

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASES 2010

R(16)-345	Jan. 4	Call for 2010 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards Nominations
R(16)-346	Jan. 4	GNWT Launches New Online Recruitment Tool
R(16)-347	Jan. 8	GNWT to Provide Example for Canada in Advancing Climate Change Initiatives
R(16)-348	Jan. 8	Positive Changes Highlighted in Report on Education in the NWT
R(16)-349	Jan. 8	GNWT Announces New Program for Polar Bear Outfitters
R(16)-350	Jan. 11	Proud2bNWT Youth Website Launched
R(16)-351	Jan. 13	Recipients of High Performance Athlete Grants Announced
R(16)-352	Jan. 15	Single Use Retail Bag Fee Implemented in the NWT
R(16)-353	Jan. 15	Government of the Northwest Territories Offers Sympathies, Aid to the People of Haiti
R(16)-354	Jan. 21	New Report Published on Northwest Territories Parks
R(16)-355	Jan. 22	NWT Implements Interoperable Electronic Health Record
R(16)-356	Jan. 25	Pan-Territorial Marketing Brand and Campaign Launched
R(16)-357	Jan. 26	NWT sport volunteers at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games
R(16)-358	Jan. 28	2010-11 NWT Budget Invests in Economic Stability
R(16)-359	Jan. 28	Brendan Green Makes Canadian Olympic Team
R(16)-360	Feb. 2	NWT Muskrat Sells Out at North Bay Fur Auction
R(16)-361	Feb. 2	GNWT Releases <i>Homeowners' Guide to Oil Tanks</i>
R(16)-362	Feb. 2	Changes in Public Housing Rental Subsidy Administration
R(16)-363	Feb. 2	GNWT to Increase Minimum Wage
R(16)-364	Feb. 3	Excellent Year for NWT Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupational Certification Programs
R(16)-365	Feb. 3	"Drop the Pop" for Strong Bones 2010
R(16)-366	Feb. 4	NWT Performing Collective Offers a Sneak Peek of Olympic Victory Day Performance
R(16)-367	Feb. 5	New MOU Between RCMP and GNWT to Improve Response to Airport Emergencies
R(16)-368	Feb. 5	New Judge Appointed to Territorial Court

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASES 2010

R(16)-369	Feb. 5	NWT Residents Rate Health Services Highly In Latest Satisfaction Surveys
R(16)-370	Feb. 8	Tourism Days kicks off at Canada's Northern House
R(16)-371	Feb. 5	GNWT Marks Mental Wellness Week, February 7 th to 13 th , 2010
R(16)-372	Feb. 8	GNWT Seeks Re-Affirmation of Authority to Regulate Barren-Ground Caribou Harvesting
R(16)-373	Feb. 9	GNWT Celebrates Heritage Week in the Northwest Territories
R(16)-374(a)	Feb. 9	School-wide Census on Tobacco Use Shows Fewer NWT Students Smoking
R(16)-374(b)	Feb. 11	GNWT Announces New Active After School Program
R(16)-376	Feb. 12	GNWT to Address Increased Costs of Deh Cho Bridge
R(16)-377	Feb. 15	GNWT Adds Milk Containers to the Beverage Container Program
R(16)-378	Feb. 15	NWT Visual Artists to Promote Arts and Crafts at 2010 Winter Olympics
R(16)-379	Feb. 18	NWT Day at Vancouver 2010 Olympics
R(16)-380	Feb. 17	Grand Opening of the Aven Cottages Territorial Dementia Facility
R(16)-381	Feb. 22	GNWT Encourages Youth to Take Part in Financial Fitness Challenge
R(16)-382	Feb. 23	Education Week 2010 Focuses on Strong Attendance for Strong Minds
R(16)-383	Feb. 24	Diamond Mine Employee Survey Released
R(16)-384	March 1	GNWT Marks Celebration of Aboriginal Language and Culture
R(16)-385	March 1	GNWT Continues Waste Paper Products Initiative
R(16)-386	March 1	Finance Minister Launches Public Discussion of NWT Heritage Fund
R(16)-387	March 2	NWT Crime Prevention Conference Begins Today
R(16)-388(a)	March 2	GNWT Continues Support of Northern Manufactured Products
R(16)-388(b)	March 2	GNWT Begins Public Discussions on Supplementary Health Benefits
R(16)-389	March 3	NWT Resident Selected for 2010 Paralympic Torch Relay
R(16)-391	March 8	NWT Furs in High Demand at Seattle Auction
R(16)-392	March 8	Government to Seek Authorization to Account for Deh Cho Bridge Project

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R(16)-393	March 9	NWT Celebrates Rendez-vous de la Francophonie
R(16)-394	March 10	Orthodontist signs contract in Beaufort Delta
R(16)-395	March 11	New RCMP Commanding Officer Appointed
R(16)-396	March 19	GNWT Sponsors Candidate Critical Wildlife Area in South Slave
R(16)-397	March 22	GNWT Marks Social Work Week
R(16)-398	March 22	GNWT, Gwich'in Tribal Council Sign MOU
R(16)-399	March 22	Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Hosts 2010 Northern Housing Forum in Inuvik, NT
R(16)-400	March 24	World Tuberculosis Day is March 24, 2010
R(16)-401	March 26	Community of Fort Resolution Celebrates Hamlet Status
R(16)-402	March 25	Territorial Government Aims to Revitalize Traditional Languages at Aboriginal Languages Symposium
R(16)-403	March 29	New NWT Drug Awareness Campaign Launched Today
R(16)-404	March 30	Winter road closures begin in the NWT
R(16)-405	April 6	Aa1 Credit Rating Confirmed for GNWT
R(16)-406	April 6	GNWT Working to Increase Representation of Persons With Disabilities
R(16)-407	April 1	Time Capsule Exhibit Offers View of Northern Life
R(16)-408	April 7	Premier Salutes Fred Carmichael – Order of Canada Recipient
R(16)-409	April 7	GNWT Commemorative Ceremony marks End of an Era
R(16)-410	April 8	MOU to Advance Mackenzie Highway in the Sahtu
R(16)-411	April 8	Campaign to Promote NWT as a Place to Live and Work
R(16)-412	April 9	Symposium – Step Toward Revitalizing Aboriginal Languages
R(16)-413	April 12	Website Launched Strategic Plan for GNWT Public Service
R(16)-414	April 15	EnerGuide for Houses Program Still Available in the NWT
R(16)-415	April 20	Kids' "Parkas" Adorn Territorial Legislature
R(16)-416	April 21	Update on Winter Road Conditions in the NWT
R(16)-417	April 26	National Immunization Awareness Week is April 24 – May 2, 2010

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R(16)-418	April 30	DNA Testing Confirms Hybrid Bear Shot Near Ulukhaktok
R(16)-419	May 3	Winners of Drop the Pop Campaign Announced
R(16)-420	May 3	National Emergency Preparedness Week is May 2 nd to 8 th
R(16)-421	May 4	Canadian Astronaut to Visit Yellowknife Students
R(16)-422	May 6	2010 NWT Ferry Season to Commence Today
R(16)-423	May 6	GNWT Unveils Updated Licence Plates
R(16)-424	May 10	Outstanding Volunteers Honoured
R(16)-425	May 10	National Nurses Week is May 10 th -16 th
R(16)-426	May 11	GNWT to Hold Public Consultations on the Volunteer Support Initiative
R(16)-427	May 11	GNWT Launches New Employment Program for Small and Remote Communities
R(16)-428	May 12	New Program to Assist Local Governments in the NWT
R(16)-429	May 12	Premier Congratulates George Tuccaro on Appointment as Commissioner
R(16)-430	May 13	Heritage Fair Territorial Showcase Begins Tomorrow
R(16)-431	May 14	GNWT Releases Response to Electricity and NTPC Reviews
R(16)-431b	May 14	Premiers meet to discuss pan-territorial priorities
R(16)-432	May 17	GNWT Begins Consultation on Potential Withdrawal from Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation
R(16)-433	May 18	Canada – Northwest Territories News Release Northwest Territories Communities Complete Integrated Community Sustainability Plans
R(16)-434	May 18	NWT Educators Honoured at Hall of Fame Ceremony
R(16)-435	May 18	Supplementary Health Benefits Program to be finalized by Joint Working Group
R(16)-436	May 19	GNWT Withdraws Caribou Reference Question
R(16)-437	May 19	GNWT Releases 2010 State of the Environment Biodiversity Report
R(16)-438	May 19	Stem Cell Challenge Coming to Communities in the NWT
R(16)-439	May 20	Northwest Territories Water Stewardship Strategy Completed
R(16)-440	May 20	Minister Appoints Public Administrator to Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority

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R(16)-441	May 20	Members of Supplementary Health Working Group Announced
R(16)-442	May 21	New Exhibition Arrives at Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
R(16)-443	May 26	NWT Winner of Financial Fitness Challenge Announced
R(16)-444	May 26	GNWT Enters Scientific Research Partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University
R(16)-445	May 27	Premier Says Beaufort Sea Ecosystem Must Be Protected
R(16)-446	May 27	Premier Lauds NWT Opportunities to Edmonton Chamber
R(16)-447	May 27	GNWT Announces Expanded Breast Cancer Screening Campaign
R(16)-448	June 1	Wildland Fire Conditions Extreme in the NWT
R(16)-449	June 3	Air Quality in the NWT Remains Excellent
R(16)-450	June 4	GNWT Releases Results of Public Discussion on Heritage Fund
R(16)-451	June 7	GNWT Recognizes NWT Mining Week
R(16)-452	June 7	Tourism Week is June 7 th to 13 th
R(16)-453	June 7	GNWT Continues Roll-Out of Electronic Health Records
R(16)-454	June 10	Ecole St. Joseph School Celebrates Official Re-Opening Tomorrow
R(16)-455	June 11	Trout Rock Lodge Latest Recipient of GNWT's Tourism Support Program
R(16)-456	June 14	GNWT Launches New Program to Support Recreation and Sports
R(16)-457	June 17	Deline Student Gives Name to New Autonomous Underwater Vehicle <i>Yamoria</i>
R(16)-458	June 17	Premier's Awards Honour Public Service
R(16)-459	June 18	Premier Congratulates Nellie Cournoyea, Officer of the Order of Canada
R(16)-460	June 18	Government of the Northwest Territories Marks National Aboriginal Day, June 21
R(16)-461	June 22	New Yellowknife Primary Care Centre Officially Open
R(16)-462	June 23	Premier Roland Says Northern Unity Vital to Resource Development
R(16)-463	June 24	GNWT Employee Receives National Award from the Fur Institute of Canada.
R(16)-464	June 25	Nursing Graduates Find Employment with GNWT

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R(16)-465	June 29	GNWT Partners with CDETNO on <i>Come Make Your Mark</i> Marketing Campaign
R(16)-466	June 30	Premier Roland Emphasizes Importance of Cooperation in Speech to Inuit Circumpolar Council.
R(16)-467	June 30	Government of the Northwest Territories Celebrates Canada Day
R(16)-468	July 5	Community Gardens Provide Affordable Produce in NWT Communities
R(16)-469	July 7	Many Voices – One Message Says NWT Premier
R(16)-470	July 8	GNWT Releases Comparative Analysis Study on Small Business
R(16)-471	July 9	Expanded Community Access Program Will Provide New Funding for Transportation in the NWT
R(16)-472	July 13	GNWT Updates Fax Guidelines for Health System
R(16)-473	July 19	GNWT Provides Funding to Youth Centres
R(16)-474	July 19	Public Input Requested on New NWT Wildlife Act
R(16)-475	July 21	NWT Delegation Returns from PNWER Annual Summit
R(16)-476	July 22	GNWT Hosts Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Institute in Collaboration with the University of Victoria
R(16)-477	July 29	GNWT Reminds NWT Residents to Boat Safe
R(16)-478	Aug. 3	GNWT Sponsors Traditional Knowledge Programs for Youth
R(16)-479	Aug. 3	A Promising Consultation/Cooperation Committee Meeting for the GNWT and FFT
R(16)-480	Aug. 4	Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre to Host Reception with Creator of “Fragments – Art for Life’s Sake”
R(16)-481	Aug. 4	Premier Roland Congratulates Tlicho Government on 5 th Anniversary
R(16)-482	Aug. 4	Council of Federation Announces NWT Recipient of 2010 Literacy Award
R(16)-483	Aug. 11	NWT Housing Corporation Announces New Intake Period for <i>Housing Choices</i> Homeownership Program
R(16)-484	Aug. 12	Government of the Northwest Territories Celebrates International Year of Youth
R(16)-485	Aug. 18	Environment Minister Meets with Alberta Counterpart to Discuss Protection of Water
R(16)-486	Aug. 20	GNWT Committed to Increasing Energy Efficiency

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R(16)-487	Aug. 20	GNWT Welcomes Federal Funding for Beaufort Sea Research
R(16)-488	Aug. 23	GNWT Invites Nominations for Fire Service Merit Awards
R(16)-489	Aug. 23	Premier Responds to Canada's Statement on Arctic Policy
R(16)-490	Aug. 25	Improvements to North Arm Territorial Park Completed
R(16)-491	Aug. 27	GNWT Awards Scholarships to Seven NWT Aviation Students
R(16)-493	Aug. 31	NWT Arts Council Provides Funding to 70 Artists and Groups
R(16)-494	Aug. 31	GNWT Announces Support to Northern Performers
R(16)-495	Aug. 31	Alberta and Northwest Territories Advance Cooperation During Meeting in Edmonton
R(16)-496	Sept. 1	Call for Applications to "Active After School" Program
R(16)-497	Sept. 1	Northern Development Ministers' Forum: Ministers Renew Action Plan on Development Issues Facing Canada's Northern Communities
R(16)-497	Sept. 10	GNWT Thanks Recreation Leaders
R(16)-498	Sept. 10	Get Active NWT
R(16)-499	Sept. 14	GNWT Celebrates Arts Week in the Northwest Territories
R(16)-500	Sept. 15	Penny Ballantyne Appointed Secretary to Cabinet
R(16)-501	Sept. 15	Migratory Passages Opens at PWNHC – Exhibit Serves to Highlight NWT Arts Week/Culture Days
R(16)-502	Sept. 16	Minister Promotes NWT Potential at World Congress
R(16)-503	Sept. 23	Discussion Paper for Revenue Options Released
R(16)-504	Sept. 27	NWT Celebrates Literacy Week
R(16)-505	Sept. 28	Ministerial Award Recipients Honoured During Literacy Week
R(16)-506	Sept. 28	Increase to Volunteer Organization Development Fund
R(16)-507	Sept. 30	Aboriginal Student Achievement the Focus of Regional Minister's Meetings
R(16)-508	Sept. 30	Minister Recognizes Excellence in Academics
R(16)-509	Oct. 4	GNWT Releases Discussion Paper to Seek Input from Tourism Industry
R(16)-510	Oct. 6	NWT Ready For More Decision Making - Premier

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R(16)-511	Oct. 5	GNWT Tourism Product Workshop a Success
R(16)-512	Oct. 6	Regulatory Reform Has Been Too Long – Miltenberger
R(16)-513	Oct. 6	All Weather Road to Nahanni Butte Now Complete
R(16)-514	Oct. 6	New Campaign Encourages Post-secondary Students to “Come Make Your Mark” in the Northwest Territories
R(16)-516	Oct. 8	First Aboriginal Student Achievement Minister’s Meeting a Success
R(16)-517	Oct. 13	NWT Community Gardens Enjoy a Successful Fall Harvest
R(16)-518	Oct. 14	Influenza vaccine recommended for NWT residents
R(16)-519	Oct. 14	16 th Assembly Focussed on Future – Premier
R(16)-520	Oct. 15	Fiscal Strategy to a Sustainable Future - Miltenberger
R(16)-521	Oct. 18	GNWT Revises Business Incentive Policy
R(16)-522	Oct. 18	GNWT Salutes NWT Entrepreneurs during Small Business Week
R(16)-523	Oct. 25	Sissons/Morrow Carvings at Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
R(16)-524	Oct. 26	Devolution – Aboriginal Rights Agreements and Negotiations
R(16)-525	Oct. 27	Northwest Territories Aboriginal Languages Plan – A Shared Responsibility
R(16)-526	Oct. 28	Devolution Agreement-in-Principle—Net Fiscal Benefit
R(16)-527	Oct. 29	Supplementary Health Benefits Policy
R(16)-528	Oct. 29	Aboriginal Participation in Devolution Negotiations
R(16)-529	Nov. 1	Career Week: “Seek Change, Find Direction”
R(16)-530	Nov. 1	GNWT Committed to Water Smart Program
R(16)-531	Nov. 1	Beverage Container Program Celebrates Five Successful Years
R(16)-532	Nov. 1	Devolution of Lands and Resources
R(16)-533	Nov. 2	Communities take on the Get Active NWT Challenge
R(16)-534	Nov. 3	Survey Results for Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Released
R(16)-535	Nov. 4	Amazing Family Sundays: Photography Exhibit and Book Launch by Rene Fumoleau
R(16)-536	Nov. 4	Northern Mining Workforce Initiative Partners Conclude Successful Meeting

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R(16)-537	Nov. 5	Media Literacy Week
R(16)-538	Nov. 5	Premier and Aboriginal Leaders Discuss Draft Devolution Agreement-in-Principle
R(16)-539	Nov. 10	Northwest Territories Honours Veterans
R(16)-540	Nov. 12	GNWT Agrees to Sponsor Dehcho Protected Area
R(16)-541	Nov. 15	Governments' Response Addresses JRP Concerns Re: MGP
R(16)-542	Nov. 16	Joe Greenland Centre Transitions
R(16)-543	Nov. 17	Aboriginal Student Achievement Forum in the Tlicho Region
R(16)-544	Nov. 19	National Child Day
R(16)-545	Nov. 22	GNWT Closely Monitoring Fuel Supplies in North Slave Communities
R(16)-546	Nov. 24	ITI Minister Attends NWT Tourism Annual General Meeting and Conference
R(16)-546(b)	Nov. 25	Trapping Workshops in the Beaufort Delta
R(16)-547	Nov. 26	NWT Must Focus On Tourism Opportunities – ITI Minister
R(16)-548	Nov. 29	Dehcho Region Parks Staff Honoured For His Contribution
R(16)-549	Dec. 1	High Performance Athlete Grant Recipients Announced
R(16)-550	Dec. 1	Campaign Targets Elder Abuse Awareness in NWT
R(16)-551	Dec. 2	NWT Residents Urged to Be Visible, Be Safe
R(16)-552	Dec. 2	Active After School Funding Announced
R(16)-553	Dec. 2	Community Futures Organizations Crucial to Economic Development
R(16)-554	Dec. 3	New Chair of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation
R(16)-555	Dec. 6	Changes to the NWT Electricity System
R(16)-556	Dec. 7	New Diamond Policy Framework Comes Into Effect
R(16)-557	Dec. 7	Aboriginal Equity Partnerships Key to NWT Economic Success
R(16)-558	Dec. 9	Inuvik Young Offender Facility to Close
R(16)-559	Dec. 11	Governments Celebrate Official Opening of New Enterprise Community Centre
R(16)-560	Dec. 15	Tlicho Aboriginal Student Achievement Forum Successful

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASES 2010

R(16)-561	Dec. 17	2010 Revenue Options Consultation Report Released
R(16)-562	Dec. 17	NEB Decision Major Step for Nation-Building Mackenzie Gas Project
R(16)-563	Dec. 21	Get Active NWT Grants Awarded

A(16)117

Warning from GNWT on Potential Scam

YELLOWKNIFE (March 3, 2010): The Government of the Northwest Territories has become aware of a potential scam occurring in the NWT. An individual representing themselves as an employee of the GNWT Department of Finance has called at least two businesses that offer accommodations looking for specific information about GNWT employees that may have been guests. Among other things, the individual is requesting payment information, credit card details, and employee names.

The individual identifies himself as Richard Robin and leaves a phone number, (867) 634-4839, which is inactive. This incident has been reported to the RCMP.

We remind people to not provide payment information to people over the phone. The GNWT does not solicit this type of information from vendors over the phone.

For more information, please contact:

Warren St-Germain
Comptroller General
Department of Finance
Government of the Northwest Territories
(867) 920-6196

For media interviews with the Premier or Cabinet, contact:

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



R(16)345

Call for 2010 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards Nominations

YELLOWKNIFE (January 4, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) pays tribute to volunteers annually 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.

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) Robert C. McLeod today opened the call for nominations for the 2010 Northwest Territories (NWT) Outstanding Volunteer Awards.

“The NWT is home to thousands of volunteers who keep our communities strong and vibrant places to live,” Minister McLeod said. “I look forward to formally recognizing exceptional groups and individuals who go above and beyond in their efforts to serve their communities by volunteering.”

Awards are presented in the following categories:

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

The deadline for nominations is March 26, 2010.

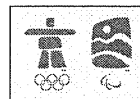
Since 1991, these awards have been presented to individuals and groups nominated by the public for their volunteer work. Not only do these awards draw attention to the award recipients, they draw attention to the effort made by all NWT volunteers and serve to recognize the significant contribution NWT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

Recognizing outstanding NWT volunteers is an important part of the Government of the Northwest Territories’ Building our Future initiative, which aims in part to improve support to the voluntary sector. Strengthening the voluntary sector will work to support our goals of healthy educated people and sustainable, vibrant, safe communities as envisioned in the 16th Assembly’s Vision of Northerners Working Together.

Further information and nomination forms are available at all MACA and community government offices, or visit: www.maca.gov.nt.ca

For more information, contact:

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



R(16)346

GNWT Launches New Online Recruitment Tool

Yellowknife (January 4, 2010) – It will be easier to apply for government jobs in 2010. The Government of the Northwest Territories has launched eRecruit - a new online tool that will allow potential employees to quickly and easily submit applications for GNWT jobs over the Internet.

“Our employees are the backbone of the services the GNWT provides to the people of the Northwest Territories,” said Minister of Human Resources Bob McLeod. “Improving how we identify and recruit potential employees will aid our ability to continue to effectively deliver the kinds of programs and services NWT residents want.”

eRecruit will be integrated with the GNWT’s current online job opportunities site. Anyone interested in a GNWT job will be able to search for available positions and fill out an application within the GNWT website. Applicants will also be able to monitor the status of their applications online, allowing them to easily tell how far along their application is in the process. Prospective employees will also continue to be able to apply for positions by dropping a resume off to the HR Service Centre or via mail, fax or e-mail.

Improving human resource management in the NWT and strengthening service delivery are an important part of the GNWT’s plan for refocusing government. As part of that commitment, the Department of Human Resources is implementing its NWT public service strategic plan, *20/20: A Brilliant Future*. Activities and initiatives outlined in the strategic plan and its companion three-year action plan will help the GNWT develop a strong and effective public service focused on meeting the needs of the people of the NWT.

eRecruit is available through the GNWT website at <http://www.gov.nt.ca>

For more information, please contact:

Drew Williams
Press Secretary
Premier & Executive Council
(867) 669-2304

R(16)347

GNWT to Provide Example for Canada in Advancing Climate Change Initiatives

YELLOWKNIFE (January 8, 2010) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories (NWT) will continue to advance and expand its initiatives it has introduced to reduce NWT and GNWT greenhouse gas emissions – while working to influence and encourage significant commitments at the national level.

While the 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen failed to reach a binding agreement on global reductions, NWT Premier Floyd Roland says it cemented global awareness to the reality of climate change and the importance of advancing work, at the sub national level, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“We cannot afford to wait for the federal government to negotiate or determine what actions we will take,” he said. “As Northerners we are already witnessing and addressing the impacts of climate change in our region, we must lead the way by reducing our own emissions and demonstrating that there is support across Canada for our nation to take stronger measures.”

Minister of Environment and Natural Resources J. Michael Miltenberger says the GNWT is reviewing its approach to responding to climate change concerns as laid out in its Energy Plan and Greenhouse Gas Strategy, with a view to setting longer-term targets beyond 2011.

“We are committed to building on the foundation of initiatives that have been introduced to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change in the NWT,” he said. “This includes the establishment of reasonable and responsible targets for the NWT - independent of those that may be adopted by Canada towards a global agreement on greenhouse gas emissions in Mexico later this year.”

The Premier and Minister Miltenberger, along with MLAs Bob Bromley, David Krutko, and Glen Abernethy joined Canada’s official delegation to COP15 in December. The GNWT used the opportunity to represent and provide a northern perspective to the global audience that was created by the event while gathering knowledge and experiences on effective means to promote and advance actions in the NWT and Canada.

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The GNWT delegation will share its findings as part of a joint public debriefing event with other COP15 participants and delegates from 7:00 - 9:30 PM on January 21st at the Northern United Place in Yellowknife.

The GNWT has committed \$60 million over three years towards increased energy efficiency and developing alternative energy sources such as hydro, wind and biomass to replace the use of greenhouse gas-emitting diesel fuel where possible.

The GNWT's hydro strategy seeks to expand the use of hydro power in the NWT as a clean fuel source for both communities and resource development projects. The development of NWT natural gas resources could also contribute to overall reductions in North American greenhouse gas 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)348

Positive Changes Highlighted in Report on Education in the NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (January 8, 2010): The performance level of students in the Northwest Territories (NWT) continues to improve, according to the results of the 2009 NWT-wide Alberta Achievement Tests and Functional Grade Level assessments. Released today by Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty, the reports provide a view of the current level of achievement held by students in the NWT.

Highlights include positive changes both within class cohorts and in particular grades year-over-year:

- Student achievement in the area of mathematics improved from the 2007/2008 school year, with 90 percent of students able to work through the Grade 1 curriculum in 2008/2009, up from 70 percent in 2007/2008.
- Teachers reported that 64 percent of Grade 6 students in English Language Arts are functioning at or above grade level in 2009, up from 57 percent for the same group when they were in Grade 3 in 2006.
- The report also shows 63 percent of students enrolled in Grade 9 Mathematics are functioning at or above grade level, compared to 59 percent when the same group was in Grade 6.

“The GNWT is committed to creating healthy, educated Northerners,” said Minister Lafferty. “This is exactly the kind of positive change that this government has worked towards, and I want to thank our students and teachers for their hard work.”

This is the fifth year that AATs have been written and FGLs tracked in the Northwest Territories. Included in this year’s report are new cohort reporting results, to provide insight in the progressive development of students over the course of several years and indicate whether students are maintaining or gaining in particular areas of study.

AATs are based on the curriculum used in the NWT, in the areas of Language Arts and Mathematics. Students in Grades 3, 6 and 9 wrote the tests in May and June. The Functional Grade Level is the curriculum level at which a student works in Language Arts and Mathematics for the majority of the school year. Reporting is based on a variety of classroom assessment methods used by teachers over the course of the year. Functional Grade Level reporting has

been initiated in steps, starting with Grades 1-3 in 2004-2005, and expanding to Grade 9 in 2006-2007.

A full summary of the report is attached.

For more information, contact:

Kevin Allerston
Communications Officer
Education, Culture and Employment
(867) 920-3059

For media interviews with the Premier or Cabinet Ministers, contact:

Communications • Office of the Premier & Executive Council
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PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9
Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111



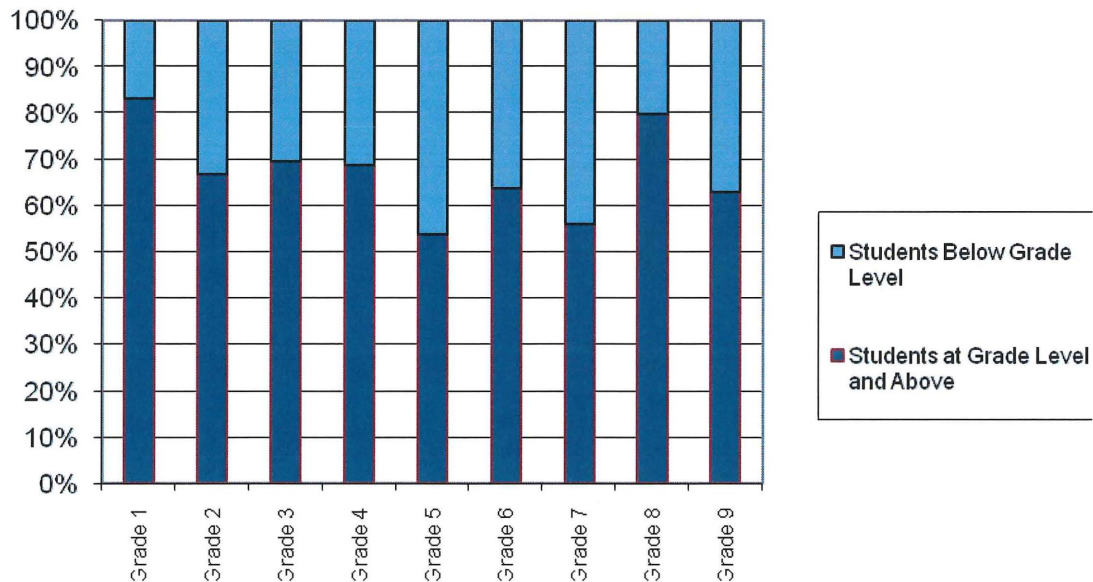
Functional Grade Levels, Alberta Achievement Test Results and Attendance – 2008/09 School Year

Functional Grade Level

Functional Grade Level is the level of curriculum that a student was working on for the majority of the school year. For 2008/09, in English Language Arts, 83%, or slightly more than four out of five students enrolled in grade one were able to work on grade one curriculum for the majority of their first year in school. For Mathematics, 90%, or nine of ten students were able to work on grade one curriculum. This is an improvement from what teachers reported for the 2007/08 year.

English Language Arts Functional Grade Level Results

NWT - Functional Grade Level - English Language Arts
2008/09



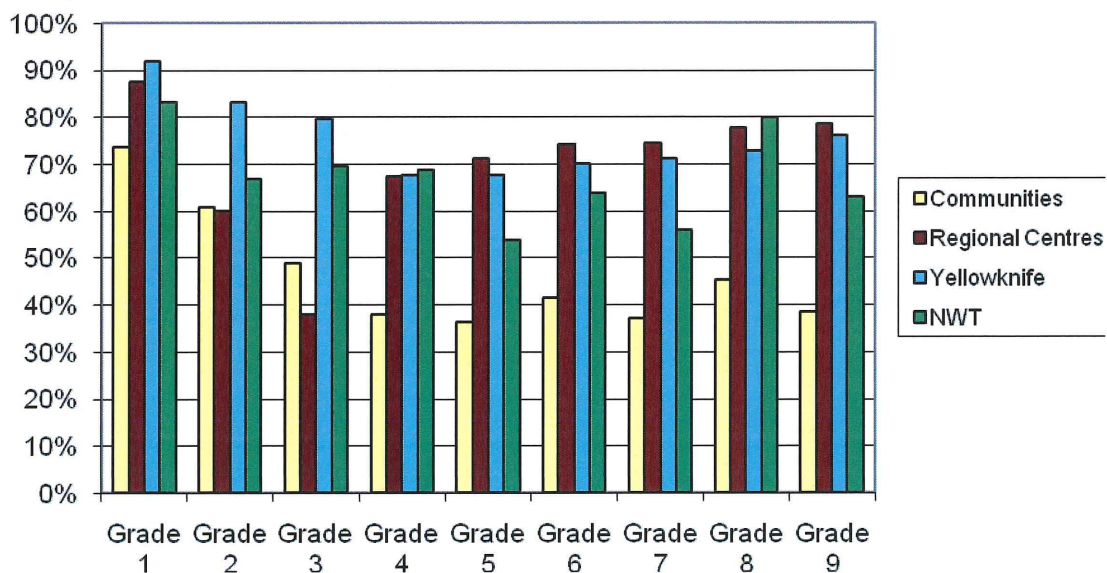
English Language Arts 2008/09

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Students at Grade Level and Above	83%	67%	70%	69%	54%	64%	56%	80%	63%
Students Below Grade Level	17%	33%	30%	31%	46%	36%	44%	20%	37%

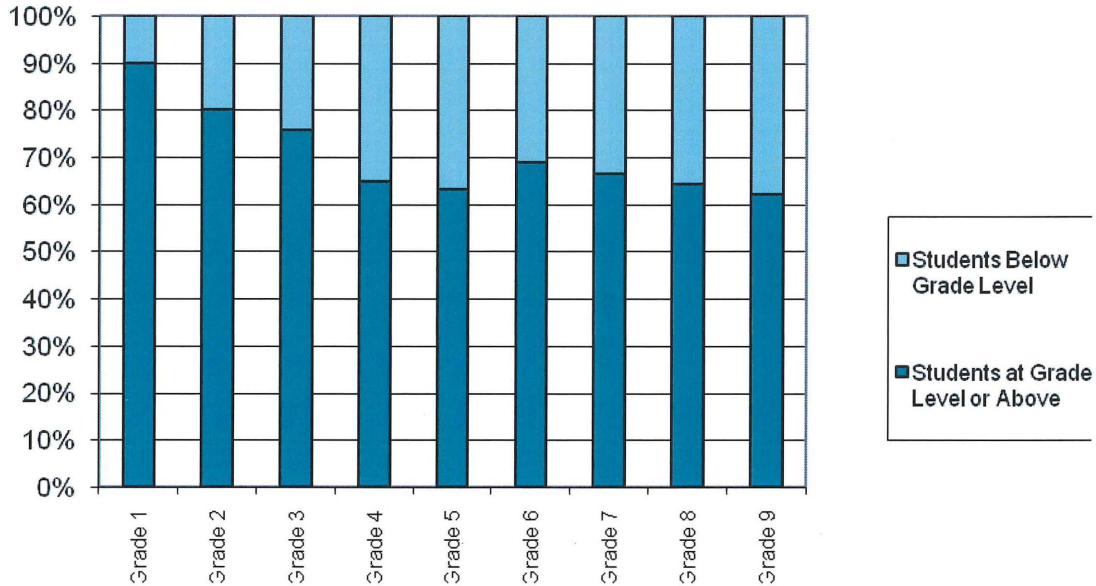
English Language Arts 2008/09 – Students At and Above Grade Level

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Communities	74%	61%	49%	38%	36%	41%	37%	45%	38%
Regional Centres	87%	60%	38%	67%	71%	74%	74%	78%	78%
Yellowknife	92%	83%	80%	68%	68%	70%	71%	73%	76%
NWT	83%	67%	70%	69%	54%	64%	56%	80%	63%

Students At or Above Grade Level - English Language Arts 2008/09



NWT - Functional Grade Level - Mathematics 2008/09



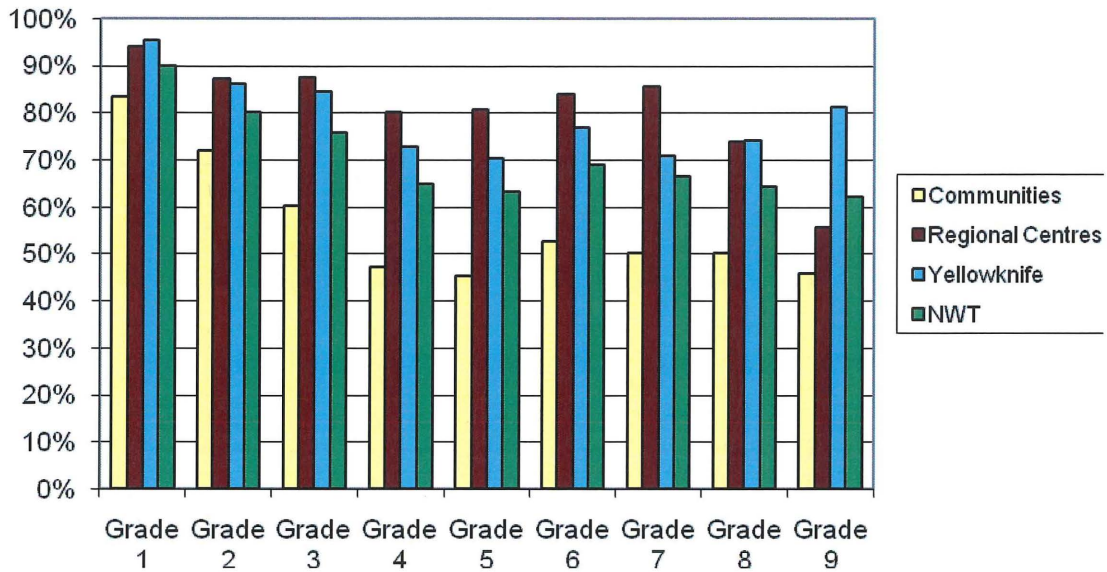
Mathematics 2008/09

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Students at Grade Level or Above	90%	80%	76%	65%	63%	69%	67%	64%	62%
Students Below Grade Level	10%	20%	24%	35%	37%	31%	33%	36%	38%

Mathematics 2008/09

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Communities	83%	72%	60%	47%	45%	53%	50%	50%	46%
Regional Centres	94%	87%	87%	80%	81%	84%	86%	74%	56%
Yellowknife	95%	86%	85%	73%	70%	77%	71%	74%	81%
NWT	90%	80%	76%	65%	63%	69%	67%	64%	62%

Students At or Above Grade Level - Mathematics 2008/09



Cohort Results

Functional Grade Levels

Functional Grade Levels were implemented over a three year period starting with grades one through three, in 2004/05, and expanding to grade 9 for the first time in 2006/07. As such, this is the first year that cohort data can be presented for the grade six and nine population.

