talks about how to work with people who may face multiple career challenges, have self-esteem issues, or come from different cultural backgrounds.

Roxanne Sawatzky from the Empowering Change organization will be presenting a *Stages of Change (SOC)* workshop. Focussing on helping marginalized individuals, this model recognizes change as a gradual process and that people must find their own reasons for changing behaviour.

Nina Spencer will be presenting *Getting Passion Out of Your Profession*. Spencer the author of the online newsletter *Working Wisdom*, will discuss strategies, tips and techniques for dealing with workplace challenges.

.../2



### For information on the LINX Conference, contact:

**Amy Doerksen** 

Manager, Public Affairs Department of Education, Culture and Employment Tel: 867-920-6222 Email: <u>Amy\_Doerksen@gov.nt.ca</u>





R(16)325

### **GNWT Recognizes National Safe Driving Week**

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 30, 2009)** – December 1 - 7 is National Safe Driving Week. In the Northwest Territories, drivers of motor vehicles and snowmobiles are encouraged to use this week to consider whether they and their vehicles are ready for travel.

Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod says the purpose of the week is to help drivers reduce the number of collisions and save lives. "We all know what we need to do to be safe while driving on our roads: Drive at an appropriate speed, prepare for the unexpected, use occupant restraints, and avoid driving while distracted or impaired," he said. "Safe Driving is more than knowing how to be safe – it's putting what we know into action."

Drive Alive, the travel safety information program of the Government of Northwest Territories, provides these tips to help everyone drive safely this winter:

- Drive during daylight hours whenever possible, particularly in bison country;
- Use winter tires, not all season tires, whenever there is snow on the ground. They are better on both ice and snow;
- Whenever you travel on the highway, pack an emergency kit, blankets, food and water, and a way to signal that you need help;
- Avoid distractions such as the use of cell phones or music players. Ensure the driver's attention is not distracted by loud music and disruptive passengers. On long trips, have games or a back seat movie player for children;
- Avoid impairment from fatigue, drugs, or alcohol;
- Wear your seat belt, and ensure children are restrained in a properly fitting infant or car seat. Older children sitting in a seat with shoulder belts may require a booster seat to ensure the belt goes across the shoulder properly.

For those travelling by snowmobile this winter, Drive Alive adds the following:

- Wear your helmet, and don't allow anyone on your sled without one;
- Ensure your plans and estimated return time are written down and in the hands of someone who can call for help if you're overdue;
- Travel in groups there is safety in numbers;
- Dress in layers with a waterproof, windproof outside layer to ensure you stay warm and dry.

.../2



Drive Alive reminds drivers and passengers there is more we can all do to reduce the number of collisions, injuries, and deaths on the roads and trails of the Northwest Territories.

### For more information, please contact:

#### **Earl Blacklock**

Manager, Public Affairs and Communications Department of Transportation Tel: 867-873-7712 earl blacklock@gov.nt.ca





R(16)326

### International Water Policy Forum Supports Draft NWT Water Stewardship Strategy

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 30, 2009):** A prestigious international water policy forum supports the direction and key elements contained in the Northwest Territories (NWT) Draft Water Stewardship Strategy.

The Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy facilitates the exchange of information and experience in the management of water resources around the world. The Forum held a regional Rosenberg Workshop in Yellowknife in June 2009 to review the discussion paper on the development of a NWT Water Stewardship Strategy.

"The Government of the Northwest Territories invited the Rosenberg Regional Workshop to review the direction and key elements being considered in a NWT Water Stewardship Strategy," said Environment and Natural Resources Minister J. Michael Miltenberger. "The Forum was asked to identify potential barriers to implementation of a Strategy and recommend examples from other jurisdictions which could help us integrate the strategy into larger governance structures."

The draft NWT Water Stewardship Strategy was released on November 4, 2009. It identifies a watershed management approach to water stewardship. This principle is strongly supported by the Rosenberg Forum because it recognizes the relationships between land and water and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

The Rosenberg Forum also recognized the waters of the NWT as a world-wide resources and emphasized the Mackenzie River Basin's natural water-ice-climate system helps stabilize the Earth's climate. It also recognized the potential for ecological and water-related implications for the entire continent if the Mackenzie River Basin system changes too much.

"This review by the Rosenberg Forum not only supports the draft Strategy, it also echoes many of the concerns raised in the recent *Watered Down* report produced by seven environmental organizations about the federal role in oil sands development regulation," added Miltenberger. "We appreciate the efforts of the Rosenberg Forum in helping the governments and residents move forward with a plan to protect the integrity of our water resources for current and future generations."

Communications • Office of the Premier & Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111



.../2

A copy of the Rosenberg International Forum's report to the GNWT is available at <u>www.enr.gov.nt.ca</u>.

#### For more information, contact:

#### **Andrew Matthews**

Communications Officer Office of the Premier and Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2302 **Dr. Henry Vaux** Chair c/o Robert Sandford Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy (403) 678-7003





http://workingtogether.gov.nt.ca

Managing This Land

R(16)327

### NWT to Provide Northern Voice to Canada's COP15 Delegation

YELLOWKNIFE (December 1, 2009) -- The Northwest Territories will work with Canada to advance the strongest position possible on Climate Change at the United Nations' 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 15) in Copenhagen, Denmark this month.

Following a meeting with Canada's Environment Minister Jim Prentice and his provincial and territorial colleagues, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources J. Michael Miltenberger says it is critical that Canadian governments find a common path to advance action on climate change.

"The reality of Climate Change and its impacts on Canada's North are too significant to ignore," he said. "We are compelled to identify and support global and local actions that we can take to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases."

As many as 20,000 delegates are expected to attend COP 15 this month and much international attention will be focussed on the Arctic regions.

"It is important that messages and political discussions concerning the impacts of climate change on the North are led and delivered by those who are impacted and working to come to terms with this issue."

The NWT is already working to address the issue of climate change and its own greenhouse gas emissions. The GNWT is currently surpassing its 2001 commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 10% by 2011.

The GNWT continues to work with the Government of Canada and other jurisdictions to pursue a balanced, national approach to determining its targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

#### For more information, contact:

#### **Andrew Matthews**

Communications Officer Office of the Press Secretary Premier & Executive Council (867) 669-2302





R(16)328







### **MOU Initiatives Promote Northern Mining Workforce**

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 3, 2009):** Joint initiatives identified under the Northern Mining Workforce Initiative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will work to increase Northern employment at Northwest Territories diamond mines.

The MOU was signed by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Industry, Tourism and Investment and the three Northwest Territories diamond mine producers – BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc., Diavik Diamond Mines Inc., and De Beers Canada Inc.

Work under the MOU is guided by a Steering Committee made up of the most senior and influential representatives from the three diamond mines: the President and Chief Operating officer of BHP Billiton Diamonds EKATI Diamond Mine, Mr. Paul Harvey; the Chief Operating Officer of De Beers Canada Inc., Mr. Chantal Lavoie; and the President and Chief Operating Officer of Diavik Diamond Mines Inc., Mr. Kim Truter. The GNWT representatives are the Minister of ITI, the Honourable Bob McLeod, and the Minister of ECE, the Honourable Jackson Lafferty.

The Steering Committee has established three working groups to explore options for increasing Northern employment at the diamond mines. One working group is currently investigating options to improve travel between NWT communities and the mine sites. A second group is working on coordinating existing training requirements and programs. The third group is identifying factors that encourage or discourage people to stay in the NWT or move here. In October, all the parties met and the working groups presented their findings to the Steering Committee.

The first working group has reviewed each mine's operational requirements and standards. It has found three possible coordinated flight routes to investigate further. Some of the key issues that need to be worked out include each company's safety requirements, the ownership of flights, how each company would be insured, the impact the length of the flights may have on employees and their families, cost, and differences in rotation schedules. Northern airlines have been contacted to determine if the mines can contract transportation on shared routes through them.



The second working group reported that a list of common training programs has been identified, along with a need to establish NWT standards for these programs. Standardization of these programs will help achieve a number of goals. It will reduce the costs associated with duplication of training by the mines for workers moving between companies. It will increase capacity of mine training personnel for new program delivery and support a business case for the provision of standardized training to the mines by private and public sectors. It will also enable the creation of a pre-employment package for communities. The parties are considering the merits and possibilities for NWT or Canada-wide safety and core standards.

The third working group has developed and conducted a survey of diamond mine employees. The survey will determine what motivates employees to live in the NWT or not. The results of the survey are being analyzed to determine the challenges and opportunities present in attracting more diamond mine employees to live in the North and retain the ones already living here. The survey results will also be used by the GNWT in its National Marketing Campaign, which will be launched in 2010. The campaign will market the NWT as an attractive place to visit, invest, work and live. The survey will also be used by the mines in their recruitment efforts and the parties will look at short- and long-term ways to address the challenges identified in the survey.

In the coming months, the working groups will continue to advance their collaborative efforts to expand and build the size and capacity of the NWT workforce for the diamond mines. They will then present their accomplishments to the Steering Committee.

#### For more information, please contact:

#### Darren Campbell

Manager, Public Affairs and Communications Industry, Tourism and Investment Government of the Northwest Territories Tel: (867) 920-8696 Darren\_p\_campbell@gov.nt.ca

Amy Doerksen Manager, Public Affairs Department of Education, Culture and Employment Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 920-6222 Amy doerksen@gov.nt.ca

Deana Twissell Superintendent, Corporate and Community Affairs BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc. Tel: (867) 669-6107



Pat McCloskey Director, Communications and Corporate Affairs Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. Tel: (867) 669-6534

Cathie Bolstad Director, External and Corporate Affairs De Beers Canada Inc. Tel: (867) 766-7325





R(16)329

## **NWT Nominee Program Advancing Permanent Residency**

**YELLOWKNIFE** (December 3, 2009) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has approved its first three applications under the new NWT Nominee Program (NTNP).

The employer-driven program, the first ever in the NWT, was initiated as part of the GNWT's *Maximizing Opportunities* Initiative and works to fast track immigration applications in the interest of attracting qualified individuals to fill critical labour shortages and promote business development.

NWT employers apply to the Department of Education Culture and Employment (ECE) to have an immigrant nominated for permanent residency. If the individual meets program criteria, the GNWT can recommend the individual to the Government of Canada for permanent residency.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty says the Nominee Program is working to strengthen the NWT economy. "We're investing in and building a stronger permanent labour force - and by doing so providing diversity and stability to northern businesses and our economy," he said.

All three of the recommended nominees are in the skilled workers category and were nominated by Yellowknife employers. Two nominees currently live and work in the North under temporary foreign worker permits and the third candidate will be new to Canada. Their nominations were forwarded to Citizenship and Immigration Canada who will make the final decision to grant permanent residency.

Applicants can be nominated for permanent residency under one of four program categories: Skilled Worker, Critical Impact Worker (Service and Hospitality Sector Occupations), Entrepreneur Business and Self-Employed Business. The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is responsible for the Entrepreneur and Self-Employed Business categories of the program.

The NTNP also supports employers in recruiting and retaining foreign workers. The program and helps foreign workers and their families make the NWT their permanent home.

.../2





R(16)330

## Housing Minister to Meet with Federal/Provincial/Territorial Counterparts

**GATINEAU** (December 3, 2009): Today and tomorrow, the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, will be meeting in Gatineau, Quebec to discuss current investments in housing and homelessness with his federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts.

Priorities for discussion include future federal investments in affordable housing, repairs and homelessness beyond 2011; and the implementation of housing investments through Canada's Economic Action Plan (CEAP) programs such as the Affordable Housing Initiative.