English Language Arts

% of students enrolled in grade 6, in 2009, functioning at or above grade level.....64%
 % of students enrolled in grade 3, in 2006, functioning at or above grade level.....57%

% of students enrolled in grade 9 in 2009, functioning at or above grade level.....63%
 % of students enrolled in grade 6, in 2006, functioning at or above grade level.....59%

Mathematics

% of students enrolled in grade 6, in 2009, functioning at or above grade level.....69%
 % of students enrolled in grade 3, in 2006, functioning at or above grade level.....70%

% of students enrolled in grade 9, in 2009, functioning at or above grade level.....62%
 % of students enrolled in grade 6, in 2006, functioning at or above grade level.....66%

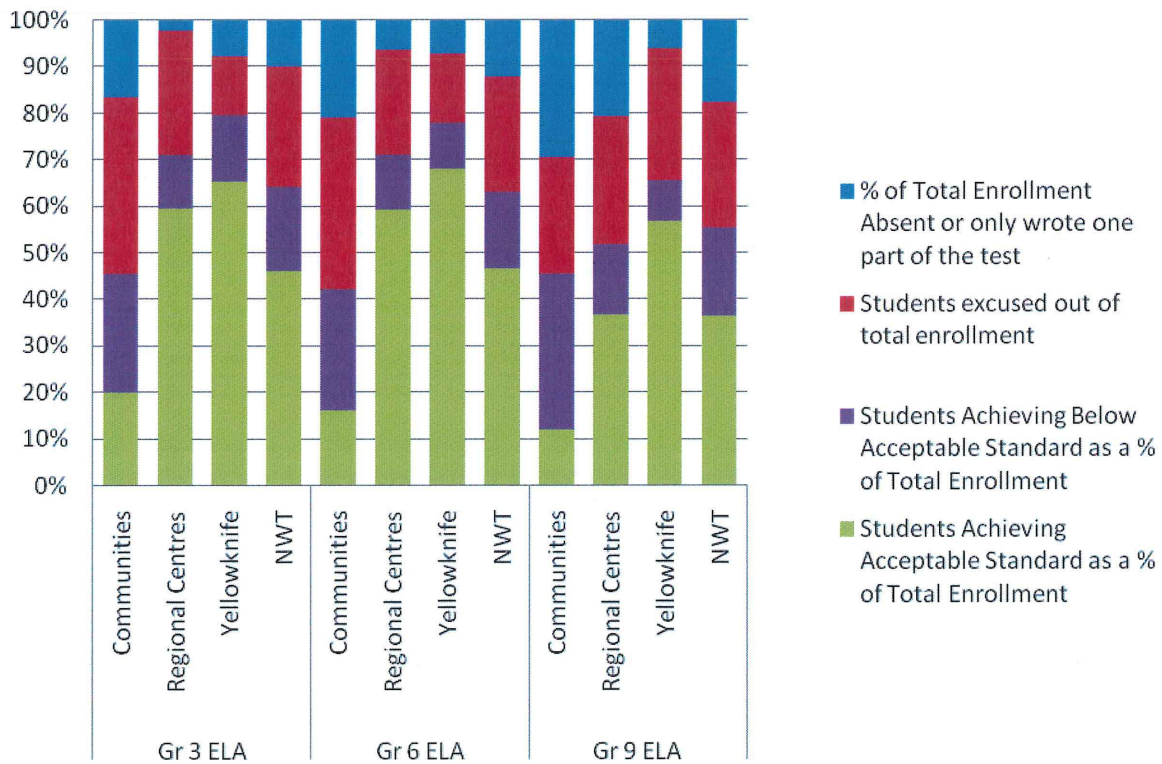
The proportion of the student population enrolled in grade six functioning at and above grade six level has increased by 13% in English Language and declined by 1% in Mathematics from the time that cohort was in grade three.

The proportion of the student population enrolled in grade nine functioning at and above grade nine level has increased by 4% in English Language and declined by 4% in Mathematics from the time that cohort was in grade six.

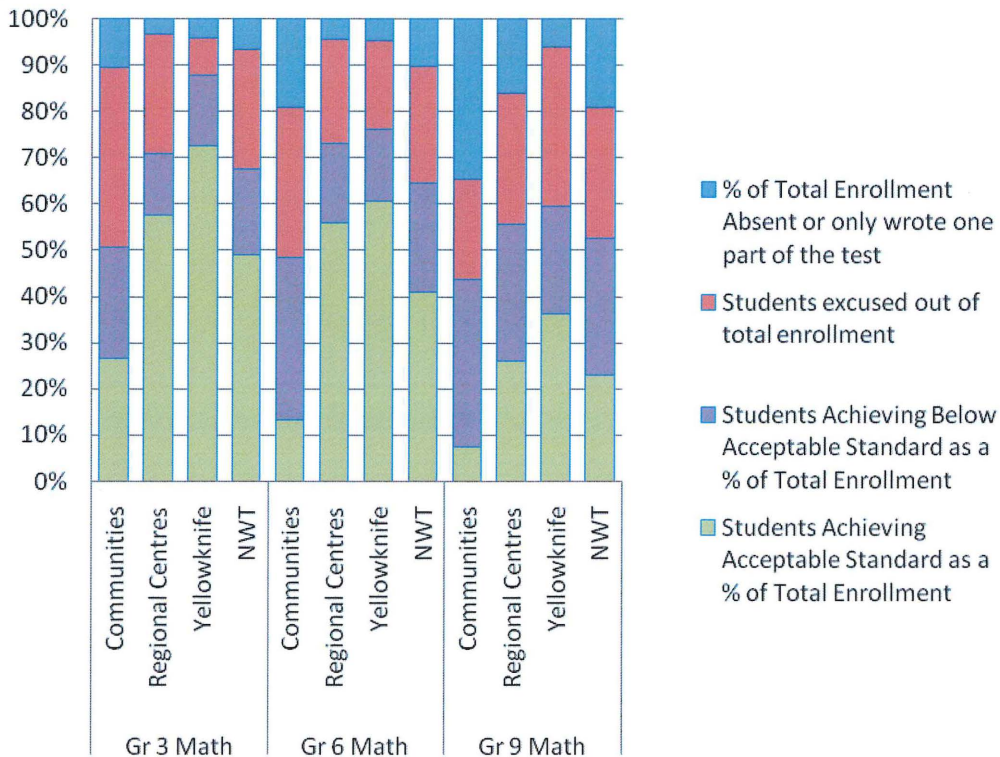
Alberta Achievement Test Results

Commencing in 2007 with changes to the NWT AAT Exclusion Policy, Superintendents were given the authority to excuse students from Alberta Achievement Testing if the students were on a documented Individual Education Plan (IEP) or if they were working on curriculum two or more grade levels below their grade of enrolment and had a documented Modified Education Plan (MEP). Should a student fulfill the above criteria and participate in the testing, for NWT reporting purposes, their results have been removed from the NWT results and the students have been considered excused from writing the tests. The numbers of students excused from the testing are still included in calculation of Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a percentage of the total enrolment.

2009 NWT AAT Results for ELA



2009 NWT AAT Results for Mathematics



- Available Test Results: results for students writing all parts of the test
- Reportable Results: results for students with Individual Education Plans and with Functional Grade Levels two or more grade levels below the grade of enrolment are not included.
- French Language Arts Results have been NWT generated
- NWT enrolments for the tests include students excused from testing.
- Students achieving the Standard of Excellence are also included in the percentage of students achieving an Acceptable standard

2009 NWT Results for Alberta Achievement Tests

Alberta Achievement Test	Community Type	% of Total enrolment where test results are available	% of Total Enrolment Absent or only wrote one part of the test	Percentage of students excused out of total enrolment	Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Available Test Results	Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Total Enrolment	Students Achieving Below Acceptable Standard as a % of Available Test Results	Students Achieving Below Acceptable Standard as a % of Total Enrolment
Grade 3 ELA	Communities	45.4%	16.5%	38.1%	43.4%	19.7%	56.6%	25.7%
	Regional Centres	71.0%	2.3%	26.7%	83.9%	59.5%	16.1%	11.5%
	Yellowknife	79.7%	7.7%	12.6%	81.8%	65.2%	18.2%	14.5%
	NWT	64.2%	9.9%	25.9%	71.7%	46.0%	28.3%	18.2%
Grade 6 ELA	Communities	42.2%	20.9%	36.9%	37.9%	16.0%	62.1%	26.2%
	Regional Centres	71.1%	6.3%	22.5%	83.2%	59.2%	16.8%	12.0%
	Yellowknife	78.1%	7.2%	14.8%	87.0%	67.9%	13.0%	10.1%
	NWT	63.1%	12.1%	24.8%	73.8%	46.5%	26.2%	16.6%
Grade 9 ELA	Communities	45.4%	29.5%	25.1%	26.2%	11.9%	73.8%	33.5%
	Regional Centres	51.7%	20.7%	27.6%	70.7%	36.6%	29.3%	15.2%
	Yellowknife	65.5%	6.2%	28.4%	86.7%	56.7%	13.3%	8.7%
	NWT	55.3%	17.6%	27.0%	65.9%	36.5%	34.1%	18.9%
Grade 3 Math	Communities	50.7%	10.6%	38.7%	52.7%	26.7%	47.3%	24.0%
	Regional Centres	70.8%	3.3%	25.8%	81.2%	57.5%	18.8%	13.3%
	Yellowknife	87.8%	4.3%	7.9%	82.6%	72.6%	17.4%	15.2%
	NWT	67.7%	6.8%	25.5%	72.6%	49.1%	27.4%	18.6%
Grade 6 Math	Communities	48.4%	19.1%	32.4%	27.5%	13.3%	72.5%	35.1%
	Regional Centres	73.1%	4.5%	22.4%	76.5%	56.0%	23.5%	17.2%
	Yellowknife	76.1%	4.7%	19.2%	79.6%	60.6%	20.4%	15.5%
	NWT	64.5%	10.3%	25.2%	63.4%	40.9%	36.6%	23.6%
Grade 9 Math	Communities	43.8%	34.5%	21.7%	17.2%	7.5%	82.8%	36.3%
	Regional Centres	55.6%	16.2%	28.2%	46.8%	26.1%	53.2%	29.6%
	Yellowknife	59.5%	6.0%	34.5%	60.9%	36.2%	39.1%	23.3%
	NWT	52.7%	19.2%	28.2%	43.7%	23.0%	56.3%	29.7%

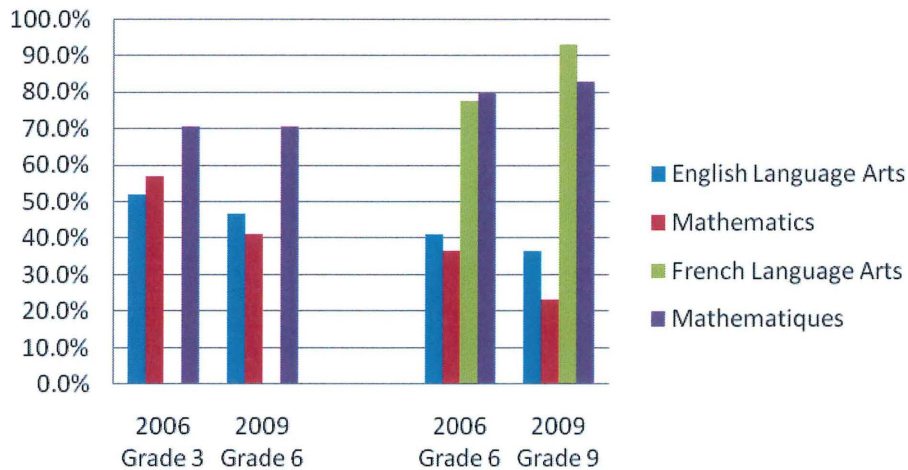
2009 AAT Results for French Immersion

	Grade 6 French Language Arts	Grade 9 French Language Arts	Grade 3 Math (French)	Grade 6 Math (French)	Grade 9 Math (French)
Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Available & Reportable Test Results	85.2%	92.9%	82.6%	82.1%	87.2%
Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of the Total Student Enrolment	69.7	92.9%	70.4%	71.9%	82.9%

Cohort Results

Grade six students' AAT results, in 2008, for English Language Arts show a 2.6% decrease in the proportion of students achieving an acceptable standard as a percentage of the total enrolment compared to results three years previous. The percentage of the grade nine student population achieving an acceptable result for English Language Arts increased by 1.5% over their results in grade six, three years previous. In Mathematics, the percentage of grade six students achieving an acceptable standard decreased by 14.1% from their results in grade three while results for students in grade nine decreased by 14.6% from their grade six results.

Cohort Results on AATs - 2006 and 2009



Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Total Enrolment (Adjusted to Accommodate NWT Exclusion Policy)

	French Language Arts	Mathématiques
2006 Grade 3		70.6%
2009 Grade 6		70.4%
2006 Grade 6	77.6%	79.7%
2009 Grade 9	92.9%	82.9%

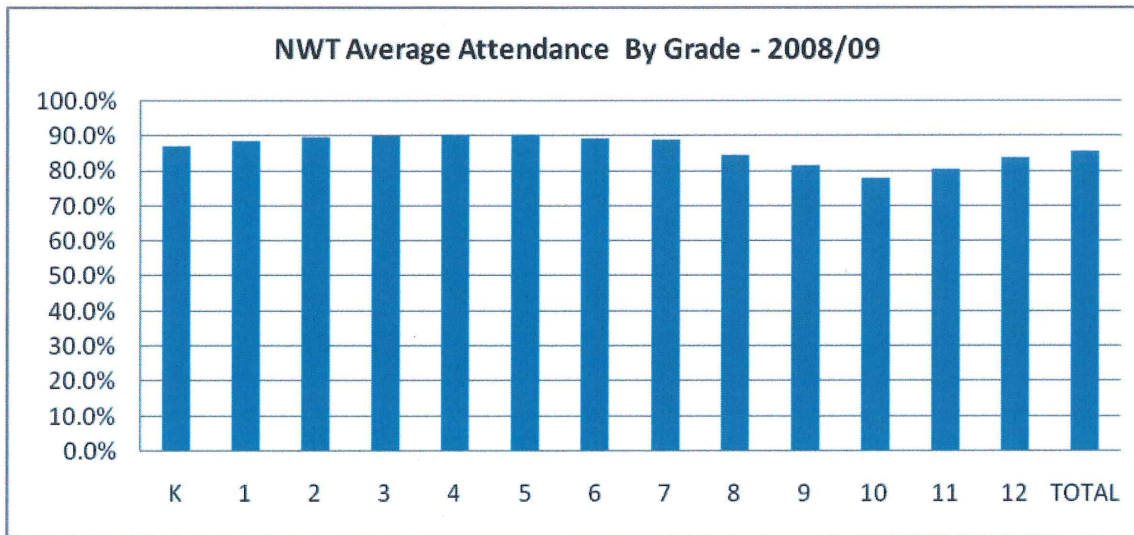
There are no grade three results for French Language Arts Alberta Achievement Tests in 2006 as they were available for the first time in 2008. As such, there are no results for comparison for this year's grade 6 French Immersion students. In Mathématiques, the results of the grade 6 students declined by 0.2% from their grade 3 AAT Mathématiques results. Grade nine French Immersion students' results in French Language Arts, for 2009, increased 15.3% from their results in grade 6. In Mathématiques, the proportion of 2008 grade nine students achieving an acceptable standard increased 3.2% from their grade six results.

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vancouver 2010
CONTRIBUTING TERRITORY

Attendance – 2008/09



	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Communities	80.4%	82.5%	85.6%	84.4%	85.6%	84.2%	85.6%	83.8%	76.2%	77.1%	76.6%	79.5%	81.6%	81.4%
Regional Centres	89.4%	90.6%	89.8%	91.8%	91.3%	91.9%	87.9%	88.2%	82.0%	76.3%	73.3%	76.0%	78.4%	84.1%
Yellowknife	90.9%	92.1%	92.9%	93.3%	93.5%	93.3%	93.3%	93.2%	91.7%	87.3%	81.6%	83.0%	87.8%	89.5%
IWT	86.9%	88.4%	89.6%	89.7%	90.2%	90.1%	89.2%	88.6%	84.2%	81.5%	77.9%	80.2%	83.7%	85.5%

For the 2008/09 school year, the average attendance for students enrolled in the NWT was 85.5%. This is a decline from 2007/08 when the average attendance was 86.4%. Basically, a student was absent a day and a half out of every two weeks. Should this rate continue, an average student will be absent one year out of every six years of schooling.

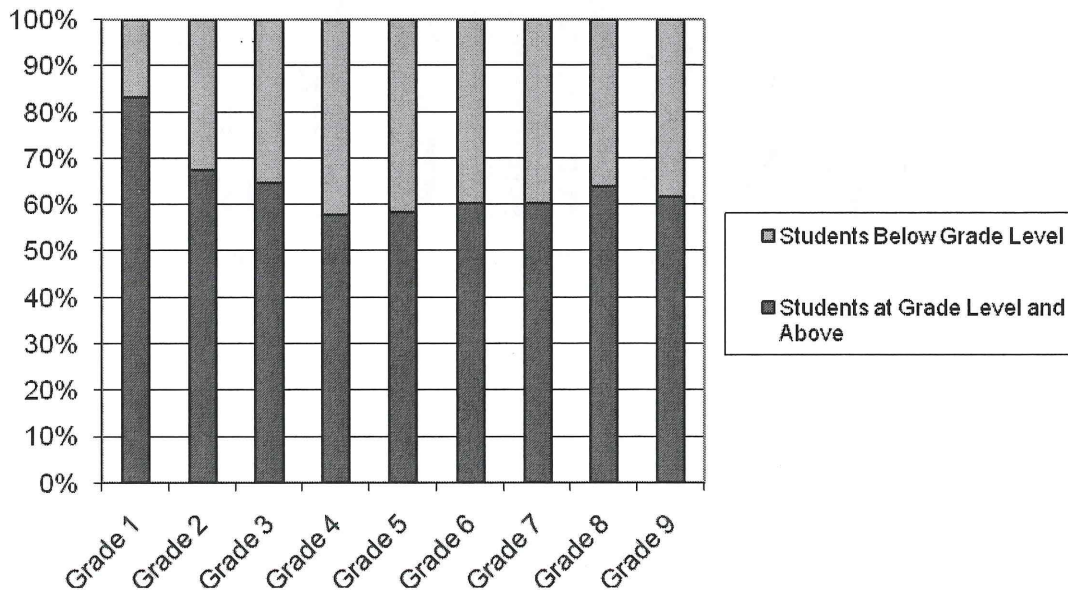
Functional Grade Levels, Alberta Achievement Test Results and Attendance – 2008/09 School year

Functional Grade Level

Functional Grade Level is the level of curriculum that a student was working on for the majority of the school year. For 2008/09, in English Language Arts, 83%, or slightly more than four out of five students enrolled in grade one were able to work on grade one curriculum for the majority of their first year in school. For Mathematics, 90%, or nine of ten students were able to work on grade one curriculum. This is an improvement from the 2007/08 year, when teachers reported 79% of grade one students were able to work on grade one curriculum in English Language Arts and 85% in Mathematics.

English Language Arts Functional Grade Level Results

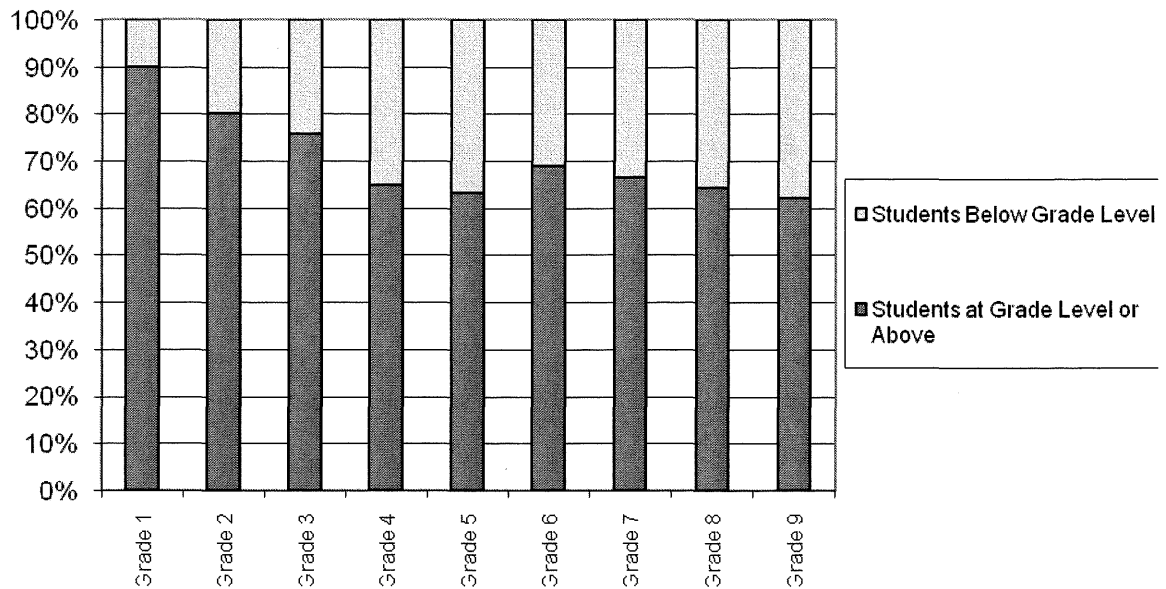
NWT - Functional Grade Level - English Language Arts
2008/09



English Language Arts 2008/09

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Students at Grade Level and Above	83%	68%	65%	58%	58%	60%	60%	64%	62%

NWT - Functional Grade Level - Mathematics 2008/09



Mathematics 2008/09

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Students at Grade Level or Above	90%	80%	76%	65%	63%	69%	67%	64%	62%
Students Below Grade Level	10%	20%	24%	35%	37%	31%	33%	36%	38%

Mathematics 2008/09

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Communities	83%	72%	60%	47%	45%	53%	50%	50%	46%
Regional Centres	94%	87%	87%	80%	81%	84%	86%	74%	56%
Yellowknife	95%	86%	85%	73%	70%	77%	71%	74%	81%
NWT	90%	80%	76%	65%	63%	69%	67%	64%	62%

The proportion of the student population enrolled in grade six functioning at and above grade six level has increased by 2% in English Language and declined by 2% in Mathematics from the time that cohort was in grade three.

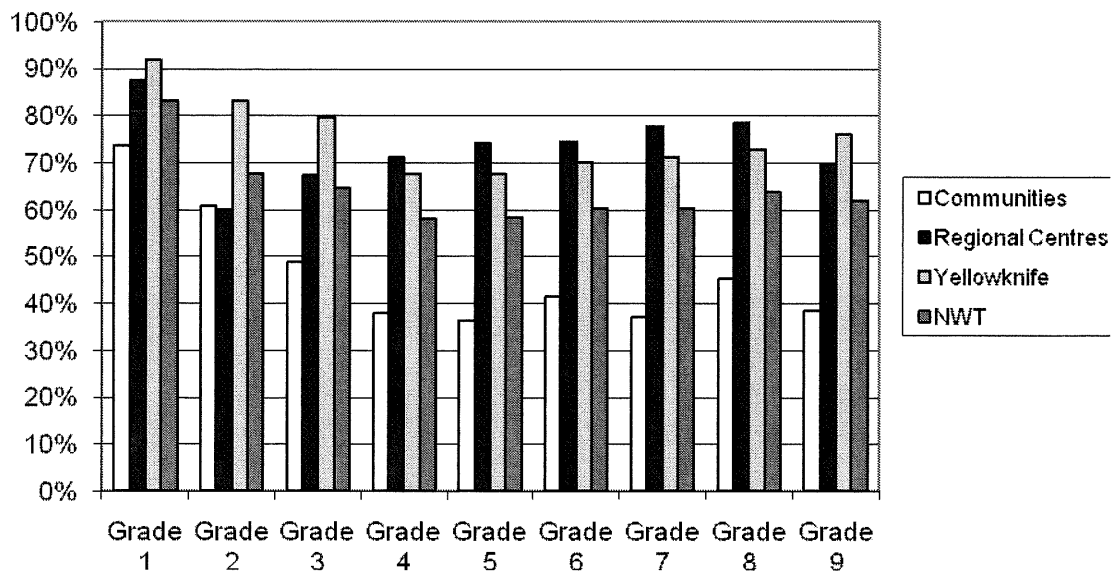
The proportion of the student population enrolled in grade nine functioning at and above grade nine level has increased by 2% in English Language and declined by 5% in Mathematics from the time that cohort was in grade six.

Students Below Grade Level	17%	32%	35%	42%	42%	40%	40%	36%	38%
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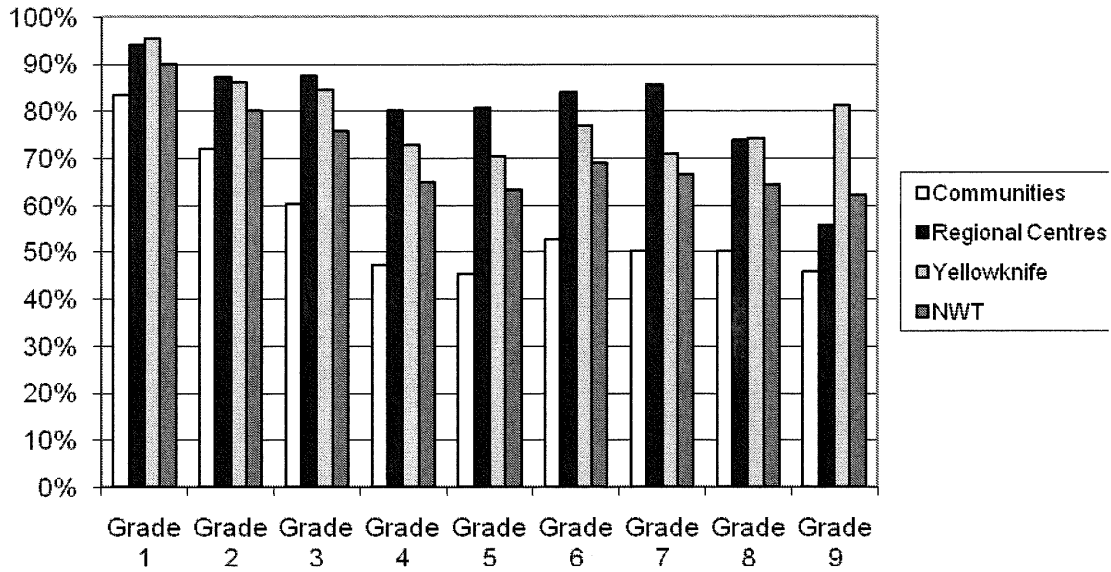
English Language Arts 2008/09 – Students At and Above Grade Level

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Communities	74%	61%	49%	38%	36%	41%	37%	45%	38%
Regional Centres	87%	60%	67%	71%	74%	74%	78%	78%	70%
Yellowknife	92%	83%	80%	68%	68%	70%	71%	73%	76%
NWT	83%	68%	65%	58%	58%	60%	60%	64%	62%

**Students At or Above Grade Level - English Language Arts
2008/09**



Students At or Above Grade Level - Mathematics 2008/09



Cohort Results

Functional Grade Levels

Functional Grade Levels were implemented over a three year period starting with grades one through three, in 2004/05, and expanding to grade 9 for the first time in 2006/07. This is the second year that cohort data can be presented for the grade six and nine population.

English Language Arts

% of students enrolled in grade 6, in 2009, functioning at or above grade level.....60%

% of students enrolled in grade 3, in 2006, functioning at or above grade level.....58%

% of students enrolled in grade 9 in 2009, functioning at or above grade level.....62%

% of students enrolled in grade 6, in 2006, functioning at or above grade level.....60%

Mathematics

% of students enrolled in grade 6, in 2009, functioning at or above grade level.....69%

% of students enrolled in grade 3, in 2006, functioning at or above grade level.....71%

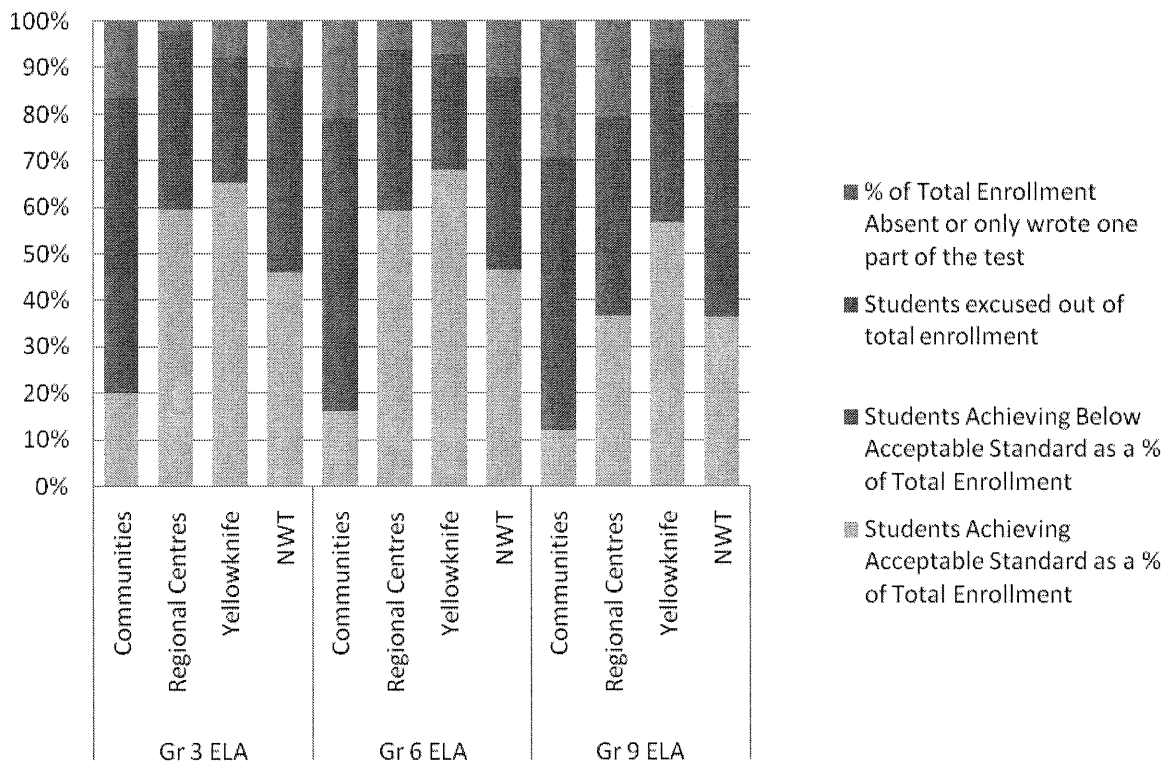
% of students enrolled in grade 9, in 2009, functioning at or above grade level.....62%

% of students enrolled in grade 6, in 2006, functioning at or above grade level.....67%

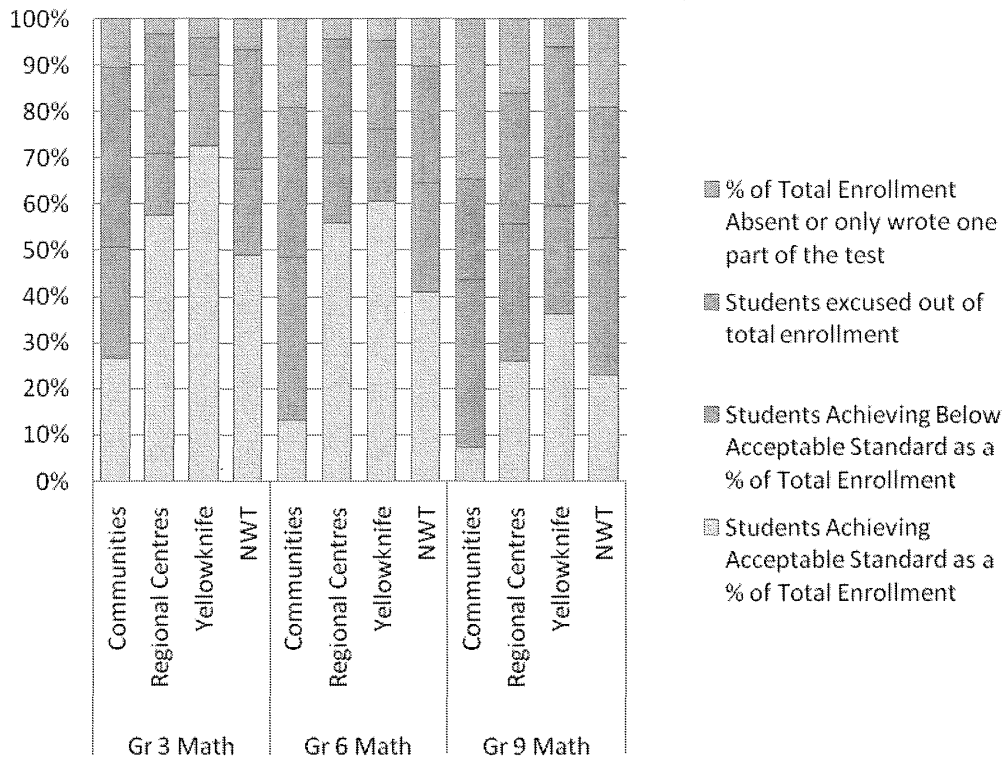
Alberta Achievement Test Results

Commencing in 2007 with changes to the NWT AAT Exclusion Policy, Superintendents were given the authority to excuse students from Alberta Achievement Testing if the students were on a documented Individual Education Plan (IEP) or if they were working on curriculum two or more grade levels below their grade of enrolment and had a documented Modified Education Plan (MEP). Should a student fulfill the above criteria and participate in the testing, for NWT reporting purposes, their results have been removed from the NWT results and the students have been considered excused from writing the tests. The numbers of students excused from the testing are still included in calculation of Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a percentage of the total enrolment.