The three-year Affordable Housing Initiative announced in 2006/2007 represented a major investment in affordable housing across Canada. At that time the federal government contributed \$50 million to the NWT. Matching funds were provided by the NWTHC for a total investment of \$100 million.

Canada committed a further \$50 million for Northern housing through the CEAP, which was matched by the GNWT. This funding ends in 2011, after which no commitment has been made for future federal funding for new construction.

By the end of 2010 the total number of new public housing, new homeownership units, and renovated properties completed by NWTHC will be more than 500. Through these efforts, every community in the NWT will benefit.

Despite the investments made in recent years, housing need continues to increase in many communities.

During the discussions in Gatineau, Minister McLeod will be emphasizing that the three territories have core need levels that are higher than southern jurisdictions, and these needs cannot be addressed through current per-capita funding arrangements or short-term investment programs. The separate funding arrangements that were implemented under CEAP and through programs like the Affordable Housing Initiative are much more effective for the NWT, and must continue past 2010.





R(16)XXX

# The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Celebrates 30 Years of Enriching the North

**YELLOWKNIFE (Friday, December 4)** – This Sunday marks an important occasion for the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC), as the territorial museum celebrates 30 years of enriching culture in the North.

Festivities begin with Amazing Family Sunday on December 6 at noon. Children can do exciting and fun crafts and everyone will enjoy demonstrations from artists with the Aurora Arts Society. From 2pm to 4pm, the public is invited to participate in exhibit activities featuring a scavenger hunt, slide shows, Inuvialuit whaling camp stories, games, prizes and, of course, a birthday cake.

Sunday also marks the opening of two exciting new exhibits, *Qilalukkat - Beluga Whales* and *Kuukpak: An Exhibition of Inuvialuit Artifacts. Qilalukkat - Beluga Whales* features lifelike mother and calf beluga whales under sea ice and is one of many Voices of the Land exhibits planned for the North and South galleries. *Kuukpak: An Exhibition of Inuvialuit Artifacts*, as the name suggests, features over 250 archaeological discoveries of Inuvialuit artifacts from nearly three decades of excavation and research led by Dr. Charles Arnold, former director of the PWNHC.

"The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre is an important landmark for the Northwest Territories. Over its 30-year history it's been a valuable resource for sharing the rich culture of the North," said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty.

For more information about Amazing Family Sundays and the new exhibits, contact:

**Amy Doerksen** Manager, Public Affairs

Education, Culture and Employment Tel: (867) 920-6222 Email: amy\_doerksen@gov.nt.ca





Maximizing Opportunities

R(16)332

# Feature Performance to Highlight the Northwest Territories at the 2010 Olympic Games

**YELLOWKNIFE** (December 8, 2009) – February 19<sup>th</sup> will be "NWT Day" at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games – a daylong celebration and showcase of the Northwest Territories' arts, culture, people and places culminating in a feature performance at the nightly Victory Ceremony in BC Place Stadium.

The Victory Ceremony Performance will feature a collective of 14 performing artists from across the Northwest Territories. Through music, song, stories, dance and video, NWT performers will put on a show representing the regions of the NWT and demonstrating both contemporary and traditional performance styles.

"The Olympic Games will bring people from across Canada and around the world to Vancouver and Whistler," said Premier Floyd Roland. "We need to take advantage of this rare opportunity to let as many Olympic visitors as we can know that the NWT is a dynamic territory with immense economic potential, diverse cultures, world class art and music and unique tourism opportunities."

"We have a wealth of talented artists and performers in the Northwest Territories and we want the world to know that we are proud of them," said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. "Taking part in the Olympic Games will help expand the audiences for NWT arts, crafts and music and will provide invaluable experience to participating artists and performers."

NWT Day will also see the NWT promoted at Olympic venues throughout Vancouver and Whistler. The NWT Day performance will be simulcast in the Whistler Medal Plaza and will be followed by medal presentations in both BC Place and Whistler. The evening will end with a concert from Canadian band Theory of a Deadman.

NWT Day and the Victory Ceremony performance are part of several initiatives the Government of the Northwest Territories is taking to maximize opportunities by encouraging people from across Canada and around the world to visit, live and invest in the NWT. Other activities include establishing Canada's Northern House in downtown Vancouver with the Government of Nunavut, a northern marketing campaign undertaken with Nunavut and Yukon, exhibitions of NWT art, traditional games demonstrations and a Youth Ambassadors program.

Communications • Office of the Premier & Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111





Maximizing Opportunities

R(16)332

# Backgrounder

Performers for the NWT performing artists collective were selected in July 2009 from among nearly 30 applicants from across the NWT. The performing artists are:

- Gerry Antoine (Fort Simpson) Dene Drums
- Tiffany Ayalik (Yellowknife) Storyteller
- Brendan Callas (Yellowknife) Keyboards, Backup Vocals
- Norm Glowach (Yellowknife) Drums, Backup Vocals
- Leanne Goose (Inuvik) Vocalist
- Wesley Hardisty (Fort Simpson) Fiddler
- Aaron Hernandez (Yellowknife) Vocalist
- Richard Lafferty (Hay River) Fiddler
- Sophie Leger (Yellowknife) Vocalist, Guitar, Harmonica, Djembe
- Greg Nasogaluak (Yellowknife) Guitar
- Theresa Pamplin (Yellowknife) Vocalist
- Gary Tees (Yellowknife) Bass
- Karen Zaidan (Fort Smith) Vocalist, Keyboard

Selection of performing artists was headed by the contracted producing artistic director, BDK Services, a team of NWT residents with significant experience in music, television, theatre, live performance and management.

BC Place Stadium, the venue for the NWT Victory Celebration performance, seats 55,000 people.