2009 NWT AAT Results for ELA



2009 NWT AAT Results for Mathematics



- Available Test Results: results for students writing all parts of the test
- Reportable Results: results for students with Individual Education Plans and with Functional Grade Levels two or more grade levels below the grade of enrolment are not included.
- French Language Arts Results have been NWT generated
- NWT enrolments for the tests include students excused from testing.
- Students achieving the Standard of Excellence are also included in the percentage of students achieving an Acceptable standard

2009 NWT Results for Alberta Achievement Tests

Alberta Achievement Test	Community Type	% of Total enrolment where test results are available	% of Total Enrolment Absent or only wrote one part of the test	Percentage of students excused out of total enrolment	Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Available Test Results	Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Total Enrolment	Students Achieving Below Acceptable Standard as a % of Available Test Results	Students Achieving Below Acceptable Standard as a % of Total Enrolment
Grade 3 ELA	Communities	45.4%	16.5%	38.1%	43.4%	19.7%	56.6%	25.7%
	Regional Centres	71.0%	2.3%	26.7%	83.9%	59.5%	16.1%	11.5%
	Yellowknife	79.7%	7.7%	12.6%	81.8%	65.2%	18.2%	14.5%
	NWT	64.2%	9.9%	25.9%	71.7%	46.0%	28.3%	18.2%
Grade 6 ELA	Communities	42.2%	20.9%	36.9%	37.9%	16.0%	62.1%	26.2%
	Regional Centres	71.1%	6.3%	22.5%	83.2%	59.2%	16.8%	12.0%
	Yellowknife	78.1%	7.2%	14.8%	87.0%	67.9%	13.0%	10.1%
	NWT	63.1%	12.1%	24.8%	73.8%	46.5%	26.2%	16.6%
Grade 9 ELA	Communities	45.4%	29.5%	25.1%	26.2%	11.9%	73.8%	33.5%
	Regional Centres	51.7%	20.7%	27.6%	70.7%	36.6%	29.3%	15.2%
	Yellowknife	65.5%	6.2%	28.4%	86.7%	56.7%	13.3%	8.7%
	NWT	55.3%	17.6%	27.0%	65.9%	36.5%	34.1%	18.9%
Grade 3 Math	Communities	50.7%	10.6%	38.7%	52.7%	26.7%	47.3%	24.0%
	Regional Centres	70.8%	3.3%	25.8%	81.2%	57.5%	18.8%	13.3%
	Yellowknife	87.8%	4.3%	7.9%	82.6%	72.6%	17.4%	15.2%
	NWT	67.7%	6.8%	25.5%	72.6%	49.1%	27.4%	18.6%
Grade 6 Math	Communities	48.4%	19.1%	32.4%	27.5%	13.3%	72.5%	35.1%
	Regional Centres	73.1%	4.5%	22.4%	76.5%	56.0%	23.5%	17.2%
	Yellowknife	76.1%	4.7%	19.2%	79.6%	60.6%	20.4%	15.5%
	NWT	64.5%	10.3%	25.2%	63.4%	40.9%	36.6%	23.6%
Grade 9 Math	Communities	43.8%	34.5%	21.7%	17.2%	7.5%	82.8%	36.3%
	Regional Centres	55.6%	16.2%	28.2%	46.8%	26.1%	53.2%	29.6%
	Yellowknife	59.5%	6.0%	34.5%	60.9%	36.2%	39.1%	23.3%
	NWT	52.7%	19.2%	28.2%	43.7%	23.0%	56.3%	29.7%

2009 AAT Results for French Immersion

	Grade 6 French Language Arts	Grade 9 French Language Arts	Grade 3 Math (French)	Grade 6 Math (French)	Grade 9 Math (French)
Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Available & Reportable Test Results	85.2%	92.9%	82.6%	82.1%	87.2%
Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of the Total Student Enrolment	69.7	92.9%	70.4%	71.9%	82.9%

Cohort Results

The changes made to the policy in 2007 resulted in different criteria being used to select students for participation in the AATs. This has an impact on the cohort reporting as the students writing the AATs in 2006 fulfilled different criteria from their cohort who wrote in 2009.

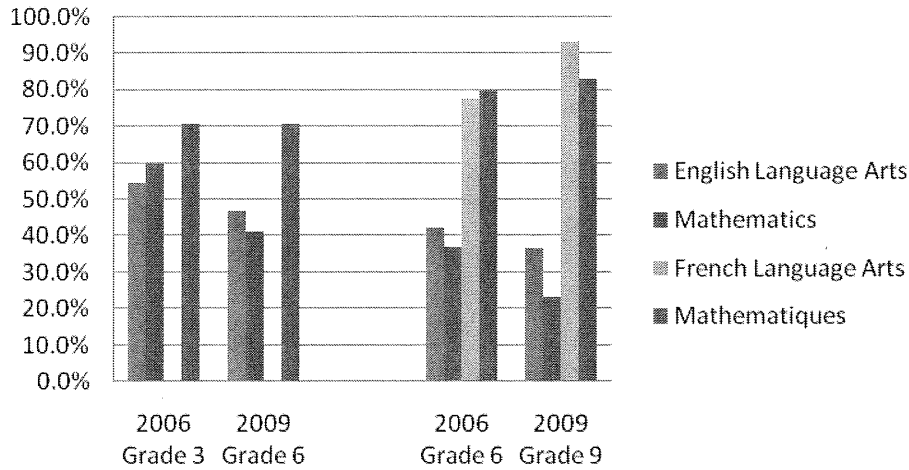
With the caveat that the cohort groups are similar, but not the same, following are the results for 2009. Grade six students' AAT results, in 2009, for English Language Arts show a 7.9% decrease in the proportion of students achieving an acceptable standard as a percentage of the total enrolment compared to their results three years previous, for grade 3. The percentage of the grade nine student population achieving an acceptable result for English Language Arts decreased by 5.7% over their results in grade six, three years previous. In Mathematics, the percentage of grade six students achieving an acceptable standard decreased by 18.6% from their results in grade three while results for students in grade nine decreased by 14.0% from their grade six results.

Students Achieving Acceptable Standard on AATs as a % of Total Enrolment

Adjusted to Accommodate NWT Exclusion Policy

	English Language Arts	Mathematics
2006 Grade 3	54.4%	59.5%
2009 Grade 6	46.5%	40.9%
2006 Grade 6	42.2%	37.0%
2009 Grade 9	36.5%	23.0%

Cohort Results on AATs - 2006 and 2009



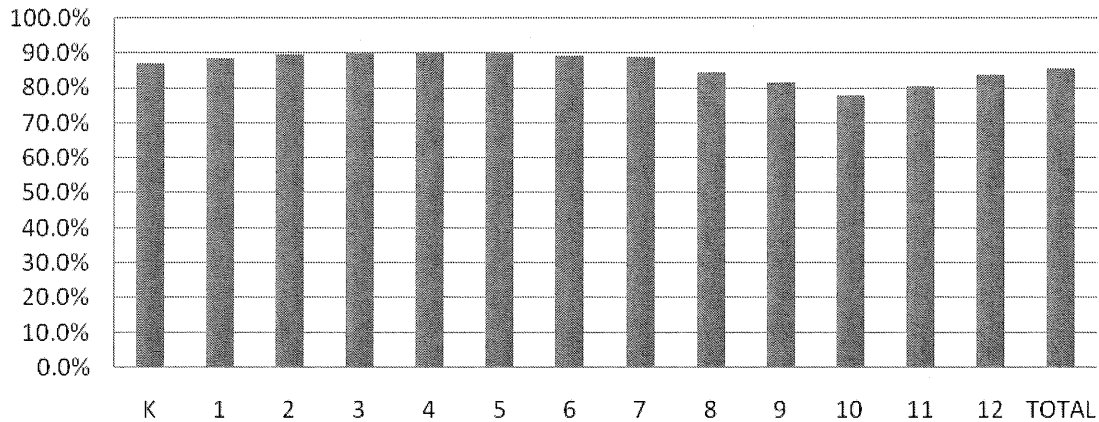
Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Total Enrolment (Adjusted to Accommodate NWT Exclusion Policy)

	French Language Arts	Mathématiques
2006 Grade 3		70.6%
2009 Grade 6		70.4%
2006 Grade 6	77.6%	79.7%
2009 Grade 9	92.9%	82.9%

There are no grade three results for French Language Arts Alberta Achievement Tests in 2006 as they were available for the first time in 2008. As such, there are no results for comparison for this year's grade 6 French Immersion students. In Mathématiques, the results of the grade 6 students declined by 0.2% from their grade 3 AAT Mathématiques results. Grade nine French Immersion students' results in French Language Arts, for 2009, increased 15.3% from their results in grade 6. In Mathématiques, the proportion of 2008 grade nine students achieving an acceptable standard increased 3.2% from their grade six results.

Attendance – 2008/09

NWT Average Attendance By Grade - 2008/09



	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Communities	80.4%	82.5%	85.6%	84.4%	85.6%	84.2%	85.6%	83.8%	76.2%	77.1%	76.6%	79.5%	81.6%	81.4%
Regional Centres	89.4%	90.6%	89.8%	91.8%	91.3%	91.9%	87.9%	88.2%	82.0%	76.3%	73.3%	76.0%	78.4%	84.1%
Yellowknife	90.9%	92.1%	92.9%	93.3%	93.5%	93.3%	93.3%	93.2%	91.7%	87.3%	81.6%	83.0%	87.8%	89.5%
NWT	86.9%	88.4%	89.6%	89.7%	90.2%	90.1%	89.2%	88.6%	84.2%	81.5%	77.9%	80.2%	83.7%	85.5%

For the 2008/09 school year, the average attendance for students enrolled in the NWT was 85.5%. This is a decline from 2007/08 when the average attendance was 86.4%. Basically, a student was absent a day and a half out of every two weeks. Should this rate continue, an average student will be absent one year out of every six years of schooling.

R(16)349

GNWT Announces New Program for Polar Bear Outfitters

YELLOWKNIFE (January 8, 2010): A new assistance program for polar bear outfitters is providing additional help to the sector to promote and develop alternative hunting and tourism products. The Polar Bear Outfitter Assistance Program is designed to aid polar bear outfitters who have been impacted by the U.S. ban on the importation of polar bear hides.

“The polar bear outfitting sector has been adversely affected by management decisions it has had no control over,” 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. We will continue to help individual operators and the industry to preserve, protect and adjust their operations so they can be successful in the future.”

The funds from the program will enable polar bear outfitters to develop business plans to diversify into alternative hunting or tourism products, upgrade and expand their websites, develop new advertising products and attend key trade shows.

A total of \$150,000 is available under the program for 2009/10.

A similar program – the Caribou Outfitter Marketing Program – was launched in December to assist Barren Ground Caribou outfitters in the territory.

For more information on the program, contact:

Darren Campbell

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R(16)350

Proud2bNWT Youth Website Launched

YELLOWKNIFE (January 11, 2010) – Northwest Territories residents aged 15 to 30 have a new one-stop shop for all youth-related programs and services offered by the territorial government. Proud2bNWT, a website for youth in the NWT, was officially launched today by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Minister Responsible for Youth Robert C. McLeod says that the website will help young people find programs and services available to them quickly and efficiently.

“The GNWT has a wide variety of programs and services targeted at youth, but it can be a challenge to find them because they are scattered across multiple departmental websites,” said Minister McLeod. “With Proud2bNWT, all the programs and services youth in the NWT should know about are just a click away.”

Proud2bNWT provides information on a variety of programs and services such as arts and culture, awards and bursaries, careers and employment, health and wellness, sports and recreation, and much more. The Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Youth Ambassadors and Traditional Games participants will also be posting stories on Proud2bNWT during their time at the 2010 Winter Games.

Through its investment in Proud2bNWT, the GNWT is working to improve access to youth-related programs and services. Investing in youth and strengthening awareness around the programs and services available to them will work to build strong individuals, families, and communities in the NWT as envisioned in the 16th Assembly’s Vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

For more information, please visit the Proud2bNWT website: www.proud2bnwt.ca or contact:

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R(16)351

Recipients of High Performance Athlete Grants Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (January 13, 2010) – Recipients of the 2009-2010 High Performance Athlete Grant were announced today by the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), and Richard Daitch, President of the Sport North Federation.

The program provides funding for high performance athletes from the Northwest Territories to assist with costs associated with training and competing in their chosen sport. The funding level from each recipient is based on athletic achievement and recognition at the national or international level. The Sport North Federation and MACA jointly approve all recipients.

“These recipients are role models for healthy, active living for all residents in the Northwest Territories,” said Minister McLeod. “Our Government is proud to support these high performance athletes. I wish them the best of luck this season!”

“The Sport North Federation has been an ongoing supporter of the High Performance Athlete Grant program,” said Mr. Daitch. “This program aids committed NWT individuals, in a variety of sports, to pursue their athletic dreams. Training at a high level in sport is a costly pursuit involving expenses for coaches, travel and equipment. This program helps to enable these young men and woman to compete both nationally and internationally and serve as role models for younger aspiring athletes. Sport North wishes to congratulate the grant recipients for their achievements.”

The recipients for the High Performance Athlete Grant program for 2009-2010 are:

Jacqueline Thompson	Soccer	Fort Simpson
Jessie Loutitt	Rowing	Fort Simpson
Sarah Daitch	Cross Country Skiing	Fort Smith
Elizabeth Mawdsley	Biathlon	Fort Smith
Brandon Thompson	Volleyball	Fort Smith
Brendan Green	Biathlon	Hay River
Jonathan Andre	Boxing	Fort McPherson
Michael Gilday	Speed Skating	Yellowknife
Linsay Barbier	Soccer	Yellowknife

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Amelia Debogorski	Soccer	Yellowknife
Hailey Grayston	Basketball	Yellowknife
Mike Argue	Cross Country Skiing	Yellowknife
Jill Gilday	Speed Skating	Yellowknife
Andrew Matthews	Snowboarding	Yellowknife
Thompson D'Hont	Cross Country Skiing	Yellowknife
Denise Ramsden	Cycling	Yellowknife
Stefanie Miklosovic	Rowing	Yellowknife
Chelsea Comeau	Basketball	Yellowknife
Devon Tordoff	Hockey	Yellowknife
James Williams	Hockey	Yellowknife
Jennifer Waugh	Badminton	Yellowknife
Kathleen O'Brien	Hockey	Yellowknife
Matthew Whiteford	Baseball	Yellowknife
Sekou Sonko-Boisclair	Athletics	Yellowknife

Through its investment in the High Performance Athlete Grant program, the Government of the Northwest Territories is working to build our future by promoting healthy, 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*.

More information on the High Performance Athlete Grant program can be found on MACA's website at www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)352

Single Use Retail Bag Fee Implemented in the NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (January 15, 2010) – Beginning today, paper and plastic bags will cost 25 cents at all grocery store check-out counters in the Northwest Territories.

“Our territory has a beautiful and pristine environment,” said Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) J. Michael Miltenberger. “Switching to reusable bags is an easy way to help protect it, and I hope all NWT residents will join me in making that switch.”

The introduction of the 25-cent environmental fee is a part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) Waste Reduction and Recovery Program Expansion and is intended to reduce litter on the land and in communities.

Fees for single-use retail bags have consistently worked to reduce consumption in other jurisdictions, with higher fees linked to fewer bags purchased. Fees collected from this initiative will go into the GNWT's Environment Fund to help pay for future waste reduction and recycling programs.

Minister Miltenberger says he hopes NWT residents consider the new fee as a measure to help them adapt and change their shopping practices in preparation for the eventual elimination of all single-use shopping bags in the NWT.

The environmental fee does not include bags used inside grocery stores for unpackaged bulk items, prescriptions, or bags used as primary packaging for prepared foods.

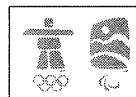
The Department of ENR has been running a campaign encouraging residents to switch to reusable bags. The campaign included the distribution of two reusable bags to every household in the NWT.

The GNWT's Waste Reduction and Recovery Program Expansion is part of the Managing This Land strategic initiative identified to meet the 16th Legislative Assembly's goal of an environment that will sustain present and future generations.

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R(16)353

Government of the Northwest Territories Offers Sympathies, Aid to the People of Haiti

YELLOWKNIFE (January 15, 2010): The Government of the Northwest Territories will be joining the Government of Canada and other provinces and territories in responding to the tragic earthquake in Haiti on Tuesday.

“Our sincerest sympathies and prayers go out to the people of Haiti, and those who have lost friends or family from around the world. Our thoughts are also with those Canadians, such as the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, who have loved ones in the area,” said Premier Floyd Roland.

To assist with humanitarian relief efforts, the Government of the NWT will contribute \$50,000 to the Canadian Red Cross. Emergency officials with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs are also engaged in federal-provincial-territorial coordination of relief efforts.

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R(16)354

New Report Published on Northwest Territories Parks

YELLOWKNIFE (January 21, 2009): A new report looks at the future of territorial parks in the NWT and lays out a vision for enhancing those parks in the future. *Naturally Spectacular – A Northwest Territories Parks Perspective* was released today by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Produced by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, the report details current trends and visitor expectations for today's parks. With an eye towards increasing traffic, encouraging longer stays and providing more interesting and meaningful park experiences, *Naturally Spectacular* looks at our existing territorial parks and the opportunities available to improve them.

“Our 34 territorial parks are a key attraction for many of our visitors, and they are often the first thing visitors to the Northwest Territories see and experience,” says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “This report provides a blueprint for future development in our parks, and it's one of the many ways our department and the Government of the Northwest Territories is supporting tourism as a way to promote economic self-sufficiency and create a prosperous, diverse and sustainable economy.”

The report details the projects that are underway or are being planned at select territorial parks – all intended to improve the parks experience for both NWT residents and visitors.

The report also lists each territorial park, provides an overview of the facilities and amenities available in them and details the opportunities and possibilities our parks offer, including hiking, canoeing, fishing, boating, cultural activities, wildlife viewing and more.

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R(16)355

NWT Implements Interoperable Electronic Health Record

HAY RIVER (January 22, 2010) – Residents of the Northwest Territories and the health professionals who care for them will soon benefit from electronic access to medical information such as lab results as the territory rolls out the first release of the interoperable Electronic Health Record project, Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee announced today.

Release 1 of the interoperable Electronic Health Record (iEHR), the HealthNet Viewer, is in the process of rolling out to initial authorized groups of healthcare professionals at clinics and health centres across the NWT. By March, most of the territory's health professionals will have instant access to the medical information of their patients such as lab results, discharge summaries and diagnostic imaging reports. Quick access to this information enables more efficient access to care, more informed care decisions and results in better patient care.

“Northwest Territories residents can be proud of this accomplishment, which is a result of hard work, collaboration and investment in electronic health record systems,” said Minister Lee. “These efforts will continue to make our health information more readily accessible when clinicians need it most.”

The Electronic Health Record is a secure and private lifetime record of a person's health history and care within the health system. Every province and territory in Canada is working to implement electronic health record systems that will transform the way health care is delivered to Canadians.

The NWT HealthNet Viewer is a web-based portal that will allow authorized health clinicians “view only” access to a client's key medical information anywhere and at any time, to support enhanced patient safety and delivery of care. For example, lab results will be available in the Viewer once the results are known, significantly reducing the amount of time it takes for clinicians to receive the paper-based results - in some cases by a number of weeks.

Canada Health Infoway, the independent, not-for-profit organization funded by the federal government that invests with public sector partners across Canada to implement and reuse compatible health information systems, invested \$5.7 million in the project.

“Electronic access to health information such as lab results is key to reducing wait times, patient safety and better access to care,” said Richard Alvarez, President and CEO of Canada Health Infoway. “I applaud the work of the Government of the Northwest Territories for not only

reaching this milestone, but for the collaboration with Alberta, replicating their successes to deliver an efficient and robust system for the Northwest Territories.”

The HealthNet Viewer will initially contain text reports from Stanton Hospital (including consultations, discharge summaries, operative procedures, and delivery summaries) and laboratory results from Stanton, Hay River and Inuvik laboratories, as well as those referred by the NWT to DynaLife Laboratory in Alberta.

Records and paper files where they exist today will continue to be maintained as before; however, the HealthNet Viewer provides the opportunity for clinicians to view information which already exists in different electronic systems across the Territories in a consolidated format.

A broad rollout to all healthcare providers across the NWT will follow shortly. This first Release is the building block that will allow for additional information to be included in subsequent releases. Work on Release 2 of the HealthNet Viewer is near completion, and will feature additional functions and further expand the information available to clinicians.

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R(16)356

Pan-Territorial marketing brand and campaign launched

YELLOWKNIFE (January 25, 2010): A pan-territorial marketing brand and marketing campaign during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games will promote the Northwest Territories as a place to live, work and invest in.

With the debut of the www.canadasnorth.ca website and the opening of Canada's Northern House this month, the Governments of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon have launched a partnered approach to promoting the North with the "Canada's North" brand. The slogan for the pan-territorial campaign is "Canada's North - A Story Yet To Be Told."

"We're very excited about the launch of this brand and the launch of the pan-territorial marketing campaign," says Bob McLeod, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. "This brand and campaign will allow us to tell our story at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, and promote the NWT to a global audience."

Each territory has contributed \$300,000 to the initiative. Whitehorse-based communications firm Outside the Cube has developed the brand and the marketing plan. That plan will focus on promoting Canada's Northern House, promoting and stimulating interest and attendance during the Canada's Northern Weekend from February 19-21, and leveraging the presence and participation of Canada's North in the 2010 Games to enhance global awareness of the three territories as great places to live, work, and invest in.

The GNWT departments of the Executive, Industry, Tourism and Investment, Municipal and Community Affairs and Education, Culture and Employment are all involved in the planning and implementation of various Olympic and Paralympic activities that will build on the work of the pan-territorial marketing campaign.

A diversified economy that helps to provides all communities and regions with opportunities and choices is a priority of the 16th Legislative Assembly. Through its investment in this campaign, the Government of the Northwest Territories is working to create economic opportunities for all NWT residents, under its strategic initiative: *Maximizing Opportunities*.

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R(16)357

NWT Sport Volunteers at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games

YELLOWKNIFE (January 26, 2010) – Three Northwest Territories' (NWT) residents will do their part to make the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games a success by sharing their expertise as skilled sport volunteers.

Selected by the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) as skilled sport volunteers are:

1. Robin Langille, Tulita – Ice resurfacers for the hockey competitions;
2. Janie Hobart, Fort Smith – Official for curling; and
3. Robin Sproule, Yellowknife – Member of the athlete services team for the hockey competitions.

As part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT's) commitment to develop sport in the NWT, the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), announced that travel support is provided to each skilled sport volunteer to help offset the costs associated with volunteering at the 2010 Winter Games.

“After countless hours of dedicated volunteering in the NWT, our skilled sport volunteers have the opportunity to shine at the International level,” said Minister McLeod. “Not only does our Government recognize the value of volunteering at this event, but also the great opportunity our volunteers have to be ambassadors for the NWT at the 2010 Winter Games.”

“This is the opportunity of a lifetime,” said Mr. Langille who interviewed and trained for his role as an ice resurfacers at the Games. “I am looking forward to being part of the excitement and being there in person to cheer for our athletes.”

Through its investment in the 2010 Winter Games Skilled Sport Volunteer Program, the GNWT is working to build our future by enhancing support of our voluntary sector. Strengthening the voluntary sector supports our goals of healthy educated people and sustainable, vibrant, safe communities as envisioned in the 16th Assembly's Vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

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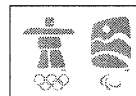
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R(16)358

2010-11 NWT Budget Invests in Economic Stability

YELLOWKNIFE (January 28, 2010) – Finance Minister J. Michael Miltenberger today presented the territorial Government's 2010-11 Budget to the 16th Legislative Assembly.

“Our preparations before the global financial crisis placed the Government in a good position to be a source of stability for the NWT economy during this difficult time,” said Minister Miltenberger. “This Budget reflects the progress we have made towards our vision - even in the face of the economic uncertainty of the last eighteen months.”

Stability has come from a commitment to maintain service levels and to inject a record \$744 million in capital and housing infrastructure over 2009-10 and 2010-11. A small operating surplus of \$35 million is forecast for 2010-11, although the Government expects to borrow \$89 million in short term debt by March 31, 2011 to help finance its infrastructure investment program.

The Finance Minister cautioned that, while the economy has begun to grow again, recovery will be slow and the Government will need to keep careful rein on spending as revenue growth is uncertain.

“The depth and duration of the economic slowdown continue to be the main consideration in our Budget planning,” he said. “However, we are confident that our actions have both lessened the effect of the downturn and provided needed infrastructure that will benefit NWT residents into the future.”

The 2010-11 Budget includes resources to support and advance progress on the work that has been initiated in the first two years of the 16th Assembly.

The Budget also proposes new investments designed to meet the 16th Assembly's goal of sustainable, vibrant and safe communities, to support children, youth and families and to protect the environment.

2010-11 represents the second year of the Government's four-year \$60 million Energy Priorities Investment Plan.

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The Budget includes \$19 million in energy investments designed to reduce the cost of living, to reduce the NWT's reliance on imported fossil fuels and to reduce the territory's greenhouse gas emissions.

The Budget includes no new taxes. "We do not want to jeopardize the economic recovery," Miltenberger explained. However, effective April 1, 2010 property tax rates, tobacco tax rates and liquor mark-ups will be adjusted to reflect inflation.

The 2010-11 Budget Address and Main Estimates can be found on the Department of Finance website at <http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca>

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R(16)358

2010-11 Budget Backgrounder

Budget 2010-11 Highlights

- ◆ The NWT economy is expected to grow again in 2010, following a two year decline in activity caused by the global economic slowdown.
- ◆ The 2010-11 Budget maintains the GNWT's commitment to help lessen the effect of the economic downturn. Service levels will be maintained and a record \$744 million injected in capital and housing infrastructure over 2009-10 and 2010-11.
- ◆ The 2010-11 Budget proposes operating expenditures of \$1.29 billion. This represents an operating expenditure increase of \$92 million, or 7.6 per cent, composed of \$48 million in compensation and amortization increases, \$25 million in forced growth and \$17 million in net spending on new initiatives.
- ◆ Total revenues are estimated to increase 5 per cent from \$1.29 billion in 2009-10 to \$1.36 billion in 2010-11. Most of the increase is from an additional \$56 million in the Territorial Formula Financing Grant along with a forecast increase of \$35 million in taxation revenues, offset by \$27 million decrease in other federal transfers due to the completion of Building Canada projects.
- ◆ The Government's \$259 million 2010-11 planned investment in public infrastructure and housing will be financed partly through the budgeted \$35 million operating surplus in 2010-11 and an estimated \$89 million in short-term debt.
- ◆ The 2010-11 Budget includes \$19 million for the second year of a 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.

2010-11 Expenditure Initiatives

The 2010-11 Budget proposes to invest \$17 million in new and continuing initiatives, net of sunseting programs.

- ◆ **Supporting Sustainable Communities** – the GNWT is committed to achieving sustainable, vibrant and safe communities. GNWT contributions to community governments will increase by 7.3 per cent. Drawing on the recommendations of the Committee on Sustainability of Rural and Remote Communities, the Budget proposes a \$3.6 million investment in initiatives that will extend to smaller communities some of the services available to larger communities

through single desk government service centers, contributions for rural youth to participate in regional sporting events and other youth programs, and increased funding for community projects to improve community access to hunting, wood gathering and recreation. Other funding includes \$1.8 million for initiatives to reduce the cost of living and \$1.1 million to enhance police services and \$408,000 to increase employment opportunities in smaller communities.

- ◆ ***Supporting our Economy*** – the GNWT used the economic slowdown to accelerate needed infrastructure and housing projects with a record \$744 million investment in fiscal 2009-10 and 2010-11. The Budget proposes \$3.5 million in new initiatives to grow the NWT economy including: \$1.3 million to promote the NWT as a great tourism destination and a preferred place to live and work; \$300,000 each for the Support for Entrepreneur and Economic Development and Sports Hunter Outfitter Marketing Support programs; and, \$425,000 to support the arts and crafts industry.
- ◆ ***Investments in Children, Youth and Families*** – the GNWT continues to build on previous successes such as higher graduation rates through \$4.6 million in new initiatives including: \$1.3 million investment to improve the educational achievement of Aboriginal students, \$600,000 to expand early childhood development programs, \$1.2 million to encourage healthy choices and address addictions, and \$242,000 to expand support services for family violence shelters and programs.
- ◆ ***Investing in our Environment*** – the GNWT places great value on protecting NWT lands and waters, spending over \$70 million annually on environment related activities. The Budget proposes almost \$4 million in new initiatives including: \$1.1 million for protection of NWT water supplies, \$791,000 to update and implement the *Species at Risk* and *Wildlife Acts* and regulations, \$1.3 million to continue work to develop and implement the Land Use Framework, \$100,000 for the Climate Change Adaptation Plan and \$120,000 for the *Traditional Knowledge Implementation Strategy*.
- ◆ ***Affordable Government*** –The GNWT continues to look for ways to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency in government operations. However, bringing about change often needs investment up front. The 2010-11 Budget includes \$6.1 million in targeted investments such as: \$1.5 million to implement initiatives contained in the NWT Public Service Strategic Plan, \$1 million for training programs to improve community government administration, and \$405,000 for improvements in information technology use.
- ◆ ***Health Care*** – cost pressures in the NWT health care system must be reduced if the system is to be sustainable. Using elements of the *Foundation for Change* plan, the Department of Health and Social Services, with the Health and Social Services Authorities, is formulating a plan to ensure dependable, equitable and timely access to health care, improve the well-being of NWT residents, and ensure the system is sustainable in the long-term. The approach will require a significant commitment by the GNWT and health agencies and will include accountability improvements, such as stream-lined financial systems, and implementation of contribution agreements with the Authorities.

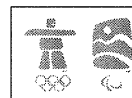
Revenue Initiatives

Budget 2010-11 contains no new taxes, recognizing that the economic recovery will be slow. However, effective April 1, 2010 policies will be introduced to ensure that property tax rates, tobacco tax rates and liquor mark-ups keep up with inflation so that GNWT revenues do not lose ground as prices rise.

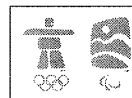
Looking Forward

With less than two years left in the mandate of the 16th Legislative Assembly, the 2010-11 Budget ensures that initiatives already started towards achieving the common vision have the resources and the commitment to be completed. The priorities going forward include:

- ◆ Ensuring that discussions and decisions about the North are made in the North, by Northerners for Northerners. The 2010-11 Budget proposes one-time funding of \$864,000 in 2010-11 to support the work of the Northern Leaders' Forum to provide a unified Northern voice that communicates a common vision to non-Northern decision makers in order that key priorities of Northern governments are advanced.
- ◆ Continuing to pursue completion of an agreement in principle on devolution and resource revenue sharing with the Government of Canada and NWT Aboriginal governments.
- ◆ Advancing work on a Heritage Fund in anticipation of NWT governments obtaining control over NWT non-renewable natural resources. A public discussion paper on the establishment of a NWT Heritage Fund will be released in 2010. If there appears to be a broad consensus for a Heritage Fund, the government will commit to introducing legislation to create a Heritage Fund by the end of the 16th Legislative Assembly.
- ◆ Making changes to public housing administration, effective in 2011-12, including moving responsibility for income assessments to Local Housing Organizations and possibly divesting a number of older units and looking for maintenance efficiencies.
- ◆ Continuing to address the NWT's significant infrastructure deficit, including the following three major projects:
 - The Deh Cho Bridge to ensure year-round highway access for half of the NWT's population. The bridge completion date remains late 2011.
 - The \$500 million Taltson Hydro Expansion project which could displace up to 100 million litres of diesel fuel a year. Given that the project is beyond the capacity of the GNWT to finance on its own, if the project gets regulatory approval, the GNWT will look for partners with the fiscal resources to help get the project built.
 - The Mackenzie Valley Highway (estimated cost of \$1.8 billion) from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk, to provide all the communities of the Mackenzie Valley with an all-weather road. The federal government has agreed to fund a Project Description Report for the construction of an all-weather road from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk and the GNWT has set aside funds to extend the Report to the entire Mackenzie Valley.



- ◆ Continuing work to improve the GNWT's relationship with service delivery boards by: removing barriers that limit service integration, expanding the use of inter-agency committees in communities, and improving accountability mechanisms between the GNWT and its boards. This work will lead to the development of standardized contribution agreements with existing boards by April 2011.



R(16)359

Brendan Green Makes Canadian Olympic Team

YELLOWKNIFE (January 28, 2010) - The Government of the Northwest Territories wishes to congratulate biathlete Brendan Green of Hay River for being selected today to represent Canada at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

“We are very proud to have one of our NWT athletes represent Canada,” said Premier Floyd Roland. “We look forward to seeing Brendan showcase his remarkable talent and compete amongst the world’s best.”

Brendan currently trains with the Senior Development Training Team in Canmore, Alberta, and is an eight-time Canadian medalist as well as a bronze and silver medalist in the relay at the 2007 and 2005 World Junior and Youth Championships.

“Brendan’s dedication and commitment to a healthy, active lifestyle has led to this monumental achievement,” said the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister Responsible for Sport. “His success is an example to all aspiring NWT athletes, and I wish him the best of luck.”

“I want to congratulate Brendan on his incredible achievement,” said Jane Groenewegen, MLA Hay River South. “His amazing talent and dedication, combined with the support of his family, coaches and community gives us all great pride as he competes at the Olympics.”

Brendan has received the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and Sport North’s High Performance Athlete Grant (HPAG) for the past four years. The HPAG provides funding for NWT high performance athletes to assist with costs associated with training and competing in their chosen sport.

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R(16)360

NWT Muskrat Sells Out at North Bay Fur Auction

YELLOWKNIFE (February 2, 2010) – Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur muskrat pelts sold out at a January 9th wild fur sale held at the Fur Harvesters Auction Inc. in North Bay, Ontario. All 12,638 muskrat pelts were sold.

Demand was also high for Northwest Territories beaver and red fox pelts. Ninety-five percent of available pelts were sold at the auction. Much of the interest in the furs came from buyers in China and Greece.

“The results from the Fur Harvesters Auction Inc. wild fur sale are an encouraging sign that the market for high quality furs is returning,” says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “The high demand for Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur confirms that our furs are among the best in the world. These results will keep our harvesters on the land and our trapping sector healthy – in turn contributing to and helping to diversify the Northwest Territories economy.”

Prices for muskrat, beaver and fox increased as much as 20 percent over last year’s prices and \$100,000 worth of NWT furs were sold at the North Bay auction. The next fur auction where Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur pelts will be sold is February 19, 2010 in Seattle.

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

A GNWT-supported multi-partnered initiative was launched in China last year in an effort to increase consumer demand, broaden market reach and establish new overseas markets for Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs from the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The GNWT’s development and support of sustainable and diversified local economies is working to provide communities and regions with opportunities and choices as identified in the 16th Assembly’s vision *Northerners Working Together*.

.../2

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R(16)361

GNWT Releases *Homeowners' Guide to Oil Tanks*

YELLOWKNIFE (February 2, 2010) – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) has released a comprehensive guide aimed at reducing and preventing spills resulting from improperly installed or maintained home heating oil tanks.

The Homeowners' Guide to Oil Tanks provides information about proper oil tank care and promotes proper inspection and maintenance in an effort to prevent spills. It also provides information for home, building and property owners about the potential environmental and financial liability of an oil spill.

“The GNWT is working to protect and promote an environment that will sustain present and future generations,” says ENR Minister J. Michael Miltenberger. “This guide provides some proactive steps that residents can take to prevent spills that could prove to be both costly and environmentally damaging.”

For a copy of the Guide, visit <http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca> or call 867-873-7654.

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R(16)362

Changes in Public Housing Rental Subsidy Administration

YELLOWKNIFE (February 2, 2010) - Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) Jackson Lafferty, and Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Robert C. McLeod provided Members of the Legislative Assembly with additional information today about the decision to transfer administration of the Public Housing Rental Subsidy (PHRS) back to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC).

Responsibility for the administration of the PHRS was transferred to ECE on April 1, 2006 to support the implementation of the Income Security Policy Framework. Despite the successes achieved under the new model, there were continuing challenges in delivering public housing in line with client expectations.

“The Public Housing Program plays a critical role in meeting the housing needs in our communities. With the ever increasing need for housing in the Northwest Territories, comes an increasing reliance on the program, and an increasing demand to ensure that tenants in communities receive the highest level of service possible through programs designed to suit the needs of Northerners” said Minister McLeod. “As we move forward with changes, our focus will not only be on addressing the challenges that have arisen over the past five years, but also to build on the improvements that were made during that time.”

Over the past four years, ECE and the NWT HC have worked together to enhance the delivery of public housing across the NWT. Steps have included the integration of the program with other income security programs; expanded delivery of all income security programs in smaller, remote communities; continued development of policy, procedures and information systems; development of additional staff training tools and more streamlined monitoring and reporting tools.

“Many positive steps were taken to improve delivery to clients through ECE’s collaboration with the NWT HC,” Minister Lafferty said. “These enhancements helped make the program more effective and efficient from an accountability perspective and also ensured clients are treated fairly and equitably across the NWT. While the program is returning to the NWT HC, the

enhancements made will remain in place to ensure the continued success of this important program.”

“ECE and the NWT HC will work closely together over the coming months to provide for a seamless transition. We all agree that the work accomplished over the past years will be built upon by the NWT HC and the Local Housing Organizations to produce an enhanced program, still with a strong client focus, that better serves the people of the Northwest Territories.”

Minister McLeod further stated, “Over the next few months we will develop a comprehensive implementation plan designed to ensure tenants are well-informed, and not inconvenienced. Ultimately, the housing challenges being faced by the NWT can only be addressed through the provision of northern programs that address northern needs and are a clear partnership between tenants and government. Through these partnerships this Government will work to enhance our Public Housing program so that it better responds to community and tenant needs, and continues to serve as a critical piece of our efforts to provide adequate, affordable and suitable housing to residents of the Northwest Territories.”

As noted by Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger in his budget address, formal proposals for changes to the administration of public housing will be developed in consultation with stakeholders in coming months, with the intention of fully implementing the return transfer of the Public Housing Rental Subsidy to the NWT HC during the 2010-11 fiscal year.

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R(16)363

GNWT to Increase Minimum Wage

YELLOWKNIFE (Tuesday, February 2, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is increasing the minimum wage over the next two years to \$10.00 an hour.

“The growth of vibrant and sustainable communities in the NWT is dependent on the ability of our residents to earn a living that permits them to contribute to and benefit from the opportunities and choices that a prosperous Territory will provide,” Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty said today.

In an effort to ease the potential financial burden on employers, the higher rate will be introduced in two phases. Effective April 1, 2010, the rate will increase to \$9.00 an hour and effective April 1, 2011, the rate increases to \$10.00 an hour.

While the increased wage recognizes the higher cost of living in the North and puts the NWT more in line with other regions of Canada, Minister Lafferty says the GNWT is also working to reduce the cost of living in the NWT by addressing cost factors that exist in NWT communities.

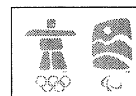
Through its Department of Education, Culture and Employment, the GNWT has launched a public awareness campaign to inform NWT employers and employees about the wage increase.

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R(16)364

Excellent Year for NWT Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupational Certification Programs

YELLOWKNIFE (February 3, 2010) – Apprentices, tradespersons and occupational certification recipients throughout the Northwest Territories (NWT) are celebrating Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification Week (AOC Week) from February 1st – 5th. This year, there is good cause to celebrate: going into 2010, there were 478 NWT residents registered in apprenticeship, trades and occupational certification programs throughout the territory, more than ever before.

AOC Week is a celebration of NWT apprentices, tradespersons and those pursuing occupational certification and their contributions to the NWT. During ceremonies taking place across the territory this year, 62 NWT residents will graduate as certified journeypersons, while individuals who received top marks in their areas will be recognized for their achievements.

“I want to congratulate all of our apprentices for their accomplishments, and thank our partners at Aurora College, in the business community, and in the construction industry for the great training they provide,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “Apprenticeship and occupational certification is an important building block in the future of the Northwest Territories. With increasing resource development and infrastructure projects, our territory needs these kinds of skilled workers.”

“Through the occupational certification program, community government staff members are becoming certified in their fields without having to leave their home community or their job,” said Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA). “I would like to extend my congratulations to all our award recipients, and I would also like to thank community governments, the Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories Association of Communities for supporting and promoting occupational certification at the community level.”

Graduation and award ceremonies for the South Slave Region are being held during AOC Week, with Fort Smith holding theirs today (February 3rd) at noon in the Breynat Hall cafeteria. Hay River is holding their ceremony on Thursday, February 4th at 11am in the ECE Service Centre. Graduation and award ceremonies in the North Slave Region are planned for March. MACA occupational certification presentations have been planned to coincide with AOC Week.

Top Graduating Apprentice and Special Award Recipients:

Top Graduating Apprentice:

Christopher Milne - Heavy Duty Equipment Technician from Hay River

Ryfan Electric - Keith Houghton Memorial Award:

Shane Daniels – Electrician from Fort Smith

BHP Billiton - Karl Meyer Memorial Award:

Juan Guerrero – Heavy Duty Equipment Technician from Yellowknife

JSL Mechanical Award – Plumber:

William Brewer - Plumber / Gasfitter from Yellowknife

JSL Mechanical Award – Welder:

Geza Rosta - Welder from Yellowknife

MACA Occupational Certification Top Mark Award and Honour Roll Recipients:

Top Mark Award:

Dennis Althouse, Community Works Foreman, City of Yellowknife

Kim Tybring, Recreation Facility Operator (Curling Rinks), Town of Hay River

Jesse Foote, Recreation Facility Operator (Skating Rinks), Fort Smith

Honour Roll:

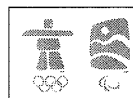
Dennis Althouse, Community Works Foreman, City of Yellowknife

Kim Tybring, Recreation Facility Operator (Curling Rinks), Town of Hay River

Jesse Foote, Recreation Facility Operator (Skating Rinks), Fort Smith

Richard Campbell, Community Works Foreman, Town of Inuvik

Shawn Gillis, Recreation Facility Operator (Skating Rinks), Village of Fort Simpson



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.

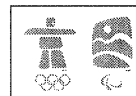
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R(16)365

“Drop the Pop” for Strong Bones 2010

YELLOWKNIFE (February 3, 2010) – Sugar-sweetened beverages such as pop are one of the main culprits of childhood obesity – and the Governments of the NWT, Yukon, and Nunavut are working to change that with the launch of their pan-territorial “Drop the Pop” campaign this month.

“Prevention and education are the best ways to help people make healthy food choices and to lead healthy lifestyles,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee. “By joining forces with Yukon and Nunavut, we want to raise widespread awareness about the detrimental effects that drinking sugar-sweetened beverages can have on a person’s health.”

This is the fifth year for the “Drop the Pop” challenge in the NWT, where schools from across the territories participate to win prizes and recognition for their healthy choices. The new “Drop the Pop for Strong Bones” campaign will feature posters, a calcium information kit for parents, and will once again offer school awards for kids who promote healthy eating and show community involvement. More information can be found on the official website at <http://www.dropthepopnwt.ca>

As part of the campaign, the Department of Health and Social Services will work closely with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and grocery stores across the NWT to provide education about the dangers of drinking too many sugar-sweetened beverages. The Store Manager Award will be presented to stores who participate in the project and who help schools “Drop the Pop”.

This year, the “Drop the Pop” campaign is funded through the pan-territorial Territorial Health Access Fund.

A Foundation for Change – an action plan released by the Department of Health and Social Services – maintains as a goal the development of the Healthy Choices Framework, to ensure that health promotion is delivered effectively across the NWT through resources that help Northerners make healthy choices.

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R(16)366

NWT Performing Collective Offers a Sneak Peek of Olympic Victory Day Performance

YELLOWKNIFE (February 4, 2010) – Yellowknifers will get a free sneak peak of the NWT Day Victory Celebration show this week before the NWT Performing Collective heads to Vancouver for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

The preview takes place at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre (NACC) on Sunday, February 7th at 7 pm. The theme of the half-hour performance is *The Drum – the Heartbeat of the North*. As the centrepiece of the Victory Celebrations on NWT Day, February 19th, the show offers a glimpse into the fun of living, laughing and playing in today's NWT through traditional and contemporary music, dance and sports.

“I’m very excited to see the performance this weekend,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “The Performing Collective has done tremendous work in preparing a show that shows how culturally rich and diverse our territory is, and I look forward to seeing them perform it in front of a global audience in Vancouver.”

The NWT Day performance will be one of many shows keeping the Performing Collective busy during the two weeks of Olympic festivities. They will also perform smaller shows at venues in Richmond, Surrey, Vancouver, West Vancouver and Whistler, as well as in the Athletes’ Village, the Four Host First Nations Pavilion, and atop Grouse Mountain, which will be the site for NBC’s *Today Show* during the games and home base to international media.

After the Sunday preview at NACC, media will be invited backstage for a “meet and greet” with the performers from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

The NWT Performing Collective is a group of performing artists from across the territory who were selected last summer to be part of the NWT’s presence at the 2010 Olympic Games. A full list of the performers and a calendar of their performances is available at the GNWT’s Olympic website, at <http://www.gov.nt.ca/olympics/>

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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 16th Assembly's Vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale
du Canada

R(16)367

News Release

New MOU Between RCMP and GNWT to Improve Response to Airport Emergencies

YELLOWKNIFE (February 5, 2010) – A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Transportation and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police “G” Division will improve emergency responses at certified airports in the Northwest Territories.

Under the MOU, local RCMP detachment Members will serve as the Airport On-Scene Controller in the event of an airport emergency at or near 19 certified airports in the NWT when there is no local On-Scene Controller already on hand.

The agreement will help meet new federal regulations to have a designated On-Scene Controller at each certified airport for emergencies that occur at or near the airport. On-Scene Controllers are responsible for coordinating the activities of first responders, health care resources, government agencies, and others engaged in an airport emergency response.

Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod said he was pleased with the MOU and the co-operation of the RCMP in helping meet this requirement. “The co-operation of the RCMP “G” Division and its Members in serving in the On-Scene Controller function will help all agencies respond more effectively to airport emergencies, which will benefit all communities,” he said. “This partnership will improve emergency responses, promote the safety of the travelling public, and has the potential to save lives.”

Chief Superintendent Tom Middleton, Commanding Officer of RCMP “G” Division, says the agreement is an extension of the RCMP’s commitment to improving and coordinating emergency response capabilities. “Our Members recognize the value of emergency planning and coordination,” he said. “We are pleased to partner with the Department of Transportation to ensure the On-Scene Controller function is in place in the event of an airport emergency in the NWT.”

The Department of Transportation will provide On-Scene Controller training and a description of duties to all RCMP Members who may provide this service. Primary police services will continue to be a priority in each local detachment.

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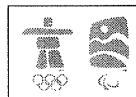
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R(16)368

New Judge Appointed to Territorial Court

YELLOWKNIFE (February 5, 2010): Minister of Justice and Attorney General Jackson Lafferty has announced the appointment of Mr. Garth Malakoe as a Judge of the Territorial Court.

“Mr. Malakoe is an outstanding candidate for our Territorial Court,” said Minister Lafferty. “He is well respected by the legal community and will serve our territory well in his new role as Judge.”

Mr. Malakoe will be sworn in at the Yellowknife Courthouse. The date of the swearing-in has not been set.

“Garth Malakoe is a welcome addition to our court,” said Chief Judge Robert Gorin. “His reputation as a hard-working and first-rate lawyer has been well deserved.”

Mr. Malakoe has been a resident of the Northwest Territories since 1980, and graduated from the University of Toronto’s law school in 1987. Since then, he has worked for the Yellowknife-based firm Peterson, Stang and Malakoe, first as an associate and since 1993 as a partner. His diverse experience in the practice of law has recently focused on corporate commercial advice for clients throughout the North and on litigation in courts and before administrative boards. Mr. Malakoe has also been active in community associations such as the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors, the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce and the Northwest Territories Mental Health Association.

This appointment fills a vacancy created by the retirement of former Chief Judge Brian Bruser and the appointment of Chief Judge Robert Gorin on October 2, 2009. In addition to the Chief Judge, the Territorial Court includes Judge Bernadette Schmaltz and Judge Christine Gagnon. The Territorial Court hears both criminal and civil matters, including family law, child protection and civil claims of up to \$10,000.

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

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R(16)369

NWT Residents Rate Health Services Highly In Latest Satisfaction Surveys

YELLOWKNIFE (February 5, 2010) – The majority of NWT residents are pleased with the health services provided to them, according to two recent surveys of patient satisfaction conducted by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Tabled in the Legislative Assembly this week, the reports represent the latest component in the GNWT's continued efforts to ensure the healthcare needs of NWT residents are met.

“Listening and responding to client satisfaction at the health centre and hospital level is a best business practice,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee. “The GNWT is committed to ensuring that all NWT residents have positive experiences with the healthcare system, and these reports provide us with important information on how our services are being received.”

The first report, the *NWT Hospital Satisfaction Report*, outlines patient satisfaction in each of the four NWT hospitals. Respondents gave considerable recognition to staff competence, professionalism, helpfulness and friendliness.

The second report, the *Community Health Services Satisfaction Report*, measures consumer satisfaction with health programs and services provided within NWT health centres, medical clinics and public health units. Overall, respondents were satisfied with existing services received in their respective communities.

The reports can be found online through the Department of Health and Social Services' website, at <http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca>

Client feedback from these two reports enables the Department of Health and Social Services to gauge its efforts to provide the best possible services within its existing resources. As outlined in *A Foundation For Change*, an action plan from the Department, such feedback is aimed at meeting the goal of a people-oriented system where all activities of the health and social services system support an approach that puts people first.

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R(16)370

Tourism Days kicks off at Canada's Northern House

YELLOWKNIFE (February 8, 2010) — Mikey McBryan, star of History Television's hit reality TV series *Ice Pilots NWT*, headlines a delegation that will promote tourism in the Northwest Territories at Canada's Northern House this week.

Mr. McBryan, along with other tourism providers and representatives from NWT Tourism, will be on hand for Tourism Days, which takes place February 8-9 at Canada's Northern House in Vancouver, B.C. This initiative is a partnership between the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment and NWT Tourism. It will showcase NWT products with a series of presentations, talks and receptions that will highlight our broad range of tourism opportunities.

"The Northwest Territories has some of the greatest tourism attractions in the world and Tourism Days will help us promote those attractions to a global audience during the 2010 Winter Olympics," says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. "The exposure and media coverage we will receive from Tourism Days will be invaluable as we continue to grow as a world-class tourism destination."

"It is important to note that to pull off an event of this magnitude takes support from all sectors of our industry. In particular, our northern airlines, hotels and operators have provided significant in-kind resources to this spectacular event," says Jenni Bruce, Chairperson of NWT Tourism.

Along with Mr. McBryan, who helps run Hay River-based Buffalo Airways, Simpson Air and Nahanni Mountain Lodge owner Ted Grant, Aurora Village owner Don Morin, Minister Bob McLeod and Kam Lake MLA Dave Ramsay will all be on hand to talk about the NWT's spectacular attractions, including fishing, outdoor adventure and general touring.

Canada's Northern House is an ideal venue to promote NWT tourism during the 2010 Winter Olympics. Since opening to the public on January 15, the North's Olympic pavilion — a partnership between the governments of the NWT, Nunavut and the Yukon — has seen more than 11,000 visitors. It will remain open until April and will host a number of events that will promote the NWT as a place to invest in, live and work.

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Tourism Days is just one of the initiatives the government is undertaking as part of its efforts to promote the NWT during the Games. Through events like Tourism Days, the GNWT is working to develop and support sustainable and diversified local economies and provide communities and regions with opportunities and choices as identified in the 16th Assembly's vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

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R(16)371

GNWT Marks Mental Wellness Week, February 7 to 13th, 2010

YELLOWKNIFE (February 5, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories is encouraging all NWT residents to recognize Mental Wellness Week this February 7th to 13th by making healthy choices. Traditionally called Mental Health Week, the name change by the NWT branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) emphasizes how individuals can focus on making choices that promote mental wellness, such as regular exercise and relaxation.

“One of the priorities of the *Foundation for Change* Action Plan is to promote healthy living and wellness,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee. “We want to focus on wellness and how people can take address their own health and social needs by making healthy choices.”

Currently, the Department of Health and Social Services is supporting new, community-based initiatives in the Beaufort-Delta region to address mental health and addictions issues. The Department also supports ongoing suicide prevention initiatives such as the NWT Helpline and youth resiliency projects across the territory.

The media and public are invited to visit a Mental Wellness Week display table at Centre Square Mall on February 8th and 10th between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Representatives from the CMHA and Health and Social Services will be present to answer questions and provide information.

Location: Centre Square Mall

Date: Monday, February 8th and Wednesday, February 10th

Time: 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

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R(16)372

GNWT Seeks Re-Affirmation of Authority to Regulate Barren-Ground Caribou Harvesting

YELLOWKNIFE (February 8, 2010): The Minister of Justice for the Northwest Territories, with the support of the Executive Council, will ask the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories to rule on the Government's legislative authority to regulate aboriginal hunting of barren-ground caribou.

"It is the view of the government that the authority to make these regulations is clearly held by the GNWT, and without that conviction we would not have acted," said Minister Lafferty. "The long-term health of the barren-ground caribou is dependent upon the actions that this government has taken, and it is important that people trust that these actions have been taken fairly and legally."

Under the *Legal Questions Act*, the Minister of Justice may refer any matter he sees fit for hearing and consideration by the NWT Supreme Court, and the court will render an opinion in the form of a judgment. The process set out under the *Legal Questions Act* is designed to ensure that the court hears from all parties necessary to render its decision.

The Minister expects to refer the matter to the Court within the next week.

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GNWT Celebrates Heritage Week in the Northwest Territories

YELLOWKNIFE (February 9, 2010) – In honour of Heritage Week, the Government of the NWT is encouraging all NWT residents to celebrate the history and diverse culture that makes our territory unique.

“We have a great deal to be proud of in our territory,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “I hope that people will take the time to consider the many ways of celebrating the North’s heritage, like spending time with Elders, learning about the North’s history through stories and photographs, and visiting some of the many cultural landmarks we have throughout the NWT.”

Heritage Week is also a time to recognize and honour the many people and organizations devoted to building public awareness on the importance of our cultural heritage from across all regions of the NWT.

Each year during Heritage Week, the City of Yellowknife honours one resident for their work in preserving and promoting local heritage. This year’s recipient of the Yellowknife Heritage Award is Yvonne Quick. The award recognizes her years of commitment to promoting the colourful aviation and mining history of the NWT. Quick is a former bush-pilot and has a long history as an active supporter of local heritage activities. She is the current coordinator of the Arctic Ambassadors and represents the NWT on the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Culture, Heritage and Tourism Initiative, a nation-wide committee working to bring together heritage and tourism.

Throughout the NWT there are many organizations dedicated to promoting an understanding of the heritage of the North:

Beaufort Delta Region

People interested in the cultural histories of the Beaufort Delta can see historical photos and artifact displays at the Inuvik Centennial Library, visit the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre, or contact the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute offices in Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson.

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Sahtu Region

Visitors can drop in to the Norman Wells Historical Centre to view artifacts and photographs depicting Sahtu history, including the stories of oil and gas exploration along the Mackenzie River the CANOL trail, and the cultures of the Sahtu, Dene, and Métis.

Deh Cho Region

People in Fort Simpson can view traditional and contemporary Northern art at the Open Sky Gallery or contact volunteers with the Fort Simpson Historical Society to learn about the history of some the community's oldest buildings, such as the McPherson House.

South Slave Region

Hay River's local museum is open seasonally and the Yamoza Kue Society in the Hay River Reserve actively promotes NWT Dene culture and traditional knowledge.

In Fort Smith, people can visit the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre year round, and dedicated staff from the NWT Metis Cultural Institute provide Métis cultural programs and activities throughout the South Slave region.

North Slave Region

In Yellowknife, there are countless volunteers who work for the NWT Mining Heritage Committee and the City of Yellowknife Heritage Committee.

Residents and visitors in the Yellowknife area may want to visit the territorial museum and archives located in Yellowknife. The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre is hosting many activities this month such as the City of Yellowknife Heritage Art Show on Wednesday, February 10 and a local storytelling event on February 14 for Amazing Family Sundays.

For more information, contact:

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Education, Culture and Employment
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R(16)374 (A)

School-wide Census on Tobacco Use Shows Fewer NWT Students Smoking

YELLOWKNIFE (February 9, 2010) – A new report from the Department of Health and Social Services shows that smoking is declining among NWT youth.

The newly-released *Youth Smoking in the Northwest Territories: A Descriptive Summary of Smoking Behaviour among Grades 5 to 9* shows that smoking among youth has declined from 23.5 per cent in 1982 to 11.7 per cent in 2005.

This downward trend can be attributed to changing attitudes towards smoking as a result of anti-smoking programs and campaigns targeting youth. That is welcome news for the Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee, who notes that prevention is key to ensuring the reduction of tobacco use in the NWT.

“Tobacco control is an important priority within *A Foundation for Change Action Plan*,” the Minister said. “Programs and services are designed and working to denormalize the use of tobacco, and I’m very happy to see that they are having a real, positive effect.”

The report is a summary of the findings of the 2006 Northwest Territories School Tobacco Survey. The survey in itself is unique, as it is the only school-wide census on tobacco use and related behaviours in Canada.

Highlights of the Youth Smoking report include:

- The overall prevalence of smoking among 10 to 14-year-olds is declining: a 19 per cent decrease in the prevalence of youth smoking over the past seven years.
- Tobacco awareness programs are undertaken on a school-wide basis to educate all students about the adverse effects of tobacco use. Smoking-related education was received by 96 per cent of NWT students in the past school year.
- The *Don't Be A Butthead* campaign encourages youth to remain smoke-free throughout their lives. The majority of youth who have never smoked indicated the campaign helped them decide not to smoke.

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For more information, contact:

Damien Healy

Manager, Communications

Health and Social Services

Tel: (867) 920-8927

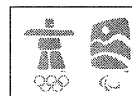
For media interviews with the Premier or Cabinet Ministers, contact:

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



vancouver 2010

CONTRIBUTING TERRITORY

R(16)374 (b)

GNWT Announces New *Active After School Program*

YELLOWKNIFE (February 11, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories, in partnership with the NWT Sport and Recreation Council (NWTSRC), is pleased to announce eighteen projects in the Northwest Territories (NWT) that are a part of the new *Active After School Program*. The projects are testing various approaches aimed at getting NWT youth more physically active.

“Across Canada, the physical activity level for children and youth is very low,” said the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA). “We are investing in these pilot projects to test out new and innovative solutions to help raise the physical activity levels. If we can encourage youth to be more physically active, we can help them avoid future health problems.”

Projects across the territory will be funded and incorporate a broad range of activities, including cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, Nordic walking, hip hop, floor hockey and badminton. In some cases, the funding is being provided for much needed equipment such as soccer and basketballs; to set up fitness centres with cardio and weight machines; or to provide students with a healthy snack to fuel their play. The organizations receiving funding include:

1. Chief Jimmy Bruneau School – Behchokò;
2. Tae Kwon Do Club – Behchokò;
3. Colville Lake School – Colville Lake;
4. Ehsteo Ayha School – Deline;
5. Kaw Tay Whee School – Dettah;
6. Yellowknives Dene First Nation – Dettah;
7. Chief T-Selehye School – Fort Good Hope;
8. Chief Julius School – Fort McPherson;
9. Deh Gah Elementary – Fort Providence;
10. Deninu School – Fort Resolution;
11. Chief Sunrise Education Centre – K’átłodeeche First Nation;
12. Mini-Soccer League – Inuvik;
13. Sir Alexander Mackenzie Elementary School – Inuvik;
14. Angik School – Paulatuk;
15. Chief Paul Niditchie School – Tsiigehtchic;

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16. École J.H. Sisson's – Yellowknife;
17. École St. Joseph's School – Yellowknife; and
18. École William McDonald School – Yellowknife.

In August 2009, the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Physical Activity heard strong scientific evidence that physical activity programs held in the after school time period provide a critical opportunity to encourage young people to be more physically active as it is has become a very inactive time for youth.

“It used to be that kids would rush home from school, grab their hockey sticks or a ball and rush back out the door to play. Nowadays many kids go home and sit themselves in front of a screen. We hope this funding will provide fun and active alternatives for those kids, to the point where after school play becomes the norm,” said Ms. Bridget Larocque, Chair of the NWT SRC.

In order to qualify for the funding, schools and community groups must demonstrate they are providing activities that appeal to inactive or underactive youth, and ensure that the kids are active for a minimum of 40 out of every 60 minutes. Over the course of the program, MACA and the NWT SRC will work with the project leaders to evaluate the effectiveness of their program and help guide future investments in physical activity promotion.

The Government of the Northwest Territories 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*.

For more information, contact:

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Municipal and Community Affairs
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For media interviews with the Premier or Cabinet, contact:

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R(16)376

GNWT to Address Increased Costs of Deh Cho Bridge

YELLOWKNIFE (February 12, 2010) – The Deh Cho Bridge construction project is now expected to be \$15 million over budget, with a total price to completion of \$182 million. The cost overrun arose from the redesign of the bridge which caused a one year delay in the project, a year of lost revenue, and the requirement of new quotes for the final phase of construction.

Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod says the GNWT is fully committed to the Deh Cho Bridge. “A reliable year-round all-weather link to the south and improved transportation access to the North Slave region will provide economic benefits to the NWT for many years to come,” the Minister noted.

With the bridge now 50% completed, the GNWT has taken steps over the past several months to improve management of the project and to reduce uncertainty.

The GNWT has reached agreement with an experienced project management team to put in place an effective project control structure to ensure the successful completion of the bridge project without further delays or unexpected costs.

Negotiations for a new general contractor are in their final stages, and it is expected that a new contract will be in place by March 1, 2010. This would allow the project to remain on track for completion by November 2011, and would satisfy a key expectation of the lenders.

The Deh Cho Bridge is a joint project between the GNWT and the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation (DCBC). Under the project’s Concession Agreement, responsibility for covering cost overruns falls to the GNWT, with DCBC responsible for reimbursing the GNWT out of its revenues from the project before it receives an enhanced return.

Members of the Legislative Assembly will be asked to approve a \$15 million Supplementary Appropriation to address the higher cost of the project.

For further information, contact:

Earl Blacklock

Manager of Public Affairs and Communications

Department of Transportation

(867) 873-7712 (Office)

(867) 445-3494 (Cell)

R(16)377

GNWT Adds Milk Containers to the Beverage Container Program

YELLOWKNIFE (February 15, 2010) – Beginning today, milk containers will be part of the NWT Beverage Container Program. The initiative is part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) Waste Reduction and Recovery Program Expansion.

“I am pleased to see our Territory take this next step in expanding our environmental stewardship,” Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) J. Michael Miltenberger says. “With the continued participation of NWT residents, the addition of milk containers to the Beverage Container Program will work to keep our communities and highways litter free and reduce the waste that is added to our landfills.”

All milk and liquid milk products, including milk jugs, milk and milk substitute cartons, yogurt drink bottles, condensed or evaporated milk cans, UHT boxes, and creamer bottles will be accepted at all NWT bottle depots. Infant formula and milk and liquid milk products in containers less than 30 mL are not part of the program. Money raised through the Beverage Container Program goes into ENR's Environment Fund, which is used to cover program expenses and improve waste reduction and recovery programs.

Bottle depots will refuse to accept containers if they have a strong odour, or are not rinsed properly. NWT residents are reminded to ensure milk containers are thoroughly washed for sanitary reasons.

The Waste Reduction and Recovery Program is part of the GNWT's *Managing This Land* strategic initiative introduced to support the 16th Assembly's goal to realize an environment that will sustain present and future generations.

For more information, visit www.icarenwt.ca or contact:

Andrew Matthews
Communications Officer
Office of the Press Secretary
Premier and Executive Council
(867) 669-2302

R(16)378

NWT Visual Artists to Promote Arts and Crafts at 2010 Winter Olympics

YELLOWKNIFE (February 15, 2010) – The NWT arts and fine crafts sector are out in full force at the 2010 Winter Olympics, as territorial artists arrived in Vancouver on February 13th to promote their work and the sector to the world.

A total of 10 NWT artists will be in Vancouver during the two weeks of the 2010 Winter Games to showcase their work, but also to strengthen national and international awareness of NWT art and highlight our traditional arts and fine crafts. Two artists from each NWT region were chosen by an independent six-person panel in July 2009. Five of the artists will attend the first week of the Games, while the remaining five artists will be on hand for the second week of the Games.

“There are many great artists in the Northwest Territories and our strong presence at the 2010 Winter Olympics will give these talented NWT residents unprecedented exposure and potentially open up new markets for our arts and fine crafts sector,” says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod.

The 10 NWT visual artists attending the Games are:

South Slave:

Brandy Wilson, photography, Fort Smith
Cecile Deneyoua, moose hair tufting, Hay River

Inuvik:

Mary Okheena, printmaking, Uluhaktok
Elizabeth Drescher, sewing, Inuvik

Sahtu:

Janet Grandjambe, beadwork, Fort Good Hope
Lucy Yakelaya, beadwork, Fort Good Hope

North Slave:

Jennifer Walden, painting, Yellowknife
Jamie Look, jewellery, Yellowknife

Dehcho:

Karen Cumberland, birchbark basketry, Fort Liard
John Sabourin, carving/painting, Fort Simpson

While in Vancouver, the visual artists will put on exhibits at Canada's Northern House, take part in workshops, tell stories about the land and culture of the NWT, provide onsite demonstrations of their work and interact and collaborate with others artists and the public.