The 2010 Olympic Games will involve participants from over 80 countries and are expect to attract 10,000 media representatives and an estimated 3 billion television viewers worldwide.





R(16)333

# **Premier Praises Economic Cooperation in the NWT**

**INUVIK (December 9, 2009):** In his first speech to the newly-formed Inuvik Chamber of Commerce, Premier Floyd Roland welcomed the return of a unified voice of business to the Inuvik area, and stressed the importance of Northerners continuing to work together in the midst of a challenging economic climate.

"Inuvik business needs a united voice to help promote this region and keep it on the radar screen," he noted to the Chamber on Monday. "Especially in the face of southern competition and today's tight economy, it must be clear that Northern people and businesses are the ones that have the expertise, experience and know-how when it comes to operating and succeeding in the North."

The Premier also spoke to the importance of cooperation between government and business, saying "we are stronger and more effective advocates for Northern people and their interests when we can speak and act collectively."

Citing recent capital projects in Inuvik which have combined the efforts of government and local businesses to build needed infrastructure for a long-term sustainable economy, the Premier highlighted GNWT efforts to strategically invest in NWT businesses and projects, to ensure that the positive benefits of funding are felt both now and into the future.

"Providing and securing Government investment is one thing," he told the Chamber. "But we as a Government have also taken steps to ensure that the manner in which we are investing this money is working to build our future."

### For more information, contact:

Andrew Matthews Communications Officer Office of the Premier and Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2302





Managing This Land

R(16)334

# **GNWT Announces Development of Recreational Leasing Framework**

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 9, 2009):** The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) announced today the development of a Recreational Leasing Policy Framework and a temporary freeze on lease applications for Commissioner's Land in the Cassidy Point, Walsh/Banting/Prosperous lakes area.

The Recreational Leasing Policy Framework is being developed to strengthen the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) land administration program by addressing the demand for land for recreational use. The development of the Framework will be undertaken collaboratively and include participation of internal GNWT stakeholders and external partners such as the Akaitcho Dene First Nation, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and the City of Yellowknife. Other interested parties, including existing lease holders, will also be encouraged to participate. While the Framework is being developed, MACA will stop leasing activity in the area.

Once complete, the Framework will ensure future sustainable development and management both in the area and across the Northwest Territories (NWT), and will, amongst other things, develop parameters for cabins and other structures, make land available for recreational use in a transparent and open manner, control new instances of trespass, and protect the natural environment.

"The Commissioner's Land in this area is a popular recreational area with the highest demand for leases, and the highest concentration of trespassers, in the NWT," said the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. "To continue to allow leasing and development in during the development of the Framework will only add to the land and environmental management concerns that already exist in the area."

Existing leaseholders in the area will retain all of the rights they have under their current leases to renew, assign, or amend the documents. The land freeze will only prohibit new leases in the area, and will be lifted in December 2011, or upon the completion of the Recreational Leasing Policy Framework. During the land freeze, MACA will continue to prosecute individuals who trespass in the area.

.../2



**Vancouver 2010** CONTRIBUTING TERRITORY



Reducing the Cost of Living

R(16)335

# Housing Minister Promotes New Approach to Northern Housing at Federal-Provincial-Territorial Housing Ministers Meeting

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 10, 2009)**: The Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, recently represented the NWT at a meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Housing Ministers in Gatineau, Quebec. This was the first such meeting of Ministers to take place since 2005.

Discussions in Gatineau centered around several areas of interest, including Provincial-Territorial involvement in Federal housing programs that have been extended to 2014 as well as declining Federal social housing funding and its impact on the long-term sustainability of social housing.

Investments by all orders of government in housing and social infrastructure through Canada's Economic Action Plan and provincial and territorial economic stimulus measures were also discussed. Minister McLeod represented his provincial and territorial colleagues in presenting an overview of projects underway as well as the housing challenges and needs faced by many Canadians.

"Many important housing projects are underway across our territory and across the country," said Minister McLeod. "However, and in spite of our investments in our housing stock, core housing need continues to grow as a result of an aging housing stock and the downturn in our economy. While the short-term investments of the Federal government are welcome, the Northwest Territories needs a long-term Federal commitment to improve our housing stock in both homeownership and public housing and, in turn, improve the lives of our residents."

Minister McLeod and his colleagues from Nunavut and Yukon continued their call for a new approach to Northern Housing during the meetings. They emphasized that the three territories have core need levels that are higher than southern jurisdictions, and these needs cannot be addressed through current per-capita funding arrangements or short-term investment programs. The separate funding arrangements that were implemented under CEAP and through programs like the Affordable Housing Initiative are much more effective for the NWT, and must continue past 2010. Ministers stressed that these investments must be allocated based on need rather than on a per-capita basis and must also include funding for the operation and maintenance of new and existing social housing.



The Government of the Northwest Territories continues to invest in housing as a key piece of its efforts to reduce the cost of living. The GNWT's commitment to cost-match every dollar invested in Northern Housing through the Affordable Housing Initiative and Canada's Economic Action Plan is playing an important role in stimulating the Territorial economy and improving the lives of our residents.

#### For more information, contact:

#### **Stephen Pretty**

Manager, Strategic Planning, Policy and Communications Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (867) 920-6533





R(16)336

# **Report on 2009 Revenue Options Consultation Released**

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 10, 2009):** The Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Finance, today released a report on the Revenue Options consultation held in Yellowknife on October 7 and 8, 2009.

The two-day meeting gathered delegates representing community and Aboriginal governments, business, environmental and social organizations to discuss economic and fiscal strategies and potential improvements to the NWT tax system. The report also includes the comments and suggestions submitted by members of the general public.

Many of the recommendations from the roundtable align with initiatives that the GNWT is currently pursuing and the ideas received will help guide the GNWT's decisions about its tax and fiscal strategies in support of the vision and goals of the current 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

Minister Miltenberger stressed that no immediate changes to the tax system are being proposed. "Proposals for significant change to the NWT tax system need considerable research and analysis and further consultation before they can be considered for implementation," said Minister Miltenberger. This work will be undertaken in the upcoming fiscal year.