The Visual Arts Program is just one of the initiatives the Government of the Northwest Territories is undertaking during the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games to promote the NWT as a place to invest in, work and live. Support for tourism and the traditional arts and fine 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.

For more information contact:

Camilla MacEachern
Arts and Fine Crafts
Industry, Tourism and Investment
(867) 445 – 6339

R(16)379

NWT Day at Vancouver 2010 Olympics

YELLOWKNIFE (February 18, 2010) – Tomorrow, NWT Day will kick off Northern Weekend at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games - a culmination of the pan-territorial approach that has been taken by Canada's Territories to promote the North at the Vancouver Games.

Premier Floyd Roland says the upcoming weekend will also be a high point for the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)'s investment and participation as a contributing partner to the Vancouver 2010 Games.

"The Olympic Games have given us the opportunity to showcase our territory to a global audience - an unparalleled chance to demonstrate to the world the reasons why the NWT is a great place to live, invest in, and work," the Premier noted. "Our government has capitalized fully on this opportunity."

A variety of staged events, performances and promotions to promote NWT Day at Olympic venues throughout Vancouver and Whistler will conclude the day with a sold-out showcase performance during the evening's Victory Celebration at BC Place Stadium. Titled *The Drum – the Heartbeat of the North*, the performance will spotlight the arts, culture, people and places that make the NWT a unique place.

Tomorrow night's feature performance will complement and support the NWT presence that has been created through the GNWT's investment and partnerships at the 2010 Winter Games.

In particular, Canada's Northern House - a joint initiative of the Governments of the NWT, Nunavut, and Yukon - has been a focal point for visitors seeking to purchase northern products and learn more about the diverse cultures, economic potential and tourism opportunities in Canada's North. Over 70,000 visitors have visited Northern House to date.

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.

By strengthening awareness of the NWT's northern identity and uniqueness, the GNWT is also working to promote a strong and independent North, as envisioned in the 16th Assembly's Vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

For more information, visit: <http://www.gov.nt.ca/olympics/index.html>

Or contact:

Drew Williams

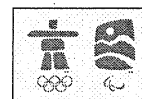
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vancouver 2010
CONTRIBUTING TERRITORY

R(16)380

Grand Opening of the Aven Cottages Territorial Dementia Facility

YELLOWKNIFE (February 17, 2010) – Residents of the Northwest Territories will now have access to long-term dementia care in the NWT at the Aven Cottages Territorial Dementia Facility.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Health and Social Services, in partnership with the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors (YACCS), Diavik Diamond Mine Inc. and many other groups and individuals who have participated in its creation today celebrated the completion and grand opening of the new Aven Cottages Territorial Dementia Facility.

“NWT residents can be very proud of this building; it’s a perfect example of how partnerships can come together to help deliver a service that residents need,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee. “We have worked with some tremendously dedicated organizations and individuals in creating this facility, and I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has been involved.”

The new facility is a result of a functional study conducted in 2003 that developed a partnership with the GNWT, YACCS and Diavik. The partnership formed to address the needs of NWT residents with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

“At Diavik, we’ve always looked to support community projects which leave a legacy and provide services which will enhance living in the North. With its focus on community health and wellness, this new facility is very much a project which fits with our vision,” said Kim Truter, President and Chief Operating Officer of Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.

“YACCS is thrilled to take on the challenge of providing care for residents with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias from across the NWT,” added Debbi Ross, 1st Vice President of the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors. “With the opening of this facility, we have achieved a key goal in fulfilling our mission to build a supportive community for the health of seniors. YACCS wants to thank our partners and the many community donors who made our dream of a dementia facility come true.”

The new Territorial Facility will provide dementia care for 28 residents. The GNWT territorial admissions committee (TAC) will receive all applications for admission to Aven Cottages. To date, the TAC has approved twelve (12) applicants for admission in late March or April of 2010.

The total construction cost is \$15.4 million - \$15 million of which was funded by the GNWT with the remaining \$450,000 raised by YACCS from community donors. YACCS will own and operate the Aven Cottages Territorial Dementia Facility under a long term agreement with the GNWT.

The new Aven Cottages Territorial Dementia Facility makes it possible for NWT residents to find the long-term care that they need without having to leave the territory, and is part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' dedicated efforts to *Create Healthy, Educated Northerners*, under the 16th Legislative Assembly's vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

LOCATION: 5710 – 50 Avenue (Beside Aven Manor and across from the Baker Centre)

DATE: Friday, February 19, 2010,
Open to the Public 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For more information, contact: Damien Healy
Manager Communications
Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 920-8927

Greg Debogorski,
Executive Director
YACCS
Tel: (867) 873-4409

Doug Ashbury
Acting Principal Advisor, Communications
Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.
Tel: (867) 669-6525

R(16)381

GNWT Encourages Youth to Take Part in Financial Fitness Challenge

YELLOWKNIFE (February 22, 2010) – The GNWT is encouraging young NWT residents to take the Financial Fitness Challenge. This annual national contest helps youth to learn about budgeting, saving and investing.

“It’s important for youth to learn about money matters,” said Donn MacDougall, Deputy Superintendent of Securities. “Young people between the ages of 15 and 21 are starting to earn money and make their own financial decisions. The Financial Fitness Challenge is a great way to help them learn how to manage, save and invest money.”

The bilingual contest is open to Canadians between the ages of 15 and 21 and runs from February 15 to April 15, 2010. Participants can compete with their friends or with other youth locally or nationally. The site also features its own Facebook page where young Canadians can exchange ideas and tips about managing money. Thirteen entries – one from each province and territory – will be randomly selected from eligible participants to win a notebook computer, and a national grand prize winner will be awarded \$2,000. Last year’s NWT winner was Rosalind Skinner of Yellowknife.

“For the past two years, the NWT has had the best participation rate in the country,” said Donn MacDougall. “I’m encouraging teachers to use the Financial Fitness Challenge as a fun and informative learning tool to support good financial behaviour among their students.”

The contest is sponsored by the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA), the council of Canadian securities administrators in all provinces and territories. They 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 Office of the Superintendent of Securities, 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.

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The Financial Fitness Challenge's website is FinancialFitnessChallenge.ca. Teachers can download classroom materials, including complete lesson plans, from the Teacher Resource Centre at FinancialFitnessChallenge.ca/Formations.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple

Communications

Department of Justice

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Megan_holsapple@gov.nt.ca

R(16)382

Education Week 2010 Focuses on Strong Attendance for Strong Minds

YELLOWKNIFE (February 23, 2010) – Teachers, students, and parents across the Northwest Territories are celebrating Education Week from February 22nd to the 26th. The theme for this year is “*Strong Attendance. Strong Minds,*” highlighting the importance of good attendance for students to succeed in school.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty said that it’s important to remember that learning is not something that starts and stops at a school’s front door. “Education is a collective responsibility,” said Minister Lafferty. “We all have roles to play in supporting the tremendous commitment that teachers provide, by ensuring that our students have the support and preparation they need to take full advantage of their education.”

In 2009 the Government of the Northwest Territories introduced the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative with the goal of eliminating the education gap between Aboriginal students and their non-Aboriginal peers. A major part of the initiative focuses on improving attendance by developing mentorship opportunities between students and Elders, creating school meal programs, and offering incentives for improved attendance.

This year also marks the 13th year of the Northwest Territories Teachers’ Association’s (NWTTA) *Thank You for Making a Difference* campaign. Each year the NWTTA receives thousands of nominations from students who want to recognize their teachers for the difference they’ve made in their lives. On Friday, February 26th, *Thank You for Making a Difference* award recipients will be announced during a ceremony at the *Hay River Celebration of Education* hosted by the NWTTA South Slave Regional Executive.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)383

Diamond Mine Employee Survey Released

YELLOWKNIFE (February 24, 2010): A survey of diamond mine employees has found that recreational opportunities, closeness to family and friends and cost of living are all key factors when they are thinking about moving to or from the Northwest Territories.

Released today, the *2009 NWT Survey of Mining Employees* was produced by the NWT Bureau of Statistics on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories and the three NWT diamond mine companies: BHP Billiton Canada Inc., Diavik Diamond Mines Inc., and De Beers Canada Inc. The survey's goal was to find out what factors motivate diamond mine employees in their decisions about residing in the NWT.

"The information obtained in this survey will be invaluable as the Government of the Northwest Territories and the diamond mining companies search for ways to attract more diamond mine employees to live in the NWT, and to retain the ones already living here," says the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod.

Direct employees from all three mines and contract employees of two of the mines were targeted in the survey. Of the employees that were targeted, 93.5 percent responded to the survey.

The survey will be analyzed by the government and the diamond mining companies to determine the opportunities and challenges there are in attracting more diamond mine employees to live in the NWT and keeping the employees already living in the territory.

The survey is one aspect of the efforts to increase employment of NWT residents at the diamond mines as outlined under the Northern Mining Workforce Initiative Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU was signed in 2008 by the Ministers of Education, Culture and Employment and Industry, Tourism and Investment and the presidents of the three diamond mines.

For more information, please contact:

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Communications Officer
Office of the Press Secretary
Government of the Northwest Territories
867-669-2302

R(16)XXX

GNWT Marks Celebration of Aboriginal Language and Culture

YELLOWKNIFE (March 1, 2010) – Originally designated in 1993 by the Assembly of First Nations, March is Aboriginal Languages Month – an opportunity for Northwest Territories students to reflect on the importance of language and culture in their lives.

Through its Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is celebrating Language Champions from each region by highlighting their efforts in newspaper and radio announcements during March.

Language Champions include elders, interpreters, translators, language instructors and other community members from each language group who go above and beyond in their support and contribution to the revitalization of Aboriginal languages.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty is encouraging Aboriginal people across the NWT to celebrate their language and culture by spending time with elders and participating in activities and community events during Aboriginal Languages Month.

“Aboriginal languages play an important role in the lives of NWT residents,” Minister of Lafferty said. “The ability of a person to use their language serves to strengthen and promote ties to the culture and identity of their communities - and contributes to the overall survival of the language.”

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is hosting an Aboriginal Languages Symposium in Yellowknife from March 30th to April 1st.

The symposium will allow representatives from language communities and other stakeholders to engage in discussions and strategies that will help revitalize and support Aboriginal languages in the NWT. The information generated from discussions at the symposium will form part of a larger GNWT strategy for supporting Aboriginal languages in the NWT.

For more information, contact:

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Education, Culture and Employment
(867) 920-6222

R(16)385

GNWT Continues Waste Paper Products Initiative

Yellowknife (March 1, 2010) - Applications are now being accepted for the second year of the Waste Paper Products Recycling Initiative in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The three-year funding initiative provides financial assistance to NWT municipalities, organizations, businesses, and individuals to initiate and develop innovative ways to reuse waste paper and cardboard products destined for landfills.

Waste paper and cardboard continues to make up a large portion of community landfills in the NWT.

Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) J Michael Miltenberger says he is looking forward to advancing creative and effective proposals to convert paper and cardboard waste into useful products that can be reused or recycled in the North.

“The potential exists for paper waste to be reused as raw materials right here in the NWT,” he said. “Through this initiative we can reduce the environmental and economic costs associated with shipping paper products south for recycling.”

In their priorities for action, the 16th Legislative Assembly have committed to supporting initiatives and investments that will promote a sustainable environment for present and future generations.

In other regions, paper products have been used to manufacture products like cellulose insulation, fuel bricks and pellets, packing materials, wallboard and animal bedding.

The deadline to apply for the Waste Paper Products Recycling Initiative is April 30, 2010. For more information, visit www.icarenwt.ca.

Or contact:

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Premier and Executive Council
(867) 669-2302

R(16)386

Finance Minister Launches Public Discussion of NWT Heritage Fund

YELLOWKNIFE (March 1, 2010) – Finance Minister J. Michael Miltenberger today launched public discussions on a proposed Heritage Fund.

“The NWT is blessed with a vast treasure of non-renewable resources,” said Minister Miltenberger. “However, once these resources are taken out of the ground they are gone forever. Our challenge is to ensure that the transformation of our non-renewable resources to dollars provides a lasting legacy for NWT residents.”

Once devolution of the NWT’s non-renewable resources is achieved, royalty revenues currently flowing to Canada will be paid to NWT governments. Although part of the revenues will be offset by lower federal transfer payments, the GNWT will face a number of choices and opportunities for the use of the net fiscal benefit.

“A Heritage Fund will allow us to protect the net revenues from resource development and make them available for investment in long-term assets for future generations,” Minister Miltenberger said.

With broad support for the concept of a heritage fund from public discussions, Minister Miltenberger says he believes the GNWT can have legislation in place to create a Heritage Fund by the end of the 16th Legislative Assembly.

The Heritage Fund discussion paper is available on the Department of Finance’s web site at www.fin.gov.nt.ca

Comments on the creation of a Heritage Fund should be submitted by **April 30, 2010** to:

Heritage Fund Discussions
Fiscal Policy Division, Department of Finance
Government of the Northwest Territories
PO BOX 1320 L-5
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2L9

Or by e-mail to: Heritage_Fund@gov.nt.ca

For more information, contact:

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R(16)387

NWT Crime Prevention Conference Begins Today

YELLOWKNIFE (March 2, 2010) – Today marks the beginning of the NWT Crime Prevention Conference in Yellowknife, with participants from every community in the territory. The theme of the conference is *Together We're Better: Preventing Crime in the NWT*.

Hosted by the Government of the Northwest Territories, the conference gives people from across the territory an opportunity to learn from each other and work together to make their communities safer places. It is supported by a grant from Public Safety Canada.

“Ensuring the safety of NWT residents requires strong partnerships between communities, the police, and other agencies,” said Minister of Justice Jackson Lafferty. “We have one of the most successful community justice programs in the country, and it’s due to the kind of collaboration that arises out of conferences like this. The GNWT is committed to strengthening the role of local people in prevention and enforcement, and this is one of the many ways we work towards that.”

The conference agenda includes:

- The role of the RCMP throughout the NWT
- Department of Justice programs such as Family Violence and Drug Awareness
- Program supports
- Building relationships in the communities

The GNWT’s Community Justice program strengthens the role of communities in prevention and enforcement. It provides funding and administrative support for justice committees to deal with youth and adult cases using a restorative approach. The committees also promote abuse-free, crime-free lifestyles and activities that lead to healthier relationships and healthier communities overall, as part of the 16th Legislative Assembly’s priority of *Creating Healthy, Educated Northerners and Sustainable, Safe Communities*.

For more information, please contact:

Megan Holsapple
Communications
Department of Justice
920-3130

R(16)388 (a)

GNWT Continues Support of Northern Manufactured Products

YELLOWKNIFE (March 2, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories has added made-in-the-NWT signs to its stable of approved Northern Manufactured Products.

Hay River's Poison Painting received the designation today for some of their sign products - standard traffic signs, park/interpretive signs, exterior building signs and project signs. The designation was made under the Business Incentive Policy's Interim Manufacturing Directive.

"The investment, jobs and incomes produced by NWT manufacturers are important to foster and maintain," says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. "I'm pleased we've been able to add these Poison Painting products to our Northern Manufactured Products fold."

Poison Painting began manufacturing signs in 2001. The company provides signage to clients such as the NWT Power Corporation, Northern Transportation Company Limited, and the Government of Nunavut.

The designated signs will be added to the list of products that have previously been designated under the directive as Northern Manufactured Products. Designed to assist in the development and growth of NWT manufacturers, the goals of the Interim Manufacturing Directive are to stimulate job creation through local production of goods and to broaden the NWT's economic base. It is one part of the GNWT's efforts to foster sustainable, vibrant communities and a diversified economy that provides all regions and communities with choices as envisioned by the 16th Legislative Assembly in *Northerners Working Together*.

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R(16)388 (6)

GNWT Begins Public Discussions on Supplementary Health Benefits

YELLOWKNIFE (March 2, 2010) - As part of public discussion surrounding the Supplementary Health Benefits programs, 'Supplementary Health Benefits – A Conversation with Northerners' has been released online at www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca. A series of town hall meetings has also been scheduled in the communities where the programs are in greatest use.

The Town Hall Meetings will include background information that has been gathered on the programs, as well as the opportunity for dialogue on potential changes that are being considered by the Department of Health and Social Services.

The schedule for the public meetings will be as follows:

Tuesday, March 23rd – Fort Simpson
Thursday, March 25th – Hay River
Monday, March 29th – Inuvik
Tuesday, March 30th – Norman Wells
Thursday, April 1st – Fort Smith
Wednesday, April 7th – Yellowknife

Additionally, community groups with a specific interest in the programs are invited to contact the Department of Health and Social Services to book additional sessions.

"We have one of the best health and social services systems in Canada," said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee. "NWT residents have access to more insured and uninsured health services than most Canadians, and we are talking about these programs because we want to ensure that we sustain this access to quality health care."

There are three existing Supplementary Health Benefits programs. The **Seniors' Benefits Program** has been developed to ensure that seniors have access to the uninsured health services that they need. The Extended Health Benefits for **Specified Medical Conditions** have been developed to help individuals and families with high medical costs related to certain types of chronic illness. The **Indigent Health Benefits** program exists to help Northerners with very low income to cover the cost of uninsured health services.

R(16)389

NWT Resident Selected for 2010 Paralympic Torch Relay

YELLOWKNIFE (March 3, 2010) – Three days after the Olympic Flame was extinguished in Vancouver, a new flame will be lit in Ottawa. The 2010 Paralympic Torch Relay begins today in Ottawa and will conclude on March 12, 2010 at the Paralympic Winter Games Opening Ceremony in Vancouver.

One torchbearer from each province and territory will participate in the lighting ceremony in Ottawa, and Katherine Elkin of Yellowknife has been selected as the torchbearer for the Northwest Territories. Katherine, a first year University of Calgary student, was selected based on her performance at various para-swim events, and for her well-rounded and balanced interests.

“Katherine will be a tremendous representative of the Northwest Territories,” said the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister Responsible for Youth and Minister Responsible for Sport. “Her dedication to sports and her volunteer efforts make her a real role model to youth in the NWT, and across Canada.”

During the 2008-2009 swimming season, Katherine represented the Northwest Territories at the Canada Summer Games in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; the Alberta Senior Championships in Medicine Hat; and at défi sportif in Montreal. She was also a volunteer coach with the Northwest Territories Special Olympics swim team while she attended high school in Yellowknife.

Through its investment in the 2010 Winter Games, the GNWT is working to promote the Olympic ideal, and the health and social benefits of participating in sport. 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*.

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R(16)391

NWT Furs in High Demand at Seattle Auction

YELLOWKNIFE (March 8, 2010): Over \$550,000 worth of Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs were sold at a wild fur sale hosted by Fur Harvester's Auction Inc. in Seattle, Washington on February 19, 2010.

NWT marten, lynx and muskrat pelts were in great demand - 96 percent of the available pelts for these species were sold at the auction. The average prices for marten, lynx and muskrat furs were also up compared to 2009 prices at the Seattle sale. Much of the interest in the furs came from buyers in China and Russia.

"These encouraging results demonstrate how much the fur industry values our Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs," says the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. "The results also indicate the market for wild furs continues to recover. This is good news for our trapping sector, and for the strength and diversity of the NWT economy overall."

In total, an estimated \$656,000 worth of Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs have been sold at two wild fur sales in 2010. The next auction where Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs will be sold is June 2, 2010 in North Bay, Ontario.

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

The GNWT's development and support of sustainable and diversified local economies is working to provide communities and regions with opportunities and choices as identified in the 16th Assembly's vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

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R(16)392

Government to Seek Authorization to Account for Deh Cho Bridge Project

YELLOWKNIFE (March 8, 2010) – Beginning March 23, 2010, the NWT Legislature will consider legislation to establish the necessary authorities to assume and administer the assets of the Deh Cho Bridge project. The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is also taking steps to assume the debt of the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation, totalling \$165 million.

Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger says assuming responsibility for the Deh Cho Bridge project will not change the GNWT's fiscal situation or the GNWT's ability to pay for programs and services. "The GNWT is already committed to the payments needed to service this debt," Minister Miltenberger said. The bridge will be financed by the savings from the elimination of the current ferry and ice bridge operations, a planned \$2 million annual contribution from the GNWT, and a toll on commercial vehicles crossing the bridge.

"We are taking steps that will allow the project to proceed with funds already committed by the lenders," Minister Miltenberger stated. The Finance Minister added that he does not expect the assumption of the DCBC debt to cause the GNWT to exceed its federally-mandated borrowing limit. "With over \$300 million in unused borrowing room as of April 1, 2010, taking on the \$165 million debt associated with the project would not immediately cause the GNWT to exceed its borrowing limit - and the Government is pursuing options to avoid that possibility, including talking to the federal government."

Minister Miltenberger will introduce a Supplementary Appropriation Act that would authorize the GNWT to show the assets associated with the Deh Cho Bridge project on the Government's books and allow expenditures to be flowed through the GNWT. Approval of the step is necessary under the *Financial Administration Act*. The bill will not request additional funding for the project. The proposed bill is the next step in the GNWT's plan to ensure that this important piece of public infrastructure is built.

Transportation Minister Michael McLeod says the decision to assume the debt was made as a result of discussions with DCBC and the project's lenders for the management of the debt. "We are continuing this project with a new contractor, a new management team, and now a new relationship with the lenders," said Minister McLeod. "We are well positioned to ensure the completion of this important transportation infrastructure project, with benefits to all NWT residents."

Once built, the Deh Cho Bridge will serve residents of the NWT for the next 75-100 years. Constructing a reliable all-weather link across the Mackenzie River will have positive effects for the NWT economy and will help reduce the cost of living for residents of the North Slave.

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R(16)393

NWT Celebrates Rendez-vous de la Francophonie

YELLOWKNIFE (March 9, 2010) - From March 5th to March 21st, Francophone communities across the Northwest Territories (NWT) are celebrating Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie (Rendez-vous). The annual event is a chance to promote and celebrate Canada's Francophone culture and language, and includes Journée internationale de la Francophonie, celebrated worldwide on March 20th. This year's theme for the Rendez-vous is *Discovery Stimulates Interaction*.

"It's important for all Northerners to be proud of their culture. I encourage people across the NWT to celebrate the Francophone language and culture by participating in activities and community events during the Rendez-vous," said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is offering students at Hay River's École Boréale the chance to learn more about French language and culture. On March 16th, two French translators from the GNWT will pay a visit to the school and hold workshops to teach students about the job of a translator. Workshops will include fun translation games and presentations about specialized translation software and what kind of education is needed to become a translator.

"I'm very excited about having these French translators in Hay River sharing their passion for language with our students at École Boréale," said Philippe Brûlot, Executive Director of the Commission scolaire francophone.

The French Cultural Association of Yellowknife is hosting a number of activities throughout the Rendez-vous, including an exhibition of art by Adele Bisailon throughout the Rendez-vous; Introduction to Guimbarde on March 9th; art workshops running until March 13th; and a French movie night on March 14th.

Other Rendez-vous events and activities in the NWT include guitar workshops at the French Cultural Association of Hay River on March 11th; *Around the World of Francophonie* on March 19th at Sir Alexander Mackenzie School and Samuel Hearn Secondary School in Inuvik, presented by the Francophone Association of the Mackenzie Delta; and a flag-raising ceremony on March 19th at Fort Smith's city hall.

For more information, contact:

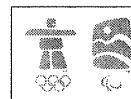
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R(16)393

Les TNO soulignent les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie

YELLOWKNIFE (le 9 mars 2010) — Du 5 au 21 mars 2010, les collectivités francophones à l'échelle des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO) soulignent les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie 2010. L'événement annuel, qui comprend la Journée internationale de la Francophonie, le 20 mars, est une occasion de promouvoir et de célébrer le français et la culture francophone du Canada. Cette année, le thème des Rendez-vous est *Découvrir pour interagir*.

« Il est important que tous les Tenois du Nord soient fiers de leur culture. J'invite les francophones à l'échelle des TNO à célébrer leur langue et leur culture en participant à des activités et à des événements communautaires lors des Rendez-vous », affirme le ministre de l'Éducation, de la Culture et de la Formation, Jackson Lafferty.

Le ministère de l'Éducation, de la Culture et de la Formation (MÉCF) offre aux élèves de l'École Boréale de Hay River l'occasion d'en apprendre davantage sur la langue française et la culture francophone. En effet, le 16 mars, deux traducteurs de langue française du MÉCF visiteront l'école et organiseront des ateliers pour faire découvrir le métier de traducteur aux élèves. Les ateliers comprendront des jeux amusants sur le thème de la traduction et seront accompagnés de présentations sur les logiciels spécialisés des langagiers et la formation nécessaire pour exercer ce métier.

« Je suis très enthousiaste à l'idée d'accueillir ces traducteurs du MÉCF à Hay River pour leur permettre de communiquer leur passion pour la langue à nos élèves de l'École Boréale », confie Philippe Brûlot, directeur général de la Commission scolaire francophone.

L'Association franco-culturelle de Yellowknife est l'hôte de plusieurs activités au cours des Rendez-vous, notamment une exposition de l'artiste Adèle Bisailon, présentée pendant toute la durée des Rendez-vous, un cours d'introduction à la guimbarde le 9 mars, des ateliers d'art jusqu'au 13 mars ainsi qu'une soirée de cinéma en français le 14 mars.

Parmi les autres événements et activités des Rendez-vous de la Francophonie qui auront lieu aux TNO, mentionnons des ateliers de guitare à l'Association franco-culturelle de Hay River le 11 mars, un Tour du monde de la francophonie le 19 mars à l'école Sir Alexander Mackenzie et à l'école secondaire Samuel Hearne d'Inuvik, présenté par l'Association des francophones du delta du Mackenzie, sans oublier une cérémonie de lever des couleurs (la levée du drapeau) le 19 mars à l'hôtel de ville de Fort Smith.

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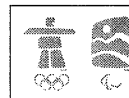
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Orthodontist signs contract in Beaufort Delta

INUVIK (March 10, 2010) – A three-year contract has been signed for a new Orthodontic provider in the Beaufort Delta. Orthodontist Dr. Alexis David of Nanaimo, B.C. has signed a three-year contract that comes into effect April 1 until March 31, 2013. Dr. David's first clinic will be held the first week of May 2010.

"The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to ensuring all NWT residents have access to the care they need," said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee, "and I'm thrilled that we are able to provide these services to the Beaufort Delta."

If orthodontist work is required, the patient is scheduled for an appointment in Inuvik by the Beaufort Delta Health and Social Services Authority for the scheduled Orthodontic Clinic at the Inuvik Hospital. Currently there are between 50 and 60 active patients.

"Maintaining good oral health is essential to overall health and well-being," said Minister Lee. "This is an opportunity for Beaufort Delta residents in need of oral hygiene and orthodontic services to utilize these essential services in their own region."

Funded by Health Canada, the Western Arctic Dental Clinic, based out of Inuvik, is contracted as a service provider for scheduled dental treatment for all the Beaufort Delta communities. Health Canada has worked closely with Government of the Northwest Territories Health Services officials to have this important service reinstated to the region.

This team works with Health Centre personnel in each community and the Community Corporations to schedule appointments. For example, in the seven communities surrounding Inuvik, a total of 26 dental visits consisting of 244 days was scheduled in 2008-09.

The addition of this essential service falls under the Wellness vision of *A Foundation for Change*, the Department of Health and Social Services' recent Action Plan that maintains prevention through personal responsibility will ensure people are healthy and protected from disease.

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R(16)395

New RCMP Commanding Officer Appointed

YELLOWKNIFE (March 11, 2010) – Chief Superintendent Wade Blake, a 29-year veteran of the RCMP, has been appointed the new Commanding Officer for “G” Division, responsible for overseeing Northwest Territories RCMP operations.

“Chief Superintendent Blake is well known for his commitment to alternative justice approaches and community policing,” said Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Justice. “He is very familiar with the needs of small aboriginal communities without on-site detachments, and has spent significant amounts of time working on family violence issues and crime prevention. I am confident that we are in good hands.”

As the senior officer of “G” Division, Chief Superintendent Blake will be responsible for providing leadership to RCMP across the Northwest Territories. He will also have a critical role in strengthening RCMP relations with communities, government agencies and institutions, and non-government organizations.

Commanding Officer Blake was born and raised in Goose Bay, Labrador and began his career with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1978 as a detachment guard and Auxiliary Constable, and became a regular member of the RCMP in 1980. Following training at Depot, he was posted to “E” Division (BC) and served at Coquitlam, Boston Bar and Kelowna. He then went on to “G” Division (NWT) in 1989, serving at the Fort Smith detachment. In 1992, Chief Superintendent Blake transferred to “B” Division (NL), serving at Placentia, Hopedale, St. John’s, Conne River and Goose Bay. In 2002, he transferred to “H” Division (NS), serving as the District Commander for Cumberland County. In 2004 he received his Commission to the rank of Inspector and was the first Officer in Charge of the integrated detachment at Spruce Grove/Stony Plain in Alberta.

Over the course of his service, Chief Superintendent Blake has worked on General Duties, Traffic Services, Aboriginal Policing, Drugs, Criminal Intelligence Unit, Northern Isolated Posts and Contract Policing. He is a trained hostage negotiator, mediator, and harassment facilitator, and is an adjudicator for RCMP code-of-conduct hearings. Chief Superintendent Blake is a recipient of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Long Service Medal, RCMP Bronze Clasp, Queen’s Jubilee Medal and the Alberta Centennial Medal.

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“Northern policing isn’t simply a job, but also a lifestyle” said Minister Lafferty. “We need members with a strong sense of community; members who understand just how important their role is in strengthening safety networks in our communities; members who have a focus on prevention and rehabilitation. I’m very pleased to welcome Chief Superintendent Blake back to the NWT and I look forward to working with him to continue the efforts of his predecessor, Chief Superintendent Tom Middleton.”

The RCMP are key to the Government of the Northwest Territories’ vision of strong individuals, families and communities sharing the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustainable and prosperous Northwest Territories. They are major partners in the work to increase police presence and strengthen the role of communities in prevention and enforcement.

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R(16)396

GNWT Sponsors Candidate Critical Wildlife Area in South Slave

YELLOWKNIFE (March 19, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories reaffirmed its commitment to the environment this week with its sponsorship of the Buffalo Lake, River and Trails Area of Interest under the NWT Protected Areas Strategy. Situated in the South Slave Region, the area is the first site to receive sponsorship from the GNWT, with another 20 Areas of Interest in the process of assessment.

“We have a pristine natural environment in the Northwest Territories, and our government is dedicated to ensuring that it remains pristine for the use of future generations,” said Minister Miltenberger, “The Protected Areas Strategy is one way that we can identify areas of particular importance and ensure that they are preserved.”

The sponsored area is adjacent to Wood Buffalo National Park. It is 2,177 square kilometres and includes the western portion of Buffalo Lake (Ejje Túé), the lower Buffalo River (Ejje Túé Dehe) and traditional trails. A map of the area is attached.

The area has been an important traditional hunting, trapping and berry harvesting area to the K’atł’odeeche First Nation for generations. The site is used by many harvesters for hunting in the fall, and provides critical habitat for moose, beaver, waterfowl, and spawning fish.

The Kátlódeche First Nation has been working on protection of Buffalo Lake, River and Trails for five years. Following this sponsorship, a working group will be formed to advance the area through the process identified in the Protected Areas Strategy. Ecological, mineral and renewable resource assessments will be completed to inform the working group in making recommendations to ENR on boundary location and management objectives for a future Critical Wildlife Area.

The NWT Protected Areas Strategy outlines a community-based process to protect natural and cultural lands across the NWT. It recognizes the need to preserve important ecological and cultural values and provide opportunities for economic development while respecting Aboriginal rights, third party interests and land-use planning processes.

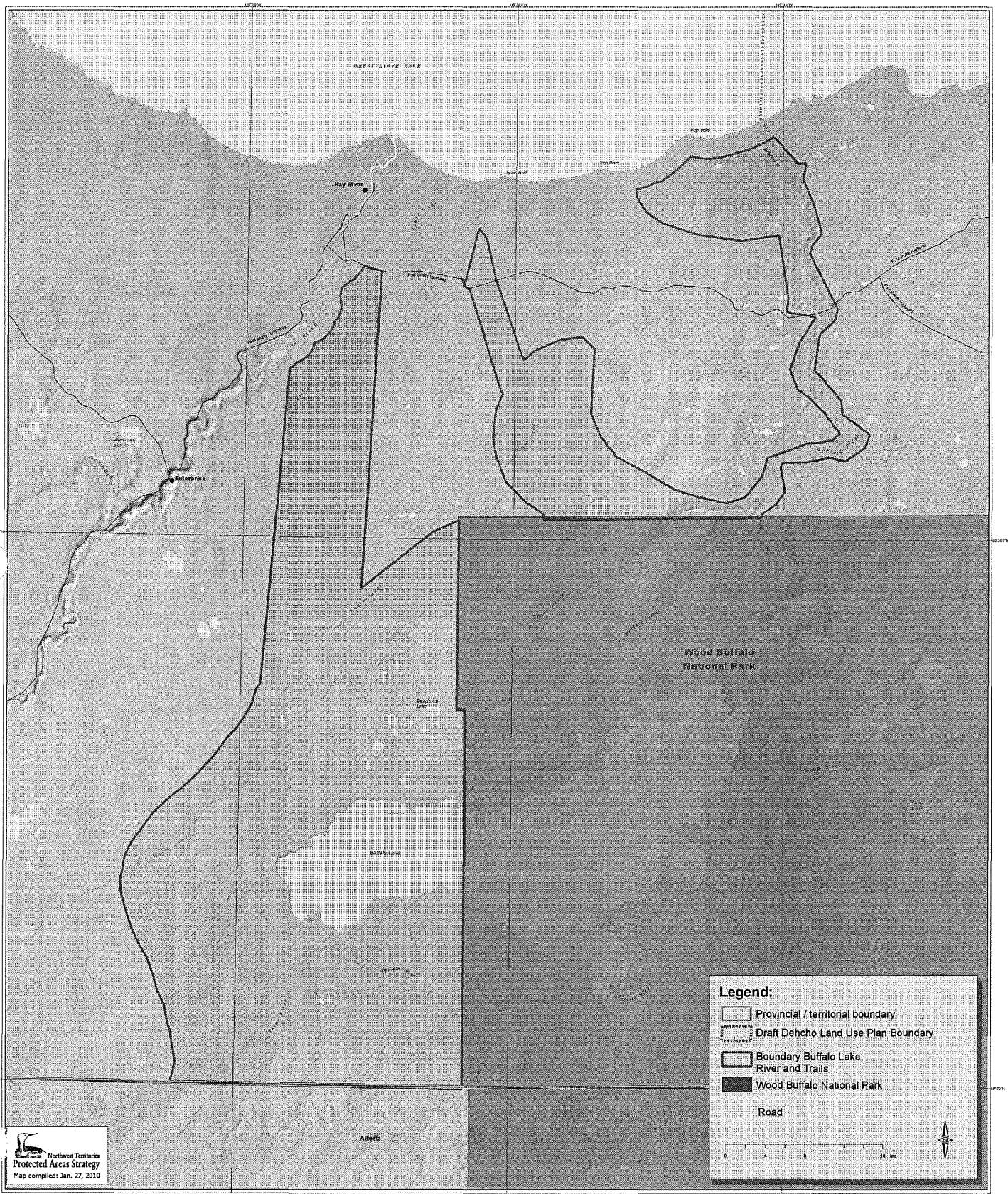
For more information, contact:

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Buffalo Lake, River and Trails



R(16)397

GNWT Marks Social Work Week

YELLOWKNIFE (March 22, 2010) – Social workers across the NWT are celebrating Social Work Week this March 22nd to 26th. This year's theme is *Social Workers Speaking Up: Poverty Costs*.

Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee acknowledged the valuable contribution made to children, communities and families by social workers in the NWT.

“Social work is a profession concerned with helping individuals, families, groups and communities to enhance their collective well-being,” said Minister Lee. “With our recent action plan, ‘A Foundation for Change’, we are in the process of developing a formal vision for a spectrum of programs and services to improve the quality of life of NWT residents. Social work is a fundamental component of achieving that.”

Part of the process will modernize existing legislation with a Social Worker Act, which will set educational and other licensing requirements and establish formal complaints and disciplinary processes.

For more information on social workers, visit the Department of Health and Social Services' website at www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca

The GNWT will be hosting a public display booth at the Centre Square Mall during the week of March 22 – 26, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., to show how social workers make a difference in the communities in which they work. Members of the public and media are invited.

Date: Monday, March 22 to Friday, March 26, 2010

Time: 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Where: Centre Square Mall

For more information, contact:

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Health and Social Services
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R(16)398

GNWT, Gwich'in Tribal Council Sign MOU

INUVIK (March 22, 2010) - A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Gwich'in Tribal Council. The MOU sets the terms for the completion of a project description report (PDR) for the section of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway that goes through the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod said the MOU is an important step toward the construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway. "We've always believed this Highway will require partnerships with those down the Valley and to the Arctic Coast," he said. "This MOU ensures the participation of the Gwich'in Tribal Council for the section of the Highway going across the Gwich'in Settlement Area to help ensure the priorities of the Gwich'in are reflected in decisions related to that section."

Gwich'in Tribal Council President Richard Nerysoo welcomed the opportunity to partner with the Department of Transportation. "Our people have developed skills and capabilities to allow them to be full partners on any project on our lands," he said. "We look forward to working with the Government of Northwest Territories to further develop our transportation infrastructure, promote a sustainable economy and provide economic opportunities."

The construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway is supported by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and has been identified as a priority of the 16th Legislative Assembly of the NWT. The PDR for the Gwich'in Settlement Area will be part of a broad PDR for the entire Mackenzie Valley Highway from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk. The completion of the overall PDR will set the stage for the environmental assessment and regulatory review process.

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Richard Nerysoo

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R(16)XXX

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Hosts 2010 Northern Housing Forum in Inuvik, NT

INUVIK (March 22, 2010) – The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) is pleased to welcome delegates from around the world to share best practices in circumpolar housing construction at the Northern Housing Forum being held in Inuvik from March 22-25th, 2010.

“The Forum will highlight northern housing research, design, and construction while fostering relationships with others who deliver housing in northern climates. It will provide an opportunity for stakeholders from across the circumpolar world to share the designs and technologies that are appropriate for our northern environment,” said the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister Responsible for the NWT HC.

“The Government of Canada is pleased to support the Northern Housing Forum as part of our commitment to sustainable housing and communities,” said the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). “Building on innovations such as the Northern Sustainable House initiative will enable us to find solutions to the unique housing challenges of Canada's Arctic communities.”

Dynamic keynote speakers, panel members and delegates from around the world will come together in Inuvik to participate in the Northern Housing Forum. Experts from Sweden, Finland, Norway, the United States, and Canada will challenge delegates to envision new ways to improve energy efficiencies, housing design and delivery.

Scheduled panels will cover topics ranging from climate change and adaptive strategies for the North, strategies examining existing buildings and how they can be made more energy efficient, costing lessons, capacity building in arctic communities and much more. There will be a focus on emerging technologies and new approaches to the creation of real-world sustainable, affordable and highly efficient buildings that exceed expectations in a northern climate.

Minister McLeod added that the NWT HC is committed to constructing homes that meet the most stringent energy efficiency standards while remaining affordable.

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“To maintain the highest standards we must have the very best information. It’s by sharing experiences from architects, researchers, contractors, tradespersons and other housing professionals from across northern Canada and other arctic nations that we can learn what is working in the field and what can be applied in the Northwest Territories to the sustainable housing future we are building for northerners.”

For more information about the Northern Housing Forum, 2010, go to www.nhf2010.ca.

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R(16)400

World Tuberculosis Day is March 24, 2010

YELLOWKNIFE (March 24, 2010) – The GNWT is recognizing World Tuberculosis Day today, March 24th, to raise awareness of the disease that causes the deaths of roughly 1.6 million people each year. While most common in the 3rd world, tuberculosis continues to be present in the Northwest Territories.

“Tuberculosis is a curable disease if caught in time,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee. “It’s important that people be reminded that TB is still a reality in the Northwest Territories. The GNWT is dedicated to ensuring that we have a healthy, engaged population, and encouraging people to keep informed about their health is a first step towards that.”

In the Northwest Territories, the rate of TB infection is four to five times the national average. TB rates are highest among the Aboriginal population. In the past three years, there have been TB outbreaks amongst the homeless population in Yellowknife and in the general population in the Sahtu Health Authority. Today, about 30 per cent of NWT residents have latent TB infections in their bodies.

Ongoing education and awareness about TB in the NWT are critical components for early diagnosis. The Government of the Northwest Territories continues to run an anti-tuberculosis campaign called “Think TB”. The campaign targets both the public and healthcare providers to raise awareness of the symptoms of the disease, and the importance of proper testing. More information can be found on the campaign at all health offices in the NWT.

For more information about tuberculosis and how it is spread, visit the Department of Health and Social Services’ website at www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca.

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R(16)401

Community of Fort Resolution Celebrates Hamlet Status

YELLOWKNIFE (March 26, 2010) – In January 2010, Fort Resolution officially became the Northwest Territories' newest hamlet. Today, the community of Fort Resolution is celebrating this major milestone.

Fort Resolution's decision to take on the added responsibilities that come with hamlet status was taken after much reflection, and will allow the community to have greater authority over its own development and governance. New responsibilities include administering bylaws, acquisition and disposition of property, infrastructure and program development, and overseeing land development and management plans.

“Attaining hamlet status goes a long way to fulfilling this Government's commitment to support strong, independent sustainable communities,” said Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community and Affairs. “With hamlet status, the community of Fort Resolution will be able to set out, undertake, and achieve the goals that the community feels will most benefit its residents.”

Helping take on the new responsibilities that come with hamlet status is the community's first ever hamlet council, which was elected in December 2009. Judging by the interest that the election generated and the high levels of participation, the community is well on its way to embracing its new hamlet status.

The successful change in status of Fort Resolution is part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' strategic initiative of *Managing this Land* which continues to focus on developing governance at the community level.

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R(16)402

Territorial Government Aims to Revitalize Traditional Languages at Aboriginal Languages Symposium

YELLOWKNIFE (March 25, 2010) – The sustainability and revitalization of the Northwest Territory's (NWT) Aboriginal languages is front and centre as more than 200 delegates from across the territory attend the Aboriginal Languages Symposium, March 30th to April 1st, in Yellowknife at the Explorer Hotel.

The Symposium is hosted by the Government of the Northwest Territories and is themed *Our Languages – A Shared Responsibility*. Guided by an advisory group made up of language community representatives, it includes delegates representing NWT Aboriginal language communities, language professionals, Elders, youth and Aboriginal organizations.

Improving the vitality of Aboriginal languages is a key priority for Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty, who is co-chairing the Symposium with Kevin Menicoche, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Nahendeh and Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

“Language helps define who we are and is an integral part of our culture and heritage. This Symposium is an important component of the GNWT’s efforts to support language communities and their work to revitalize their languages,” said Minister Lafferty. “I’m looking forward to good, open discussions about the issues facing our territory’s Aboriginal language communities.”

“Aboriginal languages are critical to our identity as a people with a rich past and a promising future,” said Mr. Menicoche. “We will be working together at this symposium to preserve the Aboriginal languages that define us, and to encourage and promote the use and growth of these traditional languages, so that we can more strongly connect our people – especially our youth - to their culture and heritage.”

Over the course of the Symposium, participants will explore reasons why the use of Aboriginal languages is declining and search for innovative ways to revitalize their use. The information generated from the Symposium will form part of a larger government strategy for revitalizing official Aboriginal languages in the NWT.

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For additional information about the Symposium or to pre-register, contact:

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R(16)403

New NWT Drug Awareness Campaign Launched Today

HAY RIVER (March 29, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories’ new anti-drug campaign, Not Us, launched today in Hay River.

This program provides funding and support for local campaigns that meet the needs of individual communities. It is designed to be flexible and to support communities to fight their local addictions issues.

“This campaign is about empowerment,” said Minister of Justice Jackson Lafferty. “It focuses on prevention by promoting healthy choices and lifestyles, and the role of personal and family responsibility. I want people to know that they can tell drug dealers they’re not welcome in our communities. I want kids to know they don’t need drugs to feel good. I want elders to know they can be safe from the crime that comes with drug dealing.”

The campaign is expected to be slightly different in each community. Community groups, schools, even individuals can create their own “Not Us” materials using the campaign website, www.not-us.ca.

“The NWT-wide campaign reflects community values,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee. “It’s designed to work with local programs and reflect local priorities. This is the beginning of a new territorial Not Us anti-drug campaign. But for people in Hay River, it’s also the result of many months of planning and it complements the good work they have already done on the Hay River Drug Strategy.”

The Not Us campaign is funded as a strategic activity under the GNWT’s *Building Our Future* initiative. It supports the GNWT’s goals of supporting communities to be sustainable, vibrant and safe, and supporting NWT residents to be healthy and educated. The campaign was developed through the Healthy Choices Framework with support from the RCMP and the departments of Justice; Health and Social Services; Education, Culture and Employment; Municipal and Community Affairs; and Executive. The launch event is hosted by the departments of Justice and Health and Social Services and the Hay River Interagency Committee.

.../2

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R(16)404

Winter Road Closures Begin in the NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (March 30, 2010) – The winter road season in the Northwest Territories is coming to an end. The first closures of the season will take place on Wednesday, March 31st at 23:59. These will affect the following winter roads along the Mackenzie Valley: Wrigley, Tulita, Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake, and Deline. Also closing for the season are the Nahanni Butte and Trout Lake winter roads.

The average 10 year closure date for the Mackenzie Valley winter road system is March 30th. The Liard River and N'dulee ice crossings will remain open, but travellers should be prepared for sudden closures or delays.

The Tlicho winter roads will be placed on night travel only effective Wednesday, March 31st. Travel will only be permitted on these roads from 8:00pm until 10:00am from Wednesday until the end of the season. This affects the winter roads to Whati, Gameti and Wekweeti.

All other winter roads, ice crossings, and community access roads in the NWT remain open to traffic at this time, but sudden closures and delays may be expected.

Travellers should consult the Department of Transportation website at www.dot.gov.nt.ca or call the toll free information line at 1-800-661-0750 before travelling for the most up-to-date information on all NWT winter roads and ice crossings.

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[with corrections from earlier version]

R(16)405

Aa1 Credit Rating Confirmed for GNWT

YELLOWKNIFE (April 6, 2010) — Minister of Finance J. Michael Miltenberger says the high investment grade credit rating from Moody's Investors Service continues to provide assurance that the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) fiscal plans are sound, even with the assumption of \$165 million in debt related to the Deh Cho Bridge.

Moody's Investors Service published its credit opinion on the GNWT summarizing its rationale for the GNWT's Aa1 credit rating on March 26, 2010.

Moody's rating takes into account recent developments related to the Deh Cho Bridge project. The credit opinion notes that Moody's "had already included the Deh Cho Bridge liability in our calculations of the NWT's net direct and indirect debt, reflecting the government's debt-like obligation to make periodic availability payments. As such, formal assumption of the related debt is not expected to alter the NWT's credit profile in a material way."

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.

"The GNWT has just begun a new fiscal year and the measures included in our 2010-11 Budget are now being implemented, including more than \$200 million in planned capital investments, not including the Deh Cho Bridge" Minister Miltenberger said. "Our government's fiscal plan includes some short term borrowing to provide NWT residents and businesses breathing room while the economic recovery takes hold."

The Minister, however, repeated his Budget caution: "Our fiscal plan must include measures to return to a sustainable path. That means maintaining control of spending growth and returning to historical levels of capital investment in future budget years."

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.

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R(16)406

GNWT Working to Increase Representation of Persons With Disabilities

YELLOWKNIFE (April 6, 2010) – A new committee working to increase the representation of persons with disabilities in the GNWT workforce first met last week in Yellowknife. Composed of representatives from both the GNWT and community groups, the committee will work together to recommend actions that the government can take to support persons with disabilities and increase the opportunities of meaningful work in the public service.

“I’m glad that this effort is underway,” said Minister of Human Resources Bob McLeod. “Our government is committed to ensuring a diverse and vibrant workforce in the public service, and this committee and their work will help us further that cause.”

Members of the committee include representatives from Autism Northwest Territories, the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, the Canadian Mental Health Association, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the NWT Council of Person with Disabilities and the Yellowknife Association for Community Living. GNWT representatives have also been picked from across the territory, including co-chairs Sheila Bassi-Kellett, Assistant Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, and Tom R. Williams, Deputy Minister of Human Resources.

Fostering a spirit of inclusion and awareness among GNWT employees across the north through promotion and support of persons with disabilities ties in with Goal 2 of the GNWT’s *20/20: A Brilliant North, NWT Public Service Strategic Plan*. A full copy of the plan can be found through the Department of Human Resources’ website at <http://www.hr.gov.nt.ca/2020plan/>

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R(16)407

Time Capsule Exhibit Offers View of Northern Life

YELLOWKNIFE (April 1, 2010) - The creative works of Northern youth have become part of Northwest Territories (NWT) history, as the International Polar Year Youth Time Capsule Project exhibit has opened at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC).

Designed to communicate the spirit of Northern community life through the eyes of Northern young people, the exhibit features selections of art, poetry, stories, photography and videos submitted by youth from across the NWT, Yukon and Nunavut. In September, the time capsule will be stored away at the territorial museum and will not be reopened until the next International Polar Year in 2035.

“The diversity and talent of the work on display is truly impressive,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “The exhibit really captures the unique experience of being a young person in the North, and I know that it will be a valuable component of this and future International Polar Years.”

Youth are encouraged to come to the territorial museum and view the submissions featured in the exhibit, or to contribute to the time capsule by creating a piece on site. Individuals who can't make it to the museum in person can view the exhibit online at the PWNHC website, at <http://pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca/>

The project was developed by the International Polar Year Youth Time Capsule Project Committee with funding from the Government of Canada. It is based on the understanding that meaningful youth participation is essential to ensuring the lasting legacy of the International Polar Year.

For more information about the International Polar Year Youth Time Capsule Project, contact:

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R(16)408

Premier Salutes Fred Carmichael – Order of Canada Recipient

YELLOWKNIFE (April 7, 2010) - Premier Floyd K Roland says today's investiture of Fred Carmichael as a Member of the Order of Canada is a fitting tribute for one of the North's foremost business and political leaders.

"Mr. Carmichael has been a tireless lifelong advocate for greater autonomy on behalf of the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit people," the Premier noted.

Mr. Carmichael is a widely recognized and respected pioneer of the Northwest Territories aviation industry. The first Aboriginal person to be licensed in the NWT as a commercial pilot, he built two successful air transport companies in the Mackenzie Delta (Reindeer Air and Antler Aviation) - employing and training northern and Aboriginal people long before the introduction of formal affirmative action policies.

He is also one of the founders of the Aboriginal Pipeline Group (APG) which, under his leadership, has negotiated a one-third ownership of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline to ensure significant, long-term benefits for NWT residents.

"Fred's work and commitment to promoting greater self-sufficiency and self-reliance for Aboriginal people through the establishment of a sound and viable economic foundation serves as a model for capacity building throughout our Territory" Premier Roland said.

The Order of Canada was created in 1967, during Canada's centennial year, to recognize a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation.

Mr Carmichael was honoured this morning by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada at a ceremony at Rideau Hall. He was recognized as a revered mentor, highly respected by Native leaders throughout Canada for his innovation, commitment and accomplishments.

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R(16)409

GNWT Commemorative Ceremony marks End of an Era

Yellowknife (April 7, 2010) –The Government of the Northwest Territories will host a commemorative ceremony Friday (Vimy Ridge Day) at the Yellowknife Cenotaph beginning at 11:00am to honour the memory of all First World War veterans.

The recent passing of Canada's last First World War Veteran marked the end of an era in Canadian military history. NWT residents are invited to join with people across Canada in remembering the men and women who served Canada during the First World War.

“It is important that we pay tribute to the achievements and contributions of all Canadian First World War Veterans,” says Premier Floyd K Roland. “We have been handed a rich legacy of peace, freedom and identity and it's now up to us to preserve and pass on this legacy to future generations.”

Flags will be flown at half-mast on all GNWT and Government of Canada buildings in the NWT from sunrise to sunset on Friday to honour Canadians who served during the First World War.

Yellowknife residents are also invited to sign a Book of Reflection, commemorating all Canadians who served during the First World War, currently on display at Yellowknife City Hall until 5:00 p.m., April 12th.

A number of other significant ceremonies of remembrance will be held April 9th in many capital cities across Canada, as well as in France and in England.

For more information on other End of an Era ceremonies, please visit www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general.

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R(16)410

MOU to Advance Mackenzie Highway in the Sahtu

TULITA (April 8, 2010) – A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed yesterday in Tulita will guide and advance work to complete a Project Description Report (PDR) for the construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway in the Tulita District of the Sahtu Settlement Area.

The agreement is between the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Tulita Land District representing the Tulita Land Corporation, the Norman Wells Land Corporation, the Fort Norman Métis Land Corporation, and the Tulita Dene Band.

The PDR for the Sahtu Settlement Area is one part of a larger PDR for the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway, from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk. It will ensure all necessary issues and factors have been considered before beginning the environmental assessment and regulatory review process.

Funding for this PDR work is being jointly provided by the Government of Canada's Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and the GNWT.

Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod says the signing brings the NWT closer to the eventual construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway. "Cooperation between these four organizations and the GNWT is vital," he notes. "The ability for all of us to work together ensures the priorities and concerns of the residents of this area are fully considered and addressed."

"The four Tulita District organizations are pleased to be participating in this important project to plan for the approximately 265 kilometres of this highway that runs through the Tulita District" said Ethel Blondin-Andrew, President of 5658 NWT Ltd, the company formed by the four Tulita organizations to undertake this project. "We are looking forward to working with the GNWT, particularly on the consultations that will ensure the views of our people are considered in the planning for this project."

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Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya says he's pleased to see progress on the Mackenzie Valley Highway. "This is an important step towards transportation infrastructure that will unite the Sahtu region with the rest of the NWT and strengthen the ties between our people," he said. "It is appropriate that this agreement will ensure the participation of Sahtu residents in this much anticipated highway development that is so important for our future."

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R(16)411

Campaign to Promote NWT as a Place to Live and Work

YELLOWKNIFE (April 8, 2010) -- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has introduced a national marketing campaign to convince residents of select regional jurisdictions across Canada to consider living and working in the Northwest Territories. The *Come Make Your Mark* campaign was launched in the northern Ontario communities of Timmins, Sudbury, North Bay and Sault Ste. Marie today.

“The GNWT has high hopes for the Come Make Your Mark campaign,” says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “Our territory provides tremendous opportunities to those who choose to live here. We believe this campaign will convince Canadians living elsewhere that the NWT is indeed a place where they can make their mark.”

“The NWT Chamber of Commerce fully supports this GNWT initiative,” says NWT Chamber of Commerce President Ann Marie Tout. “Our organization, which includes 865 members from across the territory, has identified staffing as a major challenge for NWT businesses. Having a sustained marketing campaign promoting the NWT across Canada as a great place to work and live in will play an important role in helping our businesses meet this challenge.”

“NWT communities are encouraged by this campaign,” says NWT Association of Communities President Gordon Van Tighem. “Promoting our culturally diverse and vibrant communities as places to work and live in will lead to a stronger territory.”

While the campaign has been launched in northern Ontario, it will also reach out to other regions across Canada, including Atlantic Canada (Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia), southern and eastern Ontario, Quebec and northern B.C. through a phased in approach. A website, www.comemakeyourmark.ca, has been developed to provide information about the campaign and the territory. NWT residents are encouraged to log onto the website and share their stories about the benefits of working and living in the NWT.

The *Come Make Your Mark* marketing campaign is part of the 16th Legislative Assembly’s Maximizing Opportunities strategic initiative, which continues to focus on ensuring the NWT economy is balanced, diversified and sustainable.

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R(16)412

Symposium – Step Toward Revitalizing Aboriginal Languages

YELLOWKNIFE (April XX, 2010) - Participants in last week's Aboriginal Languages Symposium are grading it as a success and an important step toward a new strategy for the preservation and revitalization of the Northwest Territories' (NWT) official Aboriginal languages.

Approximately 200 delegates from NWT official languages communities, including elders, youth, language speakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders gathered to discuss reasons why use of the Territories' Aboriginal languages is declining and how to increase their use.

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty, co-chaired the Symposium with Nahendeh MLA Kevin Menicoche, Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations. Both are expressing a great deal of appreciation to those who organized and attended the event.

"Everybody came ready to talk about this important issue. We heard concerns and ideas, shared best practices and identified our vision for the future of our languages," Minister Lafferty said. "I was struck by the level of passion and commitment in the room. Our Elders inspired us not to forget where we come from. Everyone responded to their words and jumped to action."

Like Lafferty, co-chair Kevin Menicoche was similarly impressed by what was accomplished at the Symposium. "The Symposium has begun a new foundation by the Aboriginal people of the NWT to ensure our languages will survive," Menicoche said.

The outcomes of the Aboriginal Languages Symposium will be posted on the Department of Education, Culture and Employment website. In follow-up to the Symposium, a strategy to revitalize and support official Aboriginal languages will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in October 2010.

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R(16)413

Website Launched Strategic Plan for GNWT Public Service

YELLOWKNIFE (April 12, 2010) – A new website is providing the means for GNWT employees and the NWT public to receive information and provide feedback on the GNWT’s strategic plan for the NWT Public Service - *20/20: A Brilliant North*.

The website outlines the direction the public service will take in the next 10 years and describes how these improvements will improve service delivery and benefit employees.

“We are working hard to achieve the GNWT’s strategic priority of effective and efficient government” says Minister of Human Resources Bob McLeod. “Since the release of *20/20: A Brilliant North* in June, 2009, we have advanced accomplishments in many areas. This website will be an important information resource for employees and the public as we improve human resource management and deliver public service with a public focus.”

The *20/20: A Brilliant North* website will be updated regularly with goal accomplishments describing the progress of the strategic plan, and updates on employee involvement will be posted as programs and services evolve.

A permanent link to the page can be found through the Department of Human Resources Website at: www.hr.gov.nt.ca/2020plan.

Feedback is welcome.

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R(16)414

EnerGuide for Houses Program Still Available in the NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (April 16, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories will continue its program to help homeowners improve the energy efficiency of their homes despite the decision by the Government of Canada to close the federal ecoEnergy Retrofit Program for Homes to new participants.

“Energy efficiency is one of the best ways for NWT residents to control the high cost of living and reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” said Environment and Natural Resources Minister J. Michael Miltenberger. “We have seen an increase in the number of homeowners asking for this service, and the Arctic Energy Alliance has worked hard to make sure that it is available in all of our communities.”

The GNWT will continue to support the Arctic Energy Alliance (AEA) to provide homeowners with advice and incentives to make homes more energy efficient.

The recent federal government announcement means that only homeowners who had booked a pre-assessment as of March 31, 2010 will be eligible to apply for federal incentives. The AEA, with funding provided by the GNWT, will continue to offer home assessments in the NWT based on the EnerGuide for Houses (EGH) rating system. Under the old system, homeowners needed to schedule a second assessment to be eligible for federal incentives that were then matched by the GNWT. The AEA will now offer a simplified program that will allow homeowners to access rebates for home energy efficiency improvements.

The Energy Efficiency Incentive Program will continue to provide rebates for eligible homeowners who purchase Energy Star equipment and appliances. Doors, windows and insulation will be added to this list of rebates available to NWT residents. EGH assessments will no longer be required for home energy improvement rebates.

Additionally, as of May 3, 2010, the EGH assessments offered by the AEA will be improved. The EGH Advisor will measure the energy performance rating of a home and then spend more time discussing the results and recommendations. The EGH Advisor will also help the homeowner install some simple improvements such as programmable thermostats, hot water tank blankets or low flow showerheads.

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R(16)415

Kids' 'Parkas' Adorn Territorial Legislature

YELLOWKNIFE (April 20, 2010) - With spring approaching, kids across the Northwest Territories are shedding their parkas – at least in one way. As a part of National Child Day, celebrated annually on November 20th, youngsters in early childhood programs across the Northwest Territories (NWT) decorated paper parkas symbolizing the rights of children everywhere to be cared for, provided for and protected. The Government of the Northwest Territories is now proudly displaying nearly 200 of the colourful creations at the Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife.

“It’s tremendous to see the creativity on display, especially knowing the importance of what these parkas represent,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “Our government is committed to ensuring that children have all the opportunities and chances that we can provide, and I encourage people to come see the display to show their support for children’s rights.”

Lining the front windows of the Legislature until April 27th, the parkas are a reminder of the rights of children as outlined in the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Through its investment in early childhood education, the Government of the Northwest Territories is working to build our future by creating opportunities for children to learn and succeed. 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*.

For more information on the display, contact:

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R(16)XXX

Update on Winter Road Conditions in the NWT

FORT SIMPSON (April 21, 2009) – With the closure for the season of the Tuktoyaktuk and Aklavik Ice Roads on Tuesday, April 20, and the closure at noon today of the Liard Ice Crossing near Fort Simpson, there remain only two ice crossings still open in the NWT: the Peel River Ice Crossing near Fort McPherson and the Mackenzie River Ice Crossing near Tsiigehechic. Both are expected to close before the end of the coming weekend.

The 2009-2010 season for the NWT's system of Winter Roads, Ice Roads, and Ice Crossings has been noteworthy for the challenges faced by maintenance crews to keep the system going during unseasonably warm temperatures. Crews dealt as much as possible with surface melting conditions as they arose.

Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod praised the dedication and expertise of those who made this season's season a success. "These hard-working crews do a remarkable job of keeping our communities accessible," he said. "We all owe those responsible for our winter road system a debt of gratitude for helping to ensure that our communities are able to receive the goods and materials they need."

The 2010 ferry season is expected to begin in mid- to late May.

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R(16)417

National Immunization Awareness Week is April 24 – May 1, 2010

YELLOWKNIFE (April 26, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories is recognizing National Immunization Awareness Week from April 24th to May 1st. The theme of this year's campaign is *Immunization Saves Lives*. It focuses on reminding people about the importance of vaccines in helping to prevent diseases, and on informing travelers of the importance of having up-to-date immunizations when vacationing outside of Canada.

“Vaccines are a well-proven way to protect people from preventable diseases like measles, tetanus, Hepatitis B and bacterial meningitis,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee. “Our government is committed to ensuring a healthy population, and encouraging people to protect themselves against preventable diseases is an important first step.”

The Northwest Territories continues to outpace much of the rest of the country in terms of immunization coverage rates. According to the most recent NWT statistics, the NWT has a coverage rate of 86 per cent while the rate across Canada is 72 per cent.

The Government of the Northwest Territories' strategic vision of Northerners Working Together includes as a goal the creation of healthy educated Northerners, through efforts such as vaccination initiatives. The Department of Health and Social Services' “A Foundation for Change” action plan is based on the principle that individuals and families help address their own health and social needs by making healthy choices.

For more information about immunization, visit the Department of Health and Social Services' website at www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca

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R(16)418

DNA Testing Confirms Hybrid Bear Shot Near Ulukhaktok

YELLOWKNIFE (April 30, 2010) – DNA testing has confirmed that a bear shot near Ulukhaktok last month is a hybrid bear, but not a first generation polar/grizzly bear hybrid.

David Kuptana, an Inuvialuit hunter, shot the animal on April 8th 2010 on the sea ice just west of the community. The animal appeared unusual to the hunter and he provided samples from the bear to Environment and Natural Resources officials for testing to determine the species.

A wildlife genetics laboratory has since conducted DNA testing on the samples, and the results of the testing point to the animal being a second generation hybrid bear which resulted from the mating of a polar/grizzly bear female with a male grizzly bear. This confirms the existence of at least one female polar/grizzly bear hybrid near Banks Island. A male polar/grizzly bear hybrid had previously been shot on Banks Island in April 2006.

The testing compared the samples with DNA from polar bears in the area and DNA from grizzly bears along the coast south of the area. The DNA from the recently harvested bear was also compared with DNA previously collected from the confirmed hybrid bear harvested in 2006.

This may be the first recorded second generation polar/grizzly bear hybrid found in the wild.

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R(16)419

Winners of Drop the Pop Campaign Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (May 3, 2010) – The winners of this year’s Drop the Pop – Strong Bones campaign have been chosen by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

For the past five years, Drop the Pop has been challenging youths, schools and their communities to Drop the Pop and choose healthier foods and beverages in order to improve health by decreasing the intakes of sugary beverages, which has been linked to childhood obesity and dental disease.

“Prevention and education are the best ways to help people make healthy food choices and to lead healthy lifestyles,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee. “I want to congratulate all the schools that have participated in this year’s program, and thank them for their efforts to raise awareness about the detrimental effects that drinking sugar-sweetened beverages can have on a person’s health.”

The awards are given to schools taking part in Drop the Pop who promote healthy eating, organize school events and demonstrate community involvement and partnerships. New this year was the opportunity for schools to nominate a local business that has helped to support their Drop the Pop program efforts.

Drop the Pop is one of many programs the Government of the Northwest Territories provides to encourage active living amongst NWT residents, in line with the 16th Legislative Assembly’s strategic vision of creating healthy, educated Northerners.

For more information on the Drop the Pop campaign, visit www.dropthepopnwt.ca or the Department of Health and Social Services’ website at www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca

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The winners of Drop the Pop Strong Bones 2010 are:

Beaufort Delta Division Education Council

- Angik School, Paulatuk
- Helen Kalvak School, Ulukhaktok

Sahtu Divisional Education Council

- Ehtseo Ayha School, Deline
- Chief Albert Wright School, Tulita

Deh Cho Divisional Education Council

- Bompas Elementary School, Fort Simpson
- Kakisa Territorial School, Kakisa
- Thomas Simpson Secondary School, Fort Simpson

Tlicho Community Services Agency

- Jean Wetrade School, Gameti
- Chief Jimmy Bruneau School, Behchoko

South Slave Divisional Education Council

- Joseph Burr Tyrrell School, Fort Smith
- Chief Sunrise Education Centre, Hay River Reserve
- Princess Alexandra School, Hay River

Yellowknife District #1 Educational Authority

- Mildred Hall Elementary School, Yellowknife
- Kaw Tay Whee School, Dettah
- William McDonald School, Yellowknife

Yellowknife Public Denominational District Education Authority

- Weledeh Catholic School, Yellowknife
- Ecole St. Patrick High School, Yellowknife
- Ecole St. Joseph's School, Yellowknife

Commission scolaire francophone de division

- Ecole Boreal School

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Retailers nominated by schools for their support with their local school's Drop the Pop campaign are:

- Stanton's Store, nominated by Sir Alexander Mackenzie School, Inuvik
- Northern Store, nominated by Mangilakuk School
- Wally's Drug Store, nominated by Joseph Burr Tyrrell School, Fort Smith
- Tundra Transfer, nominated by Ecole Sir John Franklin School, Yellowknife
- Extra Foods, nominated by Ecole Saint Joseph's School, Yellowknife

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R(16)420

National Emergency Preparedness Week is May 2nd to 8th

YELLOWKNIFE (May 3, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories is promoting the importance of planning and preparation by recognizing National Emergency Preparedness Week (EP Week) this May 2nd to 8th. Held annually across Canada, EP Week was created to remind Canadians of the importance of being adequately equipped for emergencies.

During EP Week, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod is encouraging all NWT residents to ensure they have an up-to-date emergency kit and plan and are aware of the emergency risks in their region.

“Residents can greatly reduce the impact of disasters by being prepared to support themselves at home for 72 hours,” said Minister McLeod. “Whether it’s a flood, forest fire, or major storm, residents should learn what to do in each situation and have enough supplies on hand in case emergency workers can’t help them right away.”

Basic emergency kit requirements are common items that are easily found around the home like water, food, flashlight, and a first-aid kit. The key to a successful emergency kit is making sure that all the items are organized together and easy to carry in case you need to evacuate your home.