The report on the 2009 Revenue Options roundtable can be found on the Department of Finance website at <u>http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca</u>

For more information, please contact:

### Andrew Matthews

Communications Officer Office of the Press Secretary Premier & Executive Council (867) 669-2302

Or:

John Monroe Department of Finance (867) 920-6436 john monroe@gov.nt.ca





Managing This Land

R(16)337

# **GNWT Delegation to Depart for Copenhagen**

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 11, 2009):** Premier Floyd K. Roland will lead the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)'s participation in the high level political forum surrounding the 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-15) next week in Copenhagen. He says the GNWT will work with others to advance the strongest measures possible on climate change from developing countries.

"The reality of Climate Change and its impacts on Canada's North are too significant to ignore," the Premier says. "We are compelled to identify and support global and local actions that we can take to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases."

More than 30,000 people are attending COP-15. Outside of the official conference program, over 240 related meetings, presentations, venues and events have been organized to address issues relating to Climate Change.

The GNWT delegation, which leaves Saturday, will use the opportunity to lobby, educate, listen and learn while providing an important northern voice to Canada's official delegation and gathering expertise and experiences on effective actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Minister of Environment and Natural Resources J. Michael Miltenberger says the GNWT is committed to working with the federal, provincial and other territorial governments to develop an equitable approach to Canada's international commitments to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions.

"As a developed country, it is our duty to make significant commitments to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and lead in developing adaptation measures. We are urging Canada to strive for the most ambitious targets possible to advance the strongest position that we can on Climate Change."

Much of the attention and focus of delegates and events will be on the Arctic regions. It is important that messages and discussions concerning the impacts of climate change on the North are led and delivered by Northerners.

MLAs Bob Bromley, David Krutko, and Glen Abernathy are also part of the GNWT delegation attending COP-15.



The GNWT will work to encourage significant actions by developing countries on Climate Change by working with other Arctic jurisdictions and organizations to provide information and raise awareness regarding the real impacts and implications of climate change on Arctic regions.

"A global agreement on addressing climate change will require political will and the shared experience of others," MLA Bromley says. "This can only occur through a well-informed and knowledgeable position on the issues at hand."

Under its *Managing This Land* Initiative, the GNWT is already working to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change in the NWT through the continuing delivery of its Green House Gas Strategy and Energy Plan.

The GNWT has committed \$60 million over three years to developing alternative energy sources such as hydro, wind and biomass to replace the use of greenhouse gas emitting diesel fuel where possible; and to expanding and advancing the use of hydro power.

Since 2007, aggressive initiatives have been introduced to reduce NWT and GNWT green house gas emissions. The GNWT's hydro strategy seeks to expand the use of hydro power in the NWT as a clean fuel source for resource development projects. The development of NWT natural gas resources could also contribute to overall reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by replacing carbon intensive energy sources.

For more information, contact:

### Andrew Matthews

Communications Officer Office of the Press Secretary Premier & Executive Council (867) 669-2302









### R(16)338

# GNWT Announces New Marketing Program for Barren Ground Caribou Outfitters

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 11, 2009)**: A new marketing program for sport hunt outfitters is providing additional help to the industry to market existing products or develop new products.

The NWT's barren ground caribou outfitters will be impacted by an anticipated elimination of caribou tags.

The Caribou Outfitter Marketing Program (COMP) is designed to help outfitters market the products they are already licensed for and to develop new products. Funding will enable outfitters to inform clients of the changes that are underway, diversify into new hunting products and market other existing products they may be licensed to provide.

Many existing caribou outfitters are or can be licensed to hunt other species such as wolf, wolverine, grizzly bears and musk ox or carry out activities such as fishing or hiking.

"The caribou outfitting industry is experiencing significant challenges, due to events beyond its control," says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. "As a government we recognize the value and importance of this sector to the NWT tourism industry and will continue to help individual operators and the industry to preserve, protect and adjust their operations for future success."

A total of \$150,000 is available under the program for 2009/2010.

A similar program is being developed in consultation with polar bear outfitters in the Beaufort Delta region. That program is expected to be launched in January.

A number of requests have already been received under COMP and are currently being reviewed by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

For more information, contact:

Darren Campbell Manager, Public Affairs and Communications Industry, Tourism and Investment (867) 920-8696 Darren p campbell@gov.nt.ca





R(16)339

# New Book Reveals Secrets of the North's Human and Environmental History

YELLOWKNIFE (December 14, 2009): A new book published by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center explores the distant past of the Northwest Territories, reaffirming the NWT's place as a prime destination for members of the scientific community to conduct research into the distant past of the North.

*Hunters of the Alpine Ice: The NWT Ice Patch Study* draws on the expertise of archaeologists, Aboriginal elders, biologists, geologists and educators to give a more complete picture of what the North was like as far back as 5,000 years ago. The book focuses on more than five years of research conducted on the permanent ice patches of the Mackenzie Mountains.

Written by Thomas D. Andrews, Glen MacKay and Leon Andrew, the book is designed as a resource for high school students. *Hunters of the Alpine Ice* supplements the learning at science camps, held during the summers of 2007 and 2008, when students and elders from Tulita partnered with ice patch scientists and shared their knowledge and experience about the land.

"I've previewed the book and some of the discoveries are truly remarkable. *Hunters of the Alpine Ice* also shows how traditional and scientific knowledge can complement one another," said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty.

Illustrated with stunning photography, the book shows how ice patches are more than just deposits of ice on a mountainside. Ice patches are windows into the past of the Earth, and are ideal for preserving archaeological artifacts and biological specimens that would otherwise be lost to history. Now as the Northern climate warms, the patches are revealing their secrets. In 2005, researchers identified a 350 year old willow bow, which allowed them to apply for the International Polar Year funding that supported the project from 2007 through 2009.