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

For more information, contact:

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

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R(16)421

Canadian Astronaut to Visit Yellowknife Students

YELLOWKNIFE (May 4, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories, the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and Astronomy North are teaming up to help NWT students get excited about the fields of science and technology by giving them a chance to have a firsthand meeting with an astronaut.

In July of 2009, CSA astronaut Julie Payette was one of 13 team members aboard the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) space shuttle Endeavour on a 16 day mission to deliver and install the final components of the Japanese Experiment Module on the International Space Station. This week, she will be visiting Yellowknife to tell Northern students about the wonders of the cosmos, as well as the value of a good education and career planning.

Payette is making a number of stops in Yellowknife during her visit, including presentations to:

- Grade 6 students from across Yellowknife on Wednesday from 1:45 – 2:45 pm at Weledeh Catholic School;
- Yellowknife Grade 7 – 12 students, parents and teachers on Wednesday night at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, from 7:30 – 8:30 pm; and
- Grade 6 French immersion students from around Yellowknife at Ecole Allain St. Cyr from 10:30 – 11:30 am on Thursday.

“This is an extraordinary opportunity for our students,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “I hope people will come away from Ms. Payette’s talks inspired by what is possible when a person works hard and embraces the idea of lifelong learning.”

Payette is the second Canadian woman to travel to space and the first Canadian to participate in an International Space Station assembly mission.

Pieces of the International Space Station were not all that were carried to space during last July’s mission. As a part of Astronomy North’s *Legendary Sky Project*, the official NASA flight kit included a small piece of the Northwest Territories in the form of a rough diamond. While in Yellowknife, Payette will be delivering the stone, dubbed *The Legendary Sky Diamond*, to Astronomy North.

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The diamond will become one of a series of educational treasures in *The Legendary Sky Exhibit* opening at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre on June 24th, 2010.

For more information about Payette's presentations or *The Legendary Sky Project*, contact:

Amy Doerksen

Manager, Public Affairs

Education, Culture and Employment

Phone: (867) 920-6222

Email: amy_doerksen@gov.nt.ca

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R(16)422

2010 NWT Ferry Season to Commence Today

YELLOWKNIFE (May 6, 2010) – Operations of the Merv Hardie Ferry, which crosses the Mackenzie River near Fort Providence, will commence service for the 2010 ferry season today at 3PM. This matches the earliest opening of the Merv Hardie on record, May 6th, 1993, and is one week earlier than the 10 year average. Last year, ferry service resumed on May 15th.

The Lafferty Ferry, at the Liard River ferry crossing on Highway 1 near Fort Simpson, is scheduled to resume service for the 2010 operating season on or before May 10th. The N'Dulee Ferry Crossing on Camsell Bend is scheduled to begin its service by May 15th.

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

Ice conditions may cause occasional delays or disruptions in service, so travelers requiring the ferry service are advised to check road and ferry conditions prior to departure. Up-to-date information on ferry conditions throughout the Northwest Territories is available on the DOT website at www.dot.gov.nt.ca

For more information, contact:

Megan Munro

Communications Coordinator,
Department of Transportation
Government of the Northwest Territories
(867) 873-7956

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R(16)423

GNWT Unveils Updated Licence Plates

YELLOWKNIFE (May 6, 2010): The Northwest Territories' iconic polar bear licence plate is receiving an upgrade. A new version of the polar bear plate – one with improved safety features and a more environmentally-friendly construction – will be rolled out to NWT residents beginning in July.

With the current licence plate design remaining unchanged for nearly 25 years, the plates have been updated to meet current North American standards for construction and visibility. While the old plates have been manufactured from steel, the new ones will be aluminum – making them lighter to ship, more environmentally-friendly to manufacture, and more easily recyclable. They will also be treated with a highly-reflective coating that improves the plates' night-time visibility, which will help to improve road safety across the Northwest Territories. The plates will retain the polar bear silhouette.

Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod says the conclusion of the GNWT's supplier contract in March provided a timely opportunity to introduce the improvements. "This was an easy change to make," he noted. "It modernizes our current licence plate and gives us something we can continue to be proud of. The new plates are safer, better for the environment, and will bring the NWT in line with the rest of the country."

As a broadly recognized symbol of the NWT, the newly designed plates will also include the recently-adopted NWT tourism slogan "Spectacular" and incorporate an added graphic element representing aurora borealis and the Northern landscape.

To accommodate the additional costs of production and administration of the new plate, there will be a \$10 one-time fee for licence holders when they are issued new plates. Individuals wishing to retain personalized plates, or their current numbered sequence, will incur an additional fee of \$25. A notice has been recently sent to all mailboxes in the NWT with information on this voluntary retention process.

For more information, contact:

Megan Munro
Communications Coordinator
Department of Transportation
Government of the Northwest Territories
(867) 873-7956

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R(16)423

Backgrounder: New NWT Licence Plate FAQs

Why has the NWT decided to redesign the current NWT Licence Plate?

The plate currently does not meet national standards. A new design was required to meet national standards for physical size and increased visibility and safety, by adopting the latest reflective technology. The NWT is one of the only jurisdictions in North America that has not switched to new reflective licence plates.

Our current contract to manufacture plates expired in March 2010, and the manufacturer informed us they would cease producing licence plates. Since licence plate manufacturing equipment is proprietary to each manufacturer we simply couldn't move our production to another vendor, thus we embarked on a new design in order to meet national standards.

Why did the GNWT decide to create a new graphic design for the new licence plate?

The contract with our current licence plate manufacturer expired in March 2010. The tools & dies used to manufacture the current NWT licence plates are more than 25 years old, past their useful life, and no longer meet industry standards. By adopting a new manufacturing process, we were able to add new graphic designs to update the appeal and readability of the licence plate in support of on-road enforcement.

Why has the slogan been changed to "Spectacular"?

To incorporate the new NWT Tourism promotional slogan that is currently being used internationally to promote the NWT. The old slogan, "Explore Canada's Arctic" was also a government tourism slogan that was introduced in 1986 and was used to promote the NWT. It is common in other jurisdictions to use tourism promotion slogans on licence plates, i.e. "Beautiful British Columbia", "Ontario, Yours to Discover", "Friendly Manitoba".

How was the design of the new licence plate picked?

The Department has consulted with NWT Tourism Association, Traffic Enforcement Committee (RCMP, Municipal Enforcement, Road Licensing & Safety), the Royal Canadian Legion, Motorcycle/ATV dealers, design experts, manufacturers and other jurisdictions. Feedback received from these groups was incorporated into the final design.

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Why were there no consultations with the public on the new design?

Technical requirements for the new plate design precluded the ability to obtain meaningful input on a large scale from the general public. We believe the design that has been chosen will be pleasing to the public. We did consult with numerous interest groups including enforcement agencies, NWT Tourism, veterans, manufacturers, motorcycle/ATV dealer and other jurisdictions.

We are considering seeking public input on the new designs for the souvenir plates as there are no technical constraints, regarding visibility and safety as these will primarily be used for promotional purposes.

Why is there a \$10 fee increase in price for the new plate?

The new \$10 fee is required to cover the additional costs to retain the unique polar bear shape as well as the cost of production. The cost to register a vehicle will not change. Other jurisdictions that charge a fee when a new plate is issued include: PEI \$5; Manitoba \$7; British Columbia \$18; Ontario \$20; New Brunswick \$25.

Why do individuals wishing to retain their existing plate number or slogan have to pay an additional \$25 fee.

This fee is strictly voluntary for those residents that wish to retain their current plate numbers or slogan. This is a one-time fee to recover the costs of doing a special production run for these personalized plates.

What are the environmental benefits to the new licence plate?

We have moved from steel plates to aluminum plates, which do not require the toxic paint dip that the steel plates do. Aluminum plates are lighter to ship, resistant to corrosion and are more easily recyclable.

What are the safety benefits of this new plate compared to the current plate?

The licence plates are treated with a reflective coating which improves night time visibility by approximately 700%, thus increasing visibility for enforcement and improving road safety. This is particularly important when vehicles are disabled without lights on the side of the road.

Why are the validation stickers changing?

The registration stickers are currently located on the bottom of the polar bear plate and denote month and year of expiry. In winter these stickers are easily covered with snow and make it

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difficult for enforcement to verify if a vehicle is properly registered. The new design of a single registration sticker located at the top of the plate will significantly improve visibility for law enforcement. This change was suggested by law enforcement to aid in traffic enforcement.

Can I place my old plate on the front of my vehicle as a novelty plate?

No. According to *The Motor Vehicle Act*, no person shall operate a motor vehicle with a licence plate representing the Northwest Territories, other than a licence plate of current issue, attached to the motor vehicle.

Where can I bring my old plate if I don't want to keep it?

You can return your old plate to your local issuing office for recycling.

What if I would like to get a new personalized licence plate?

The process for applying for a new personalized licence plate or veterans licence plate remains the same. Simply fill out the application form, and return it to your local issuing office.

If I purchase a new personalized plate do I need to place it on my vehicle?

All licence plates purchased must be registered to a vehicle and placed on that vehicle. You cannot purchase licence plates for decorative purposes.

If I decide not retain my personalized slogan or current numbered sequence, what happens to it after the 18-month implementation?

After the 18-month implementation period, any personalized slogans that were not retained will be made available to the public on a first come first serve basis, through the personalized plate program. All numerical sequences other than those retained will be retired.

When will the new plate be available?

The new plate will be launched on July 1st, 2010 and we expect all vehicles will transition to the new plate through the regular registration process over the next 18 months until December 31st 2011.

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R(16)424

Outstanding Volunteers Honoured

YELLOWKNIFE (May 10, 2010) — The recipients of the 2010 Outstanding Volunteer Awards will be honoured at an award ceremony in Hay River on Friday, May 14, 2010.

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, says the annual awards are a great opportunity to acknowledge the volunteers and voluntary organizations that strengthen our communities with their outstanding contributions.

“The award recipients have continually devoted their time to making our communities better places,” said Minister McLeod. “From developing the Food Rescue Program to providing 24 hour support to victims of crime, they are a credit to their communities and an example to all Northerners.”

Recipients of the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards for 2010 are:

- Outstanding Elder Award – Ruby Trudel, Yellowknife
- Outstanding Youth Award – Bryan Nitsiza, Whati
- Outstanding Individual Award – Cheryl Hval, Fort Smith
- Outstanding Group Award – Victim Services Volunteers, Yellowknife

The GNWT 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. For more details about the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards, please visit MACA’s website at www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

Recognizing outstanding NWT volunteers is an important part of the Government of the Northwest Territories’ *Building our Future* initiative, which aims in part to improve support to the voluntary sector. Strengthening the voluntary sector will work to support our goals of healthy educated people and sustainable, vibrant, safe communities as envisioned in the 16th Assembly’s Vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

For more information, contact:

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

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R(16)425

National Nurses Week is May 10th-16th

YELLOWKNIFE (May 10, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories is recognizing National Nurses Week from May 10th to 16th, and would like to use it as an opportunity to thank nurses across the NWT for their hard work and contributions to the lives of all NWT residents.

“This week is particularly important this year, in light of the extraordinary efforts put forward over the winter in the massive collaborative response to the H1N1 pandemic,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee. “Nurses across the NWT rose to the challenge, and their dedication, patience, commitment and enthusiasm was greatly appreciated. They were a key to our success.”

The theme for National Nurses Week this year is *Nursing: You Can't Live Without It!* This is particularly true in the Northwest Territories, where nurses play an essential role in every part of health care, from prevention and health promotion to the coordination and planning of health services. This work extends from the health and social services system to every part of our communities.

During National Nursing Week, Health and Social Services Authorities across the NWT will host a variety of events to recognize and thank the nurses in their communities

The Government of the Northwest Territories remains committed to creating healthy, educated Northerners, as part of the 16th Assembly's strategic vision of Northerners Working Together. A priority in the Health and Social Services action plan *A Foundation for Change* is to enable the health care system to deliver the right services through the right providers in the right places.

For more information, contact: **Damien Healy**
Manager, Communications
Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 920-8927

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R(16)426

GNWT to Hold Public Consultations on the Volunteer Support Initiative

YELLOWKNIFE (May 11, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is encouraging residents to provide input on the Volunteer Support Initiative (VSI). The VSI represents the newest efforts by the GNWT to help strengthen and support voluntary organizations and volunteers as they continue to develop and maintain sustainable, safe, and vibrant communities. An upcoming series of public consultations are aimed at getting input from NWT residents on how best to build on the program.

“Our government is committed to supporting the work of the people and groups that make our communities better places to live by selflessly giving of their time and effort,” said the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA). “I encourage everyone to provide their input as we revise and update the VSI, so that we can continue to develop this very important sector.”

Through both the upcoming public consultations and results obtained during the 2009 Volunteer Summit, the GNWT is updating and revising the VSI so that it 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.

Community groups, organizations, and individuals who are interested in providing input on what should be included in the VSI are encouraged to visit the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs’ website, www.maca.gov.nt.ca, for more information.

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 more information, contact:

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

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R(16)427

GNWT Launches New Employment Program for Small and Remote Communities

YELLOWKNIFE (May 11, 2010) – Small and remote communities in the Northwest Territories (NWT) are getting a boost through a new employment program announced today by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Through the Small Community Employment Supports Program, employers will be eligible for wage subsidies for hiring and training summer students and youth.

The new program is modelled after the existing Youth Employment Program, and is expected to provide funding to 45 youth and 20 employers in 27 communities. While the new program is limited to small and remote communities, similar programs are already available for youth and employers in all NWT communities.

“Our government is committed to helping young people in the NWT reach their full potential by providing them with the opportunities they need to succeed,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “This new program will extend the reach of an initiative that we already know is a real and significant help to young people beginning their careers, and I’m confident it will have a positive effect in small communities across our territory.”

For more information on the Small Community Employment Supports Program, contact your regional ECE Service Centre:

Yellowknife

Yellowknife
1st Floor, Nova Plaza - 5019 52nd Street
Phone: (867) 766-5100
Fax: (867) 873-0423

Hay River

Courthouse Building
Phone: (867) 874-5050
Fax: (867) 874-5062

Fort Resolution

Deninu Kue Community Complex
Phone: (867) 394-4335
Fax: (867) 394-5122

Fort Simpson

2nd Floor, Deh Cho Hall
Phone: (867) 695-7338
Fax: (867) 695-7351

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Fort Smith

Sweetgrass Building
177 McDougal
Box # 1406
Phone: (867) 872-7425
Fax: (868) 872-4507

Inuvik

Mack Travel Building
Phone: (867) 777-7365
Fax: (867) 777-7218

Norman Wells

Edward G. Hodgson Building
Phone: (867) 587-7161
Fax (867) 587-2612

For media inquiries about the Small Community Employment Supports Program, contact:

Amy Doerksen

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

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R(16)428

New Program to Assist Local Governments in the NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (May 12, 2010) - A new program under the Public Service Capacity for Local Governments Initiative will be launched at the upcoming NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Hay River from May 13-16, 2010.

Through the Public Service Capacity for Local Governments Initiative, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), the Department of Human Resources, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC) and the Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories (LGANT) are implementing a series of programs and services to address challenges in the area of recruitment and retention of key senior administrative staff.

The new program being launched at the AGM is the Advancing Local Government Administrator Program (ALGAP). With ALGAP, community governments can apply for up to two years of funding to support either a trainee or mentor for their senior administrator position, depending on the current needs of the local government.

“Local governments in the Northwest Territories have undergone a significant evolution and transformation in a relatively short period of time,” said Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod. “As a result, the skill set required to manage a local government has expanded significantly and at this point, many NWT community governments are struggling to recruit and retain competent administrators. This initiative is intended to provide community governments with targeted funding to address this challenge.”

“Partnering with community and Aboriginal governments to build capacity at all levels of government is a priority of the Government of the Northwest Territories,” said Minister of Human Resources Bob McLeod. “In addition to the programs currently being launched, the GNWT is actively promoting and supporting secondments of employees to and from the GNWT with community and Aboriginal governments. To support this initiative, links to employment opportunities with both community and Aboriginal governments on the GNWT’s Employment Opportunity Website are currently being developed.”

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R(16)429

Premier Congratulates George Tuccaro on Appointment as Commissioner

YELLOWKNIFE (May 12, 2010) - Premier Floyd K. Roland is congratulating George Tuccaro on his recent appointment as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories (NWT).

“Mr. Tuccaro is a well respected and much beloved long-time resident of our Territory. He has been an integral part of our Territory, our communities and the lives of NWT residents both in person and via the radio waves of the CBC.

“As our Territory moves forward and our residents assume greater roles and responsibilities for their future, Mr. Tuccaro’s public profile, Northern experience and life’s work make him a natural and welcome choice as an ambassador to and for our region and its people.”

Premier Roland also thanked outgoing Commissioner Tony Whitford for his years of service in the role, saying “Mr. Whitford’s dedication to the role was obvious in his constant travel across the Northwest Territories and his efforts to share stories with Northerners wherever he went. I know his retirement is well-deserved, and I thank him for all his hard work.”

For more information, contact:

Andrew Matthews
Communications Officer
Office of the Press Secretary
Government of the Northwest Territories
867-669-2302

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R(16)430

Heritage Fair Territorial Showcase Begins Tomorrow

YELLOWKNIFE (May 13, 2010) – Students from across the Northwest Territories and Nunavut will come together from May 14th to 16th to share their projects at this year's Territorial Showcase of the Heritage Fair, to be held at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife, NWT. The annual event is a chance for students to promote and celebrate their culture and heritage.

This year, over 1000 students participated in Heritage Fairs at their local community level to earn a spot at the Territorial Showcase. 30 projects were chosen to take part in the Showcase representing the regions of the Beaufort Delta, Sahtu, Tlicho, Yellowknife District #1, Deh Cho and Nunavut.

“The Heritage Fair is an opportunity for students to share and discover the rich heritage we have in the Northwest Territories,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “I’m always impressed by the creativity and effort of our students, and I look forward to seeing the exhibits that have been created this year.”

The goal of the Heritage Fairs program is to encourage students to explore the history and culture of their families and communities. The program allows students to pursue original research on a story or topic of interest, to share what they have learned with their peers and community members, and to learn from other students and hear the stories they have to share.

During the Territorial Showcase in Yellowknife, as well as displaying and sharing their own projects, participants will take part in learning activities. A full day of cultural and artistic learning begins on Saturday, May 15th to be hosted by K’àlemi Dene School in N’Dilo and local Yellowknife artist Doug Witt. Students will also get a behind the scenes look into the archives and collections of the Northern Heritage Centre during the Showcase.

The public is invited to attend the event **Friday, May 14th from 1:00p.m. to 3:30p.m.**, when participants will be presenting their exhibits.

The NWT Heritage Fairs Society made this event possible with the support of their partners, including the Government of the Northwest Territories, BHP Billiton, and the Government of

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Nunavut. The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to creating opportunities for NWT residents to learn more about their heritage, as part of the 16th Legislative Assembly's goal of healthy, educated Northerners.

For more information please contact:

Amy Doerksen

Manager, Public Affairs

Education, Culture and Employment

Phone: (867) 920-6222

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R(16)431

GNWT Releases Response to Electricity and NTPC Reviews

YELLOWKNIFE (May 14, 2010): Residents in many NWT communities will see a significant reduction in what they pay for power as a result of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) response to the recommendations of the Electricity Review and Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC) Review.

The response — entitled *Efficient, Affordable and Equitable: Creating a Brighter Future for the Northwest Territories Electricity System* — was released today by the GNWT. It includes 19 action items designed to make the electricity system more efficient and power more affordable throughout the territory.

“This is a significant achievement for the GNWT,” says the Chair of the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee, Bob McLeod. “Electricity is an essential service and access to that service must be equitable and affordable to all NWT residents. The changes we are making to our electricity system will reduce the cost of living in our territory, which is one of the five strategic initiatives of the 16th Legislative Assembly.”

“Residents of the NWT have been saying for some time that changes needed to be made to our electricity system,” says Premier Floyd Roland, Minister responsible for the NTPC. “Our actions will lower the cost of electricity for most communities at no additional cost to any other community. This will play a substantial role in allowing all of our communities to be vibrant, sustainable and competitive, while also encouraging local economic development.”

A key action of the response is that electricity rate zones in the NWT have been reduced to seven from 33. A full version of the GNWT’s response to the electricity system and NTPC reviews can be found at www.nwtenergy.ca

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FOR RELEASE #10-087

May 14, 2010

Premiers meet to discuss pan-territorial priorities

WHITEHORSE – The three territorial premiers met to discuss shared opportunities and interests at the annual Northern Premiers' Forum held in Yukon on May 13 and 14.

Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie, Northwest Territories Premier Floyd Roland and Nunavut Premier Eva Aariak are committed to working together under the Northern Cooperation Accord, renewed at last year's forum.

"Working collectively on issues of pan-territorial concern with Nunavut and the Northwest Territories continues to be a priority for Yukon," Fentie said. "Healthcare, environment and energy are a sampling of key issues we work together on to create common approaches to influence federal fiscal, environmental and social policy."

The forum agenda included discussions on healthy, sustainable communities; energy and the environment; education, research and training; tourism and marketing; and circumpolar issues.

"As premiers of Canada's three territories, our goal is to build a prosperous and sustainable North. Our forum provides an opportunity to give careful consideration to our common challenges and to initiate the collective effort needed to protect our environmental heritage, promote social and economic development, and enhance the significant potential of our region – something that we believe is in the best interest of all of Canada," Roland said.

"We believe northerners are in the best position to determine the North's priorities, such as infrastructure and economic development," Aariak added. "By ensuring healthy, sustainable communities we are creating a presence in the North that strengthens our country's sovereignty and ultimately benefits all Canadians."

While in Whitehorse, the premiers also met for the first time with the Canadian representatives of the Arctic Council Permanent Participants: Chief Bill Erasmus, international chair of the Arctic Athabaskan Council; Chief Joe Linklater, international chair of the Gwich'in Council International; and Duane Smith, president of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (Canada).

The premiers and leaders discussed their shared interests and ways to advance them at the circumpolar level.

For more information about the outcomes of the forum visit www.yukonpremier.ca.

The premiers next meet at the Western Premiers' Conference in Vancouver from June 14 to 16.

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Communiqué

Northern Premiers' Forum

WHITEHORSE, May 14, 2010 – The premiers of Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories held their eighth annual meeting in Yukon to discuss issues of importance to the people of Canada's North.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Renewable Energy Inventory

Premiers reviewed progress on a pan-territorial renewable energy inventory, which will outline current and future efforts to explore and optimize the development and use of renewable energy sources. The inventory will highlight interests that are shared by the territories and identify to the public and private sectors the benefits of developing renewable energy resources in the North.

Each territory has also developed its own plan to use more renewable energy in order to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and to control greenhouse gas emissions.

The premiers recognized the importance of a continued dialogue on the territories' renewable energy potential and look forward to participating in the upcoming Canadian School of Energy and the Environment conference this summer in Yellowknife.

Northern Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

The premiers confirmed their commitment to completing a pan-territorial climate change adaptation strategy by the end of 2010. The strategy will identify climate change issues shared by each territory such as melting permafrost, changing sea ice and invasive species so they can work together to address their priorities, in collaboration with all levels of government and stakeholders. The premiers also noted that each territory is already taking action to adapt to climate change.

Water Stewardship

The premiers recognized that northern watersheds contain ecosystems that have local, regional, national and global value. These ecosystems must remain healthy and diverse since they are fundamental to northern communities and economies, as well as being globally significant. Many northern watersheds are so vast that their upper reaches extend into southern jurisdictions. Upstream activities have downstream impacts. Therefore, northern water resources must be managed cooperatively.

The premiers directed their environment ministers to continue their efforts to ensure that regional and national initiatives address issues such as climate change and water efficiency, and help to ensure safe and secure water supplies for all Canadians.

TOURISM AND MARKETING

The premiers agreed that a series of pan-territorial marketing efforts, including the 2007 Canada Winter Games and the 2010 Olympic Games, were extremely successful and clearly demonstrated the benefits of working together. The exposure and awareness created by the territories' collective efforts has brought the North unprecedented attention and will create long-term benefits for northerners.

With more than 215,000 visitors, extensive media coverage and the creation of remarkable assets for the North, Canada's Northern House at the 2010 Olympic Games achieved its goal of promoting the region.

The premiers committed to working with their industry associations, in partnership with the federal government, to identify further joint marketing initiatives that continue to position the North as a great place to visit, live and invest.

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Housing

The premiers affirmed their commitment to the principles expressed in *A Northern Vision*. They agreed that in order to create healthy and sustainable communities, adequate and appropriate housing is essential.

The premiers recognized that the Northern Housing Trust investment has benefited the housing situation in their territories. However, core needs are increasing and there is a critical requirement for the federal government to provide long-term, stable and predictable funding to build and manage housing in Canada's North.

The premiers directed their housing ministers to continue work on a new approach that recognizes and supports the essential role housing plays in addressing territorial issues such as economic development, health, education and Arctic sovereignty.

Infrastructure

The North has benefited significantly from recent federal infrastructure funding programs, which have provided jobs and delivered real improvements to residents and communities. The premiers acknowledge the federal government's infrastructure contributions and noted that such investment supports economic development and diversification and helps to ensure a sustainable future for northern communities as well as sovereignty and security for all of Canada.

There are opportunities for significant partnerships with the northern economic development agency, CanNor, particularly as territorial governments are best positioned to identify northern infrastructure and economic development priorities. One area of focus is telecommunications. The premiers discussed the opportunity of identifying ways to enhance telecommunications to support services such as healthcare, justice and education and directed their governments to formalize a pan-territorial policy working group on telecommunications.

PolarSat

The premiers agreed that reliable connectivity to satellite transmission across the North is essential for the continued economic and social development of northern communities. They urged the federal government to continue to support the Canadian Space Agency and the launch and maintenance of the PolarSat project.

Health Funding

Healthy, sustainable communities will create a presence in the North that will contribute to asserting Canada's sovereign rights. The premiers agreed that working with other governments and Aboriginal partners, and investing in healthy communities will result in a stronger, more secure North.

The premiers recognized that the territories need to continue to take a pan-territorial approach to health care issues.

While the federal extension of Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative is welcome, premiers agreed the federal government must address the unique, long-term financial challenges experienced by territorial health systems.

EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND TRAINING

A Northern University and Northern Research

The premiers recognized the work that northern colleges are undertaking to build capacity and deliver programs in the North that address the needs of northerners. These colleges are an important part of today's knowledge-based global economy.

The premiers discussed the initiatives underway to explore options for a university in the North, and encouraged continued collaborative efforts to build on existing institutions and programs to develop northern capacity and a strong knowledge sector.

CIRCUMPOLAR ISSUES

Arctic Council

The premiers met for the first time with the Canadian representatives of the Arctic Council Permanent Participants. They discussed their shared interests and ways to work together to advance such interests at the circumpolar level and agreed to meet regularly.

The territories share a common interest with Arctic Council member states and its permanent participants in building healthy, sustainable communities. This includes addressing important issues such as climate change and economic development in the circumpolar region.

Territorial governments will continue to work together to ensure that northern voices are heard in circumpolar affairs and look forward to discussing with the federal government how to best enhance their role at Arctic Council meetings.

UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The premiers are pleased that the federal government has decided to take steps to endorse the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and look forward to sharing their views with Canada and contributing further to this process.

The premiers remain committed to negotiating and implementing land claims as well as resource and self-government agreements that respect, promote and protect the rights and freedoms of Aboriginal peoples.

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R(16)432

GNWT Begins Consultation on Potential Withdrawal from Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation

YELLOWKNIFE (May 17, 2010): The Government of the Northwest Territories has begun a public process to potentially withdraw from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC).

The FFMC is a federal Crown corporation that is responsible for the marketing and selling of NWT freshwater fish outside the territory. In January 2010, the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Economic Development recommended that the GNWT withdraw from the FFMC. The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment advised the NWT Fishermen's Federation of this recommendation and sought its advice. The Federation then took a members' vote on the issue on February 17, 2010, and voted in favour of withdrawing from the FFMC.

"We recognize the importance of the commercial fishing industry to the Northwest Territories, and the role it plays in diversifying our economy and providing our regions and communities with opportunities and choices," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. "The members of the NWT Fishermen's Federation have spoken, and the GNWT will work with them to get all the information we need to make an informed decision that benefits commercial fishers, communities and the people of the territory."

The GNWT will now discuss the proposed withdrawal with industry stakeholders, and will invite input from Aboriginal governments and the public until June 11, 2010. Withdrawal from the FFMC will allow NWT commercial fishers to market and sell their own freshwater fish outside of the territory.

In order to withdraw from the FFMC, the NWT *Freshwater Fish Marketing Act* would be repealed.

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News Release

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES COMMUNITIES COMPLETE INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLANS

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, May 18, 2010 – The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health and Member of Parliament for Nunavut, along with the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), and Yellowknife Mayor Gordon Van Tighem, President of the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC), are pleased to announce that all 33 communities across the Northwest Territories (NWT) have completed their Integrated Community Sustainability Plans (ICSP) as part of the Canada-Northwest Territories Gas Tax Fund Agreement.

“Our Government remains committed to helping the Northern economy and investing in regional infrastructure,” said Minister Aglukkaq. “The Gas Tax Fund provides stable, long-term funding that can help communities build the infrastructure they need to improve their sustainability. These ICSPs will make a difference in how communities plan their infrastructure needs for the future.”

Under the Canada-Northwest Territories Gas Tax Fund Agreement, each community had to develop an ICSP by March 31, 2010. ICSPs provide communities with a framework under which community development plans are formalized and adopted, taking into account the economic, environmental, social, cultural, and governance implications.

“The Gas Tax Fund is an initiative that supports environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure and benefits communities by providing predictable funding to increase the capacity of communities to undertake long-term planning,” added Minister McLeod. “Every community in the NWT having an ICSP is a big step towards our Government’s goal of creating sustainable, vibrant communities.”

“With the first phase of planning complete, all communities must now take ownership of their own roadmaps to sustainability,” says Mayor Van Tighem. “The NWTAC continues to assist communities in maintaining and strengthening their plans and is well positioned to work with all stakeholders in advancing their implementation over the coming months.”

The Gas Tax Fund Agreement provides a total of \$97.5 million in funding to NWT communities over a nine-year period from 2005-2006 through to 2013-2014.

Since 2005, NWT communities have used \$12.2 million of Gas Tax funding. This has resulted in:

- 58.64 km of community roads upgraded to reduce dust;
- 148,600 kwh/year of energy consumption reduced;
- 51,285 litres of fuel consumption reduced among community service vehicles;
- 287,956 metres cubed of additional water distributed;
- 5,028 meters cubed of additional wastewater treated;
- 132.2 meters of culverts installed in the Hamlet of Aklavik to assist with flood mitigation,
- An additional 38,904 tonnes of capacity added to solid waste sites, including an additional 150 tonnes diverted, per year, from solid waste sites; and
- Over \$1.19 million invested in community capacity building.

In 2009, the Government of Canada doubled the Gas Tax Fund and is now providing \$2 billion annually to communities across Canada. And, for the second consecutive year, the Government of Canada is accelerating its payment of Gas Tax Fund three months early. This is part of the Government's Economic Action Plan which aims to boost employment and help communities emerge stronger than ever from the economic downturn. In April, the Northwest Territories received an advance payment of \$7.5 million in Gas Tax Funding, which will help their communities make the most of the spring and summer construction seasons.

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

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Communiqué

LES COLLECTIVITÉS DES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST COMPLÈTENT LEURS PLANS INTÉGRÉS POUR LA DURABILITÉ DE LA COLLECTIVITÉ

Yellowknife (Territoires du Nord-Ouest), le 18 mai 2010 – L'honorable Leona Aglukkaq, ministre de la Santé et députée du Nunavut, l'honorable Robert C. McLeod, ministre des Affaires municipales et communautaires, et Gordon Van Tighem, maire de Yellowknife et président de l'Association des collectivités des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (NWTAC), sont ravis d'annoncer que les 33 collectivités des Territoires du Nord-Ouest ont terminé leur plan intégré pour la durabilité de la collectivité (PIDC) dans le cadre de l'entente Canada-Territoires du Nord-Ouest relative au Fonds de la taxe sur l'essence.

« Notre gouvernement est résolu à renforcer l'économie du Nord et à investir dans les infrastructures régionales, a dit la ministre Aglukkaq. Le Fonds de la taxe sur l'essence fournit du financement stable et à long terme qui peut aider les collectivités à bâtir les infrastructures dont elles ont besoin pour améliorer leur durabilité. Ces PIDC amélioreront la façon dont les collectivités planifient leurs besoins futurs en matière d'infrastructure. »

Dans le cadre de l'entente Canada-Territoires du Nord-Ouest relative au Fonds de la taxe sur l'essence, toutes les collectivités devaient avoir conçu un PIDC en date du 31 mars 2010. Les PIDC fournissent aux collectivités un cadre leur permettant de concevoir et d'adopter des plans de développement communautaire en tenant compte de facteurs liés à l'économie, à l'environnement, à la société, à la culture et à la gouvernance.

« Le Fonds de la taxe sur l'essence est une initiative qui soutient l'infrastructure municipale durable sur le plan de l'environnement. Il est profitable pour les collectivités, car il fournit des fonds prévisibles dans le but d'augmenter leur capacité à entreprendre une planification à long terme, a ajouté le ministre McLeod. Le fait que toutes les collectivités des Territoires du Nord-Ouest disposent d'un PIDC nous rapproche de l'objectif de notre gouvernement visant à créer des collectivités durables et dynamiques. »

« Maintenant que la première phase de la planification est terminée, toutes les collectivités doivent se prendre en main pour atteindre la durabilité, a dit monsieur le maire Van Tighem. Notre association continue à aider les collectivités à maintenir et à

renforcer leurs plans. Nous sommes bien placés pour aider tous les intervenants à effectuer la mise en œuvre au cours des prochains mois. »

Dans le cadre de l'entente relative au Fonds de la taxe sur l'essence, les collectivités des Territoires du Nord-Ouest recevront 97,5 millions de dollars sur une période de neuf ans, de 2005-2006 à 2013-2014.