The official launch of *Hunters of the Alpine Ice* took place Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> in the Council Chambers in Tulita. The public opening included a slide show documenting the research.

*Hunters of the Alpine Ice* is available to order and preview from online book retailer <u>http://www.blurb.com</u>





R(16)340

# The GNWT Looks for Clarification to Further the Development of a French Languages Services Implementation Plan

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 17, 2009):** The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will be asking the Court for further direction around the responsibilities and obligations of the participants in the Consultation Committee directed to work on the GNWT's French Language Services Implementation Plan.

The Consultation Committee was created by an order of Justice Moreau in 2006. The role of the Committee is to assist the GNWT in the drafting, implementation, administration and promotion of a plan for the provision of French language communications and services under the *Official Languages Act* of the NWT. Efforts to convene a meeting of the Consultation Committee have been hampered by lack of agreement between the GNWT and the Fédération franco-ténoise around funding for fees and travel expenses for out-of-territory members.

The GNWT is committed to developing a French Language Services implementation plan that meets the needs of the French community in the NWT. Building partnerships to support a strong and independent north is a priority of our government. The GNWT hopes that the Committee's work will result in a made-in-the-North solution and that this collaborative approach will strengthen our northern identity and uniqueness. The plan will present a proud and unified voice that fosters the sustainability of the French language throughout all NWT communities.

The GNWT currently works closely with various French language organizations on a range of operational levels. The Consultation Committee is an extension of an existing collaborative process that supports program development and delivery.

### For more information, please contact:

**Andrew Matthews** 

Communications Officer Office of the Press Secretary Premier & Executive Council (867) 669-2302



Communiqué de presse



R(16)340

# Le GTNO demande des précisions pour faire progresser l'élaboration d'un plan de mise en œuvre en matière de services en français

**Yellowknife, le jeudi 17 décembre 2009**: Le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) s'adressera au tribunal relativement aux responsabilités et aux obligations des participants du Comité consultatif, dont le mandat est d'élaborer le plan de mise en œuvre du GTNO en matière de prestation de services en français.

Le Comité consultatif a été créé par l'ordonnance émise par la juge Moreau en 2006. Le rôle du Comité est d'aider le GTNO dans l'établissement, la mise en œuvre, la gestion et la promotion d'un plan de prestation de communications et de services en français prévus par la *Loi sur les langues officielles* des TNO. Les efforts déployés pour convoquer une réunion du Comité consultatif ont été ralentis par le désaccord entre le GTNO et la Fédération franco-ténoise relativement au financement des honoraires et des frais de déplacement des membres du Comité provenant de l'extérieur des TNO.

Le GTNO s'est engagé à élaborer un plan de mise en œuvre en matière de prestation de services en français qui répond aux besoins de la communauté francophone des TNO. En effet, l'une des priorités du gouvernement est de bâtir des partenariats afin d'assurer la viabilité et l'indépendance du territoire. Le GTNO espère que le travail accompli par le Comité permettra de trouver une solution conçue dans le Nord et que cette démarche coopérative renforcera l'identité et le caractère unique du Nord. Le plan désire faire la promotion de la vigueur du français à l'échelle des TNO, tout en tenant compte de la diversité et de l'unicité des collectivités ténoises.

Le GTNO travaille actuellement en étroite collaboration avec plusieurs organismes francophones à divers niveaux opérationnels. Le Comité consultatif constitue un prolongement du processus collaboratif actuel qui soutient l'élaboration et la prestation de programmes.

## Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec :

### Andrew Matthews

Agent des communications Bureau des relations publiques Bureau du premier ministre et du Conseil exécutif 867-669-2302

Bureau du premier ministre et du Conseil exécutif Le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111





# Document d'information sur les services en français offerts par le GTNO

### Traductions en français et en anglais au cours de l'exercice 2008-2009

Le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) croit que les langues et les cultures des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO) constituent la base du développement et de la prestation de programmes et de services. Au cours de l'exercice 2008-2009, le ministère de l'Éducation, de la Culture et de la Formation (MÉCF) et le ministère de la Justice ont traduit 1 017 642 mots vers le français. Ces services de traduction sont essentiels pour garantir l'accès à l'information de la communauté francophone.

### Traduction juridique en français

Le ministère de la Justice traduit tous les documents réglementaires vers le français. Au besoin, des traducteurs juridiques sous contrat fournissent des services supplémentaires. Tous les documents législatifs entrés en vigueur au cours de l'exercice 2008-2009 étaient disponibles en français et en anglais. Au total, 236 257 mots ont été traduits.

Les *Lois des Territoires du Nord-Ouest* sont publiées chaque année en français et en anglais. Chaque année civile, les Parties I et II de la *Gazette des Territoires du Nord-Ouest* sont également publiées en 12 volumes dans les deux langues.

### Site Web public du MSSS

Le ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) entretient un site Web public (www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca) par l'entremise duquel il fournit des renseignements sur ses programmes, ses services, ses publications et les coordonnées des personnes-ressources du ministère. Ce site Web est presque entièrement bilingue (français et anglais). Tous les formulaires médicaux sont bilingues et sont fournis sur demande dans les autres langues officielles.

## Ligne Info-Soins TNO (Health Line)

La ligne Info-Soins TNO est une ligne téléphonique d'aide et de santé familiale pour tous les résidents des TNO. Le service téléphonique gratuit et confidentiel est assuré par des infirmières bilingues (français et anglais) et autorisées à pratiquer au territoire. La ligne Info-Soins TNO offre également des services d'interprétation pour toutes les langues autochtones du territoire et pour plusieurs langues étrangères. La ligne Info-Soins TNO fournit également des appareils de télécommunication pour les malentendants. Ce service est disponible en tout temps et il s'inscrit dans la prestation de soins primaires communautaires.

## Renseignements sur la grippe H1N1

Afin de limiter la propagation de la grippe H1N1 dans les collectivités des TNO, le MSSS et le MÉCF ont travaillé de concert pour fournir des renseignements en français et en anglais

Bureau du premier ministre et du Conseil exécutif Le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9 Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111



relativement à la prévention de la grippe. Grâce à cette collaboration, les TNO sont perçus comme un exemple pour les autres provinces et territoires relativement à la gestion de telles situations. Les médias locaux et nationaux ont félicité les TNO pour leur « campagne exceptionnelle de sensibilisation à la grippe H1N1 ».

### L'Aquilon

Le GTNO s'est engagé à appuyer les médias nordiques francophones. Puisque le gouvernement considère qu'il est important que les membres de la communauté francophone aient le même accès aux renseignements relatifs aux initiatives gouvernementales que les autres communautés linguistiques, la publicité dans le journal L'Aquilon totalise environ 225 000 \$ par année.

### Initiatives relatives à l'éducation postsecondaire

Le GTNO (par l'entremise du MÉCF) fournit 200 000 \$ par année au Collège des TNO pour le développement de l'accessibilité aux services d'enseignement postsecondaire en français aux TNO. De plus, le GTNO collabore avec le Collège Aurora afin de développer de nouveaux programmes bilingues adaptés aux besoins du marché de l'emploi des TNO, s'assurant ainsi que tous les résidents aient la possibilité de développer leur plein potentiel et de contribuer à une société durable et prospère.

### Services TNO

En juin 2008, le GTNO a mis en œuvre un projet pilote de centre de services à guichet unique situé à Yellowknife. Ce centre fournit au public des services et des renseignements en français pour les ministères et les agences du GTNO. Depuis juin 2008, Services TNO a répondu aux demandes de plus de 445 personnes et organismes.

## Parmi les services offerts par Services TNO, mentionnons :

- Le recrutement d'enseignants;
- Les demandes de brevet d'enseignement;
- Les demandes de relevés de notes officiels;
- Les demandes d'aide financière aux étudiants;
- La délivrance de permis de chasse et de pêche;
- La délivrance de permis de circonstance et les demandes d'autorisation spéciale pour permettre aux personnes de moins de 19 ans d'entrer et de demeurer dans un établissement visé par une licence;
- Les formulaires de paiements et d'autorisation de transaction financière (dépôt direct) du GTNO;
- Les demandes de carte d'assurance-maladie;
- Les demandes de changement d'adresse et de nom;
- L'inscription à l'état civil et les demandes de certificats de naissance, de mariage et de décès;
- La délivrance de licences de mariage;
- Les demandes d'audience auprès de la Régie du logement;
- Les demandes de permis d'exploitation de commerce.





R(16)341

# **GNWT Announces "Right to Dream" Program**

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 17, 2009)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories today announced a new physical activity program, "Right to Dream,", aimed at encouraging NWT residents to get active.

Beginning January 2010, the "Right to Dream" program helps communities host events aimed at promoting physical activity and excitement around the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Communities that organize an event will be supplied Olympic Winter Games gear for every participant.

The Minister of MACA, the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, says the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and the "Right to Dream" program encourage residents throughout the NWT to strive to lead healthier, more active lifestyles.

"Olympic athletes are dedicated and committed to leading healthy, active lifestyles. They are role-models who inspire and encourage us to push ourselves. This winter, I encourage all residents to dream big and get active," he said.

Through its investment in this 2010 Winter Games program, the GNWT is working to build our future by promoting healthy and active living among children and youth. Improving the physical and mental well-being of our youth will create healthy, educated Northerners as envisioned in the 16th Assembly's Vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

If you are interested in hosting a physical activity event and would like free Olympic Winter Games gear for it, please contact Andrea Mackie with the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the NWT (ASCNWT), (867) 669-8338 or visit the Aboriginal Sports Circle website at <u>http://www.ascwa.ca</u>

For more information, contact: Rebecca Alty Communications/Website Advisor Municipal and Community Affairs Tel: (867) 920-3092





R(16)342

# Minister to Represent NWT Interests at Federal/Provincial/Territorial Finance Meeting

WHITEHORSE (December 18, 2009): The Honourable Sandy Lee, Minister of Health and Social Services, will be in Whitehorse to represent the Northwest Territories at this week's meeting of Canadian finance ministers. Minister Lee is attending on behalf of NWT Minister of Finance J. Michael Miltenberger, who is himself representing the territory at the United Nations climate change conference in Copenhagen.

"With the federal budget approaching, this is an important opportunity to advocate on behalf of NWT residents," said Minister Lee. "Our territory has unique financial needs, and we need to ensure that they are recognized. It's also an opportunity to confer with our colleagues across Canada, to discuss our common fiscal and economic challenges and to look for ways we can support each other."

The agenda for the two-day event is expected to include discussion of the Federal Economic Action Plan, the economic recovery efforts currently underway, and priorities for the forthcoming budgetary year. Finance Ministers will also receive and discuss research completed on the adequacy of Canada's retirement income system.

For more information, contact:

### **Andrew Matthews**

Communications Officer Office of the Press Secretary Premier & Executive Council (867) 669-2302





R(16)343

# Interim Emergency Measures Put In Place to Help Conserve Bathurst Caribou Herd

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 17, 2009):** The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) has put interim emergency measures in place to help conserve the Bathurst caribou herd.

"These interim emergency measures and resulting regulation changes are based on the use of the precautionary principle to conserve this natural resource for the use of current and future generations," said ENR Minister J. Michael Miltenberger. "Using the best information available, we have determined the most reasonable conservation method is to limit the harvest of caribou from the Bathurst herd."

Starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, barren-ground caribou commercial/meat tag, non-resident and resident harvesting will be closed in the North and South Slave Regions and all harvesting is closed in a new no-hunting conservation zone established north of Yellowknife where the Bathurst caribou herd winters. The new zone covers the area between the Tlicho Winter Road to Gameti east to the Hoarfrost River in the East Arm north to Nunavut. (See attached map).

"Our analyses of recent population surveys, trend and modeling analysis project the Bathurst caribou herd could be lost or reduced to extremely low numbers if harvest continues at current levels," added Miltenberger. "When the herd numbered 300,000-400,000, the harvest was small relative to herd size, but at much lower numbers, the harvest has become a serious factor in the recent rapid decline. Regardless of the causes of the decline, the fundamental issue is preservation of wildlife. No one benefits from further decline in this herd."

Additional regulations providing access to wood bison for General Hunting Licence holders are also being put in place to alleviate some of the hardship communities will face because of the restrictions to caribou harvest. Under the new regulations, two new bison zones have been created in the North Slave Region. Zone R/WB01 is available for tag only hunting. Tags will be provided to the Tlicho Government and Yellowknives Dene. Zone R/WB/02 is open to GHL holders only. Harvest is this zone is unrestricted and all harvest must be reported to ENR within 72 hours.



The new regulations come into effect on January 1, 2010. They will remain in effect until recommendations on barren-ground caribou management by the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board are implemented.

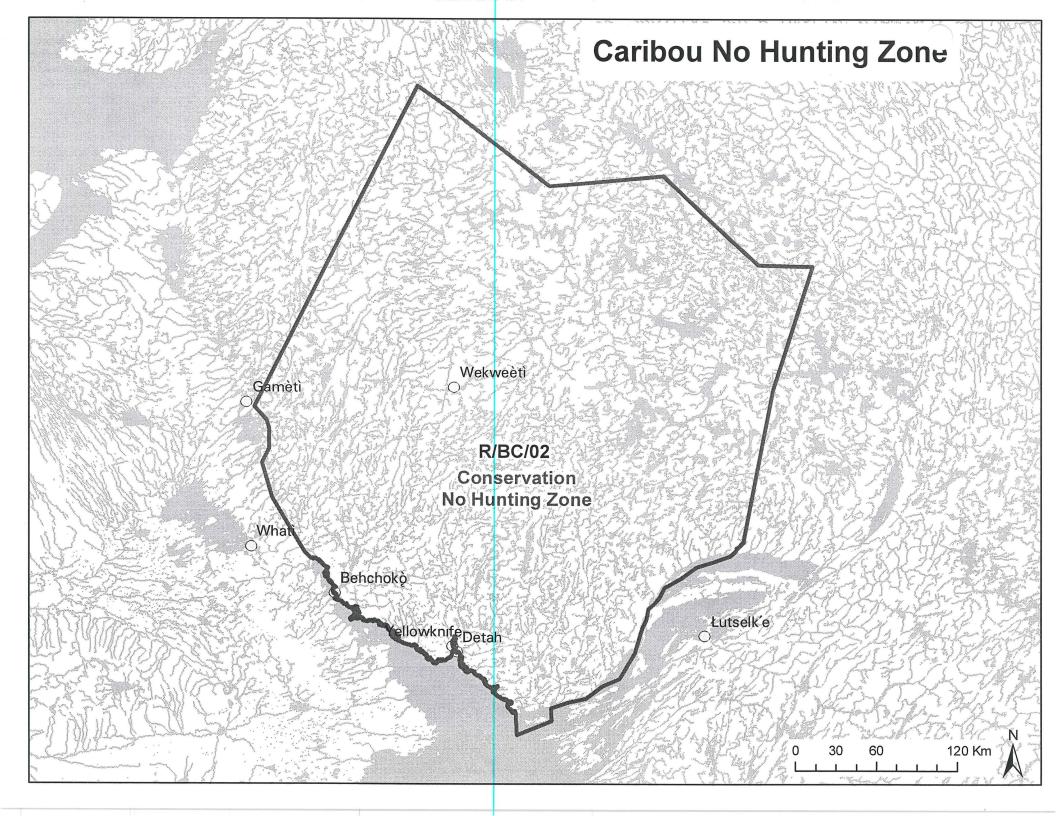
### For more information, contact:

### **Andrew Matthews**

Communications Officer Office of the Premier and Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2302

### Attachment: No-Hunting Conservation Zone Map







R(16)344

# **GNWT Begins Review of JRP's Final Report**

**Yellowknife (December 30, 2009)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will now begin its review of the recommended measures contained in the Joint Review Panel (JRP) for the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) final report.

The JRP released an electronic copy of its final report today.

Environment and Natural Resources Minister J. Michael Miltenberger says the review of the report will focus on the recommended measures directed to the GNWT. "We expect to complete our thorough review and prepare our response to the report in a timely manner," he says.

The JRP was established in August 2004 to conduct the Environmental Impact Review of the MGP. Hearings on the proposed project were completed in 2007.

The GNWT provided evidence and recommendations to the JRP, which acknowledged the MGP represents employment, investment and business opportunities for NWT residents as well as an opportunity to contribute to Canada's economic well-being. The GNWT has made it clear that its support for the MGP is contingent on the project being environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

"We recognize the project must satisfy the public interest tests raised in the context of the environmental assessment and regulatory processes and result in tangible benefits for Northerners and Canadians in general," added Miltenberger. "As a Responsible Minister under the Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act, we will follow the established decision-making process set out in legislation."

The Government response is expected to be provided to the federal Minister of the Environment in June, 2010. A copy of the JRP Final Report can be found on-line at: www.ngps.nt.ca

### For more information, contact:

**Drew Williams** 

Press Secretary Office of the Premier and Executive Council Government of the Northwest Territories (867) 669-2304