Depuis 2005, les collectivités des Territoires du Nord-Ouest ont utilisé 12,2 millions de dollars des fonds provenant de la taxe sur l'essence. Grâce à ces fonds, les projets suivants ont pu être réalisés :

- amélioration de 58,64 km de routes communautaires pour réduire la poussière;
- réduction de la consommation d'énergie (148 600 kWh/an);
- réduction de la consommation d'essence de 51 285 litres pour les véhicules de services communautaires;
- distribution de 287 956 m³ supplémentaires d'eau;
- traitement de 5 028 m³ supplémentaires d'eaux usées;
- installation de 132,2 m de buses dans le hameau d'Alkavik pour favoriser l'atténuation des inondations;
- ajout d'une capacité supplémentaire de 38 904 tonnes aux sites d'enfouissement de déchets solides, y compris le réacheminement de 150 tonnes supplémentaire par année des sites d'enfouissement; et
- investissement de plus de 1,19 million de dollars dans le renforcement des capacités communautaires.

En 2009, le gouvernement du Canada a doublé le Fonds de la taxe sur l'essence : 2 milliards de dollars sont maintenant versés chaque année aux collectivités canadiennes. De plus, pour la deuxième année consécutive, le gouvernement du Canada verse les fonds provenant de la taxe sur l'essence trois mois plus tôt que prévu. Ces mesures font partie du Plan d'action économique du gouvernement, qui vise à relancer l'emploi et à aider les collectivités à se sortir de la récession économique plus fortes que jamais. En avril, les Territoires du Nord-Ouest ont reçu un paiement anticipé de la taxe sur l'essence de 7,5 millions de dollars, grâce auquel les collectivités pourront tirer profit des saisons de construction du printemps et de l'été.

Pour en savoir plus sur le Fonds de la taxe sur l'essence fédéral, veuillez visiter les sites Web suivants : www.chantierscanada.gc.ca ou www.infrastructure.gc.ca.

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R(16)434

NWT Educators Honoured at Hall of Fame Ceremony

YELLOWKNIFE (May 18, 2010) – Fifteen NWT educators were honoured today as the Government of the Northwest Territories held its inaugural Education Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The event was held this morning at the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly as a way of recognizing the important and lasting contributions of educators.

“A good education is critical to a happy and successful life,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “This year’s inductees have made a positive and lasting impact on the lives of countless NWT residents, and I want to recognize them both for their commitment to education and for all they have done for our territory.”

This year’s inductees were selected from a long list of nominees from across the Northwest Territories. Inductees include superintendents, school board trustees, mentors, teachers, classroom assistants and coaches.

The 2010 Education Hall of Fame inductees are:

- Sylvia Boyer from Hay River;
- Brent Kaulback from Fort Smith;
- Toni Harker Auge from Yellowknife;
- Chuck Tolley from Yellowknife;
- Margo McLeod from Aklavik;
- Miki O’Kane from Inuvik;
- Michael Botermans from Behchoko; and
- Irma Miron from Hay River.

The 2010 Education Hall of Fame posthumous inductees are:

- Elizabeth Mackenzie from Behchoko;
- Alice Cambridge of Hay River;
- Anne Enge from Yellowknife;
- Jerry Ruben from Paulatuk and Fort Smith;
- John Miltenberger from Fort Smith;
- Cliff King from Inuvik; and
- John Carroll from Hay River.

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R(16)435

Supplementary Health Benefits Program to be finalized by Joint Working Group

YELLOWKNIFE (May 18, 2010): A joint working group composed of three regular Members of the Legislative Assembly and three Cabinet Ministers, including Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee, has been created to finalize the Supplementary Health Benefits program implementation.

The working group will use the principles of consensus government to ensure that the final program is available to all NWT residents. The focus of the group will be defining personal and employer responsibilities around uninsured health care and third party insurance, ensuring that a safety net is created for residents who accrue high health care costs, and defining catastrophic coverage. The group will report to Cabinet and the Standing Committee on Policy and Planning (SCOPP) in June of this year to ensure an implementation date on or before November 1, 2010.

“This is an opportunity to move this program forward positively, within the spirit of consensus government,” said MLA for Hay River South Jane Groenewegen, the chair of SCOPP. “I look forward to the results that the group will produce.”

“Our priority has been to expand access to Supplementary Health Benefits for those in greatest need,” said Minister Lee. “I am pleased to see that we can all work together to advance this important issue.”

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R(16)436

GNWT Withdraws Caribou Reference Question

YELLOWKNIFE (May 19, 2010) – The Attorney General for the Northwest Territories (NWT) has withdrawn the reference to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories regarding the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT's) legislative authority to regulate subsistence hunting of barren-ground caribou by Aboriginal people under the *Northwest Territories Act*.

The decision to withdraw the reference question comes as the result of continuing discussions between the Premier and regional Aboriginal leaders, who have advised that proceeding with the case would be unnecessarily divisive.

“Residents of the Northwest Territories face many issues of territorial-wide interest and significance,” said Premier Roland. “Our strength and success as a territory depends on how well we can work together to define and pursue our common interests.”

The Premier and Aboriginal leaders have agreed to work on an agreement in the coming weeks that will commit the parties to developing a greater understanding of each others' interests and promote relations between governments which are based on mutual respect and recognition.

Premier Roland says the expected agreement will serve to strengthen the GNWT's relationship with NWT Aboriginal governments and provide a solid and collective basis from which to advance issues of common interest to all people of the NWT, including management of the NWT's natural resources, pursuing the Water strategy and finalizing an Agreement-in-Principle on Devolution.

“I am encouraged by my recent discussions with regional Aboriginal leaders and look forward to working with them to address the shared issues that matter to all of our people,” the Premier said.

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R(16)437

GNWT Releases 2010 State of the Environment Biodiversity Report

YELLOWKNIFE (May 19, 2010) – The *NWT State of the Environment Report – 2010 Special Biodiversity Edition* was released today by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

The Report celebrates 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity and presents the latest findings on the status and trends of biodiversity, ecosystem integrity, the status of traditional knowledge, trends in sustainable use of biodiversity, and trends in threats to biodiversity in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

“As NWT residents, we are committed to protecting the natural biodiversity of the Northwest Territories,” said Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) J. Michael Miltenberger. “This Report keeps us informed on the status and trends of species and alerts us to any changes in biodiversity in the environment.”

The report was created by the GNWT in collaboration with the Government of Canada, the NWT Wildlife Management Advisory Council, the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, the Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board, and the North Slave Métis Alliance.

The Report is one of many GNWT activities planned for the International Year of Biodiversity. Other planned events and actions include the upcoming release of the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy, the recent sponsorship of the Buffalo Lake, River and Trails Area of Interest under the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS), and the promotion of biodiversity at community events like World Environment Day and Earth Week.

The NWT State of the Environment Report supports the GNWT's *Managing This Land* strategic initiative, under the 16th Legislative Assembly's goal of realizing an environment that will sustain present and future generations.

The Report is available online through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' website at www.enr.gov.nt.ca

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R(16)438

Stem Cell Challenge Coming to Communities in the NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (May 19, 2010) – Stem Cell Challenge clinics have been organized in the Northwest Territories by the Yellowknife Fire Department (YKFD) and Medic North in support of the First Annual National EMS Stem Cell Challenge.

The nationwide challenge is aimed at registering healthy, committed Canadians, aged 17 – 50, on the National Stem Cell and Marrow Network maintained by the Canadian Blood Services' OneMatch program. The Network serves a vital role across Canada in matching potential donors with compatible recipients who need stem cell or marrow transplants. With fewer than 30% of patients who need transplants finding compatible matches in their own family, there is a significant and pressing need to add to the database to ensure that all patients are able to find compatible donors.

“I would like to thank the YKFD, Medic North and everyone else involved in organizing this challenge,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee. “In the NWT and nationally, there continues to be a shortage of donors for patients who require these life-saving treatments. I encourage all NWT residents to give the gift of life by joining the network.”

Joining the network is painless and easy, and requires only a simple cheek swab at a local clinic. The Canadian Blood Services will analyze each swab and post the results on the network. If there is a match, the potential donor will be contacted.

The schedule in Yellowknife is:

- May 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Center Square Mall)
- May 21st from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Yellowknife Co-Op)

To date, 380 people in Yellowknife have joined the network.

Residents in Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, and Behchoko can contact their local Fire and Ambulance Services for details of clinics in their communities.

The Government of the Northwest Territories remains committed to the goal of healthy, educated people, as part of the 16th Assembly's strategic vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

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A priority in the Health and Social Services action plan A Foundation for Change is to enable the health care system to deliver the right services through the right providers in the right places.

For more information, contact: **Damien Healy**
Manager, Communications
Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 920-8927

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R(16)439

News Release

Northwest Territories Water Stewardship Strategy Completed

YELLOWKNIFE (May 20, 2010): *Northern Voices, Northern Waters: The Northwest Territories Water Stewardship Strategy*, a collaborative approach to responsible water stewardship, was released jointly today by the Government of the Northwest Territories and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

The Strategy promotes an ecosystem-based approach within watersheds to improve water stewardship that will reflect the deep and fundamental relationship between residents and the waters of the Northwest Territories. It sets a common path forward for water partners to take steps today to ensure water is used respectfully for the benefit of future generations. The Strategy will improve decision-making processes, information sharing and communications among all parties involved in water stewardship activities in the Northwest Territories.

“As residents of the NWT we need to show strong leadership in water stewardship by setting high standards to ensure the sustainable use of this important and valuable resource for current and future generations,” said Minister of Environment and Natural Resources J. Michael Miltenberger. “The next step is to develop an action plan to advance the vision and goals of the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy and keep our waters clean, abundant and productive for all time.”

Representatives of Aboriginal governments played a key role in the development of the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy. The Strategy respects settled land claim and self-government agreements and Aboriginal and treaty rights.

“Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is pleased to release the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy in partnership with the Government of the Northwest Territories. This water strategy will contribute to the better management of water in the Northwest Territories, which can only help implement the Action Plan to Improve the North’s Regulatory Regimes,” said the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians.

The Strategy sets guiding principles and goals for water stewardship in the Northwest Territories. The Strategy’s Framework for Keys to Success identifies key activities and timeframes for consideration by water partners to ensure the success of the Strategy. A detailed action plan will

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be developed based on the framework included in the Strategy over the next several months, with anticipated completion by this fall.

Copies of the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy are available online at both the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' website, www.enr.gov.nt.ca, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's website, at www.inac.gc.ca

For more information, contact:

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Press Secretary's Office
Office of the Premier and Executive Council
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Tricia Melander-Forde
Senior Communications Officer
Renewable Resources and Environment
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
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R(16)440

Minister Appoints Public Administrator to Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority

YELLOWKNIFE (May 20, 2010) – Effective today, Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee has appointed Paddy Meade, the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, as Public Administrator for the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority. While the appointment of Ms. Meade is in effect, the powers, duties and responsibilities of the board are suspended, as per the *Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act*, which gives the Minister the authority to take such action if it is in the public interest to do so.

“The decision to appoint a Public Administrator was taken after much consideration,” said Minister Lee, “but was made necessary by serious ongoing concerns about the Board’s management. The appointment of a public administrator is an essential step in continuing to serve the best interests of the residents of the Beaufort Delta and the overall well-being of our health and social services system. We are committed to addressing the issues and challenges that face the BDHSSA to ensure quality care that is sustainable now and into the future.”

For more information, contact:

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Press Secretary’s Office
Office of the Premier and Executive Council
Tel. (867) 669-2302

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R(16)441

Members of Supplementary Health Working Group Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (May 20, 2010) – The members of the Supplementary Health Working Group have been announced by Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee and the Chair of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning (SCOPP) Jane Groenewegen.

The working group was announced earlier this week to collaboratively consider items raised by SCOPP concerning the planned changes to the Supplementary Health program, to ensure both a fair and equitable system available to all NWT residents currently without coverage and a smooth transition to the new program. The group will focus their work primarily on personal and employer responsibilities around uninsured health care and third party insurance, ensuring that a safety net is created for residents who accrue high health care costs, and defining catastrophic coverage. The group will report their work to Cabinet and SCOPP in June of this year, for a November 1st implementation.

The Members of the Executive Council on the Working Group are:

The Honourable Sandy Lee
The Honourable Michael McLeod
The Honourable Michael Miltenberger

And the Members of the Legislative Assembly on the Working Group are:

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, Hay River South
Ms. Wendy Bisaro, Frame Lake
Mr. Norman Yakeleya, Sahtu

The group will be co-chaired by Mrs. Groenewegen and Minister Lee.

For more information, please contact:

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(867) 669-2302

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R(16)XXX

New Exhibition Arrives at Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

YELLOWKNIFE (May 21, 2010) – The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) has opened a new exhibition: *Fragments*, a collection of bronze sculptures by Yellowknife-born artist Blake Ward. *Fragments* is a compilation of powerful pieces dedicated to raising awareness and contributing to the solution of the landmine crisis in developing countries. Designed to show the impact of landmines on the human form, the classically-inspired pieces will be on display from May 17th to September 5th.

“Our museums play an important role not just in educating NWT residents about our own past and heritage, but in providing a chance to learn about global culture - and global problems,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “This campaign helps raise awareness of a serious problem that continues to affect people worldwide, and I’m proud that we can provide a venue for it in the Northwest Territories.”

The campaign has toured globally since its creation, including extending stays in New York and the United Kingdom. Proceeds collected from previous *Fragments* exhibitions have gone towards clearing minefields in Vietnam and Afghanistan. They also assisted in removing cluster bombs in Kosovo, mapped out minefields across Angola, and provided mine-risk education to children who live in countries contaminated by minefields.

To preview the *Fragments* exhibit, please visit: <http://www.blakefragments.com/>

For more information, please contact:

Amy Doerksen

Manager, Public Affairs

Education, Culture and Employment

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R(16)443

NWT Winner of Financial Fitness Challenge Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (May 26, 2010) - Allan Paziuk is the NWT winner in the Canadian Securities Administrators' Financial Fitness Challenge. This annual national contest helps youth to learn about budgeting, saving and investing. Allan is one of 17,000 people from across Canada who competed in the contest, and has won a notebook computer.

From February 15 to April 15, 2010, the CSA challenged Canadian youth aged 15 to 21 to test their knowledge of personal finance concepts, including saving and investing. For the third year in a row, the NWT had the highest per-capita participation rate in Canada: nearly five times the Canadian average.

"I'm really pleased with the interest our schools and teens have shown in the contest," said Donn MacDougall, Deputy Superintendent of Securities. "The Financial Fitness Challenge is a fun way for youth to learn about managing, saving and investing money. Young people between the ages of 15 and 21 are starting to earn money and make their own financial decisions."

This year, the CSA increased contest engagement and discussion by encouraging youth to discuss financial fitness with their Facebook friends and Twitter followers. While the Financial Fitness Challenge contest period for 2010 has ended, the educational information and interactive features remain available year-round to youth and teachers who visit www.financialfitnesschallenge.ca

The CSA is the council of Canadian securities administrators in all provinces and territories. They 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 Office of the Superintendent of Securities, 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.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple
Communications
Department of Justice
(867) 920-3130

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R(16)444

GNWT Enters Scientific Research Partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University

WATERLOO (MAY 26, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has entered into a scientific partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University (Laurier) in Waterloo, Ontario. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources J. Michael Miltenberger signed the partnership agreement with the university today in Waterloo.

“The Canadian Aquatic Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Boreal Ecosystem Research (CALIBER) program based at Wilfrid Laurier University and in the Northwest Territories will develop leading-edge scientific studies essential for making water resource management decisions that will ensure the sustainability of northern ecosystems, including those in the Northwest Territories,” said Minister Miltenberger. “This partnership will support and enhance the work being done through the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy, and provide some of the vital information needed to protect our water resources and address critical issues such as the current and future impacts of rapid development and climate change.”

“This agreement is a reflection of Wilfrid Laurier University’s significant research expertise in water resources and northern environments,” said Laurier President Dr. Max Blouw. “We are delighted to partner with the Government of the Northwest Territories to engage in the science needed to make effective policy decisions involving water-resource management and the sustainability of northern ecosystems.”

Under the partnership agreement, the GNWT will provide two million dollars over five years, which completes the \$6.3 million CALIBER program. This will allow the GNWT to participate as an active member of the program’s Science Committee as it sets research agendas and associated studies for the NWT and to develop mentor and training opportunities for NWT residents.

“We know there is an urgent need to increase our understanding of our northern aquatic ecosystems given the increased resource development pressure and impacts of climate change,” added Minister Miltenberger. “This partnership will also help us train the next generation of water scientists and managers.”

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The partnership includes scientific and technical training and mentorship components, professional development for government, industry and other organizations as well as outreach activities to promote interest in water science and the boreal ecosystem in communities and schools.

The partnership agreement supports the GNWT's Managing This Land strategic initiatives and the 16th Legislative Assembly's goal of realizing an environment that will sustain present and future generations and protect our water supply and quality.

Other funding for the CALIBER program comes from The Canada Foundation for Innovation, Wilfrid Laurier University and donations from the private sector.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)444

Aquatic Eco-system Research Partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University

- The GNWT contribution to the research partnership is two million dollars over five years (2010-2015) to complete the \$6.3 million Canadian Aquatic Laboratories for Interdisciplinary Boreal Ecosystem Research (CALIBER) program.
- The GNWT has an interest in preserving the waters of the NWT, including the Mackenzie River Basin, to keep the social, cultural and economic benefits of transboundary watersheds uncompromised.
- Boreal aquatic ecosystems make up Canada's largest freshwater reserve.
- The partnership through the CALIBER program designed to develop leading-edge scientific studies to ensure the sustainability of northern ecosystems.
- CALIBER applies a holistic, interdisciplinary and ecosystem approach based on watersheds and responds to the urgent and serious concerns on the availability (flows and storage processes) of, and the associate effects of nutrients and contaminants on, boreal freshwater.
- Current research undertaken by Laurier includes:
 - Field research near Scotty Creek in Nahanni National Park.
 - Field research near Havikpak Creek near Inuvik.
- The GNWT, with strategic NWT water partners, will play an active role in shaping the research agenda for the CALIBER program.
- Laurier will provide eminent scientists to advance to NWT research on water stewardship including research on basin-scale drainage and energy flow processes in the boreal environment and developing laboratory and field methodologies to improve assessments of contaminant effects.

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- The research partnership supports the following keys to success contained in the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy:
 - Advance the physically-based understanding of water and energy cycling as it affects the volume and timing of run-off within and from boreal regions.
 - Improve the understanding of special causal linkages between landscape disturbances and resulting changes in hydrological and geochemical characteristics of northern aquatic systems.
 - Generate knowledge clarify specific links between natural resource development and climate variability on the sustainability of boreal ecosystems.
 - Develop and test comprehensive models that integrate the results of previous research into prediction tools for boreal ecosystems.
 - Create a community of scientists and users that can become partners in discovery and development.

- The GNWT's contribution will help Laurier to acquire the necessary research infrastructure for the CALIBER program including field, lab and personnel support and provide leverage for the partners to acquire future funding.

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R(16)445

Premier Says Beaufort Sea Ecosystem Must Be Protected

YELLOWKNIFE (MAY 27, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is urging the Government of Canada to ensure satisfactory protection of the Beaufort Sea Ecosystem. In Edmonton yesterday to speak to the Chamber of Commerce, Premier Floyd K. Roland outlined the GNWT's concerns about the risks of development – and reaffirmed the government's commitment to preserving the environmental well-being of the NWT.

“The GNWT has been monitoring the outcomes of the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico,” said Premier Roland. “The incident has demonstrated the significant potential environmental risk associated with hydrocarbon exploration in offshore waters, and those impacts could be catastrophic in the Beaufort offshore given the harsh operating environment and remoteness of the Arctic. Regulators and industry must demonstrate that satisfactory measures are in place to protect human health and the environment before drilling for hydrocarbons should be allowed to proceed in the Beaufort Sea.”

The National Energy Board has announced it will undertake a comprehensive public review of Arctic Safety and Environmental Offshore drilling requirements, and Premier Roland welcomed the opportunity for a public discussion amongst government, regulators and stakeholders on the important measures that must be in place to ensure protection of human health and the environment in the Arctic.

“The protection of the ecosystem in the Beaufort Sea is of critical importance to the residents of the NWT, particularly the Inuvialuit. It is important that the NEB proceed as expeditiously as possible on this process and facilitate a comprehensive discussion on petroleum exploration and development in the Beaufort Offshore,” concluded Premier Roland.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)446

Premier Lauds NWT Opportunities to Edmonton Chamber

EDMONTON (May 27, 2010): Premier of the Northwest Territories Floyd Roland was in Edmonton earlier this week to promote the economic opportunities and possibilities of the Northwest Territories. Speaking at a luncheon hosted by the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, Premier Roland highlighted three major projects on the horizon, their potential impact on the territory – and the benefits that Northern development has for the rest of the Canada.

“With our huge resource potential, the NWT is poised to realize substantial investment and economic activity in the years ahead,” said Premier Roland. “We believe that by investing in the NWT, the Government of Canada can promote a sustained period of national economic growth and nation building for all Canadians - ensuring that our country continues to thrive and grow as a leader of the industrialized world.”

The Premier focused his remarks on three initiatives: the Mackenzie Gas Project, NWT hydroelectric development, and the Mackenzie Valley Highway. Each, he stressed, has tremendous benefits not just for the NWT, but also for Alberta and the rest of our country.

“While we are overflowing in potential, development in the North is still very much dependant on the products, investment, partnerships and services that we get from Canada’s southern provinces. Every shingle, steel beam and tank of gas needed in the NWT must come from the South.

“As NWT residents, we have the unique opportunity to script the remaining chapters of our own history. It will emphasize that we are a crucial part of the solution to many of the challenges facing Canada today – from reinforcing our sovereignty, to climate change, to generating extraordinary opportunities for job creation and economic growth for future generations.”

The Premier’s full speech is available at <http://www.exec.gov.nt.ca/currentnews/minSpeech.asp>

For more information, contact:

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R(16)447

GNWT Announces Expanded Breast Cancer Screening Campaign

YELLOWKNIFE (May 27, 2010) – The Department of Health and Social Services has announced that beginning June 2010, for a one-year term, clients in the South Slave region will have access to an expanded screening campaign to help reduce the identified wait list for mammography breast screening in the region. The campaign will increase the availability of mammography screening procedures to two weeks of each month, up from the current availability of one week per month.

“Awaiting an appointment for a mammogram can be a stressful experience,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee. “This move will increase access to screening, reduce the wait list, and ensure reasonable wait times for the procedure, and I’m pleased that we can offer it to NWT residents in the South Slave region.”

The number of breast cancer diagnoses continues to increase in the NWT. Each year, about 20 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed, making breast cancer 40 per cent of all cancers diagnosed in women. Routine mammography screening can help detect cancer at an earlier stage, allowing for a greater chance of successful treatment.

The Government of the Northwest Territories remains committed to the goal of healthy, educated Northerners, as identified as a priority of the 16th Legislative Assembly. A priority in the Health and Social Services action plan *A Foundation for Change* is to provide the right services, through the right providers, in the right places.

For more information, contact:

Damien Healy
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R(16)448

Wildland Fire Conditions Extreme in the NWT

FORT SMITH (June 1, 2010) – Forests throughout the Northwest Territories (NWT) are extremely dry, with all regions reporting high to extreme fire conditions. The potential for wildland fires are higher than usual for this time of year in all parts of the NWT.

At the same time, the numbers of man-made forest fires have been rising in the NWT. Many of the fires caused by people are started by campfires.

People are asked to take care when travelling on the land and camping. Make sure all campfires are totally out before leaving them.

The forest is expected to remain very dry for the forthcoming weeks and every campfire could be a potential forest fire. In these conditions, even a cigarette left burning on the ground could start a forest fire.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)449

Air Quality in the NWT Remains Excellent

YELLOWKNIFE (June 3, 2010) – The Northwest Territories' (NWT) air quality remained at high levels last year, according to the newly-released 2009 Air Quality Report.

Highlights from the report include:

- Overall air quality in Yellowknife remains excellent with the effects of springtime dust and smoke from forest fires noticeable on occasion.
- Fort Liard air quality remains excellent with only some small effects of forest fire smoke measured in the summer. Natural gas developments in the area do not appear to be affecting the air quality in the community.
- Norman Wells air quality remains excellent with only small effects of forest fire smoke measured in the summer. The local oil and gas industry does not appear to be affecting the air quality in the community.
- Air quality in Inuvik remains excellent for the most part, although the effects of dust were noticeable throughout the summer. Small effects of forest fire smoke were measured in the summer.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) monitors air quality in the Northwest Territories through stations located in Yellowknife, Fort Liard, Norman Wells, and Inuvik. The stations include monitoring equipment capable of continuously sampling and analyzing a variety of air pollutants and meteorological conditions. The GNWT continues to explore opportunities to upgrade and expand the existing air quality monitoring program.

The 2009 Air Quality Report is available online at:
www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/pages/wpPages/Air_Quality.aspx

Real time air quality information can be accessed online at:
www.air.enr.gov.nt.ca/NWTAQ/NetworkSummary.aspx

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For more information, contact:

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Air Quality Programs Coordinator
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R(16)450

GNWT Releases Results of Public Discussion on Heritage Fund

YELLOWKNIFE (June 4, 2010) – The results of public discussions on a proposed NWT Heritage Fund were released today by Minister of Finance J. Michael Miltenberger.

“The responses demonstrated broad support for ensuring that the net revenues from future resource development should be protected to produce a lasting legacy,” said Minister Miltenberger. “I believe it is clear from this feedback that will be supported by the majority of NWT residents.”

The results of the public discussions will be evaluated over the next few months with the view to making decisions about how the Fund would be structured and developing proposals for legislation by the fall of 2010.

The final report on the consultations is available on the Department of Finance’s web site at <http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca>

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R(16)451

GNWT Recognizes NWT Mining Week

YELLOWKNIFE (June 7, 2010): The Government of the Northwest Territories is recognizing NWT Mining Week this June 6-12, in honour of a sector responsible for over 2,000 direct jobs in the territory.

“The mining industry has been and continues to be a major driver of our economy,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “NWT Mining Week reminds us of the significant benefits the industry provides our territory and the contribution our men and women working in the sector make to that industry. Responsible mining development can have a significant impact in diversifying the NWT economy and providing all communities and regions with opportunities and choices.”

Along with the direct benefits of jobs and wages, the mining industry generates significant employment in the NWT’s transportation, services, trades and construction sectors.

The Government of the Northwest Territories remains committed to maximizing opportunities for NWT residents, which is one of strategic initiatives of the 16th Legislative Assembly’s *Northerners Working Together* strategic vision. Through initiatives such as the Northern Mining Workforce Memorandum of Understanding, the Metal Mining Opportunities Workshop, and negotiating Socio-Economic Agreements for developing mines, the GNWT is working towards meeting the goals set out in that plan.

For more information, contact:

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Industry, Tourism and Investment
867-920-8696

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R(16)452

Tourism Week is June 7th to 13th

YELLOWKNIFE (June 7, 2010) — The tourism industry and its importance to the Northwest Territories is being celebrated this Tourism Week, June 7th-13th. Held annually in the NWT and across Canada, Tourism Week recognizes the tourism industry and its \$71 billion contribution to the Canadian economy. That contribution is particularly felt throughout the NWT, where tourism represents the largest renewable resource-based industry, worth more than \$133 million last year.

“The tourism industry has the potential to create successful ventures in each of our 33 communities and Tourism Week is an opportunity to highlight our industry and the people involved in it,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) Bob McLeod. “Tourism is a sustainable sector and contributes to diversifying our economy and providing all of our communities with jobs and business opportunities.”

The GNWT is committed to supporting the tourism industry, through partnerships with NWT Tourism, through innovative programs such as ITI’s Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Program, and through initiatives like promoting the NWT during the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Events are being held across the territory in recognition of Tourism Week:

- Inuvik region: An open house will be held at the Western Arctic Regional Visitor’s Centre in Inuvik on Wednesday, June 9. Refreshments and door prizes will be provided.
- Sahtu region: A barbecue and draw for prizes will be held at the Norman Wells Museum on Saturday, June 12.
- Dehcho region: A barbecue with draw prizes will be held Friday, June 11 outside the Visitor Information Centre in Fort Simpson. From June 7-11, a drop box will be available at the Visitor Information Centre where people can enter their name to win the various prizes given out at the barbecue.

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- North Slave region: A barbeque will be held at the Northern Frontier Visitors Centre on Sunday, June 13 in conjunction with the opening of the weekend Arts Market in Yellowknife.
- North Slave region: The First Annual Fun in the Sun Tourism Week Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, June 11 at the Yellowknife Golf Course. NWT Tourism is sponsoring the event in partnership with the Northern Frontier Visitors Centre.
- North Slave region: A crepe lunch will be hosted by the *Conseil de développement économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest* in Yellowknife's Somba K'e Park on Monday, June 7.

For more information contact:

Richard Zieba

Director, Tourism and Parks

Industry, Tourism and Investment, Government of the Northwest Territories

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R(16)453

GNWT Continues Roll-Out of Electronic Health Records

INUVIK (June 7, 2010) – Residents of the Beaufort-Delta are the newest beneficiaries of electronic access to medical information, as the Government of the Northwest Territories continues its roll-out of the interoperable Electronic Health Record (iEHR) project. Beginning today, the region’s health professionals have access to the iEHR HealthNet Viewer, providing instant access to the medical information of patients and ensuring more efficient access to care, better-informed care decisions, and improved patient treatment.

“Electronic health records are a significant undertaking, and one that has a tremendous positive benefit for NWT residents,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee, who unveiled the opening today in Inuvik. “By ensuring that a patient’s health records are instantly available to medical professionals that require them, we reduce delays in the system and improve the level of care that can be provided. We will continue to work to ensure that all NWT residents are able to benefit from this new system.”

Every province and territory in Canada is working to implement electronic health record systems that will transform the way health care is delivered to Canadians. Canada Health Infoway (*Infoway*), an independent, not-for-profit organization funded by the federal government, invested \$5.7 million in NWT’s iEHR project. *Infoway* jointly invests with every province and territory to accelerate the development and adoption of electronic health record projects in Canada.

“When health professionals have quick, reliable access to health information it’s the patients who benefit the most,” said Richard Alvarez, the President and CEO of Canada Health Infoway. “The NWT HealthNet Viewer will help health care professionals in the Beaufort-Delta reduce wait times, improve patient safety and increase access to care.”

The iEHR HealthNet Viewer is being rolled out to authorized healthcare professionals at clinics, hospitals and health centres across the NWT. The program provides instant access to the medical information of patients, including lab results, discharge summaries and diagnostic imaging reports. Records and paper files where they exist today will continue to be maintained as before. The HealthNet Viewer provides the opportunity for clinicians to view information which already exists in different electronic systems across the Territories in a fast, convenient and secure consolidated format.

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For more information, contact:

Damien Healy

Manager Communications
Health and Social Services
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Dan Strasbourg

Director, Corporate Communications
Canada Health Infoway
Tel: (416) 595-3424

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R(16)454

École St. Joseph School Celebrates Official Re-Opening Tomorrow

YELLOWKNIFE (June 10, 2010) – The new École St. Joseph School will be unveiled to the public tomorrow, June 11th, when the renovated and retrofitted building celebrates its grand re-opening after students returned to the school last month. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty will be joining the Yellowknife Catholic Schools community in the ceremony, which begins at 11:15AM and will be followed by a picnic lunch. The public is invited to attend.

“I am delighted to see this retrofit completed, and the students enjoying all the new features of their school. I have no doubt that this work will benefit the quality of education these students, and the generations to come, will receive,” the Honourable Jackson Lafferty said. “The importance of a good education for our children cannot be stressed enough, and being able to give them the best possible facilities in which to learn and grow is a vital component of the education process. I want to congratulate everyone involved in the retrofit process, and thank them for all their hard work.”

“Students from the five classes moved during the retrofit were extremely excited to return last month,” said Principal Flo Campbell. “All our students have been back to learning in their home school since mid-May and they’re very happy with the new features.”

The retrofit features three substantial additions: a Kindergarten wing with its own entrance, washrooms, and wide hallways to provide a supportive community for the preschool program and Kindergarten classes; a second gymnasium designed to meet the curriculum needs of the Kindergarten to grade 4 programs; and a music wing with separate music and band classrooms.

It also features the addition of specialty rooms, including a large project studio, capable of holding two to three classes, with a hands-on area for presentations and art projects; a new computer lab; and a new food studies room, with new appliances, which will run the school’s breakfast and lunch programs.

Two additional classrooms upstairs and more storage area throughout the school will reduce crowding and allow the students more space to learn.

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R(16)456

GNWT Launches New Program to Support Recreation and Sports

YELLOWKNIFE (June 14, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories is launching the Regional Youth Sports Events Program, which will provide support to sport and recreation organizations and school authorities to organize and host regional youth sports events.

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod said the intent of the Regional Youth Sports Events Program is to strengthen local programming, support athletes and coaches in smaller communities, and to improve youth participation in physical activity.

“Sporting events provide our youth with opportunities to grow and learn with those who share an interest in being healthy and active,” said Minister McLeod. “Investing in regional sports events is an investment in the Northwest Territories’ future since these events will offer more youth the chance to lay the building blocks for positive healthy lifestyle choices.”

Regional organizations or school authorities are invited to submit applications for up to \$50,000 for events that target youth in the NWT under the age of 25 years. The deadline to apply for funding this year is July 9, 2010.

For more information on the program, including an application form, please visit the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs’ website: www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

The Government of the Northwest Territories 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*.

For more information, please contact:

Rebecca Alty
Communications/Website Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
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R(16)455

Trout Rock Lodge Latest Recipient of GNWT's Tourism Support Program

YELLOWKNIFE (June 11, 2010) – With the support of the Government of the Northwest Territories' Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Program, Enodah Wilderness Travel unveiled its expanded and modernized Trout Rock Lodge on Great Slave Lake during a ceremony at the site of the lodge today.

The renovations include refurbished bathrooms, meeting rooms, environmentally-friendly power generation and wireless Internet capability. Along with providing its own financing for the renovations, Enodah received funding for the project from the Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Program delivered by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. The program is designed to help expand, improve or re-invent NWT tourism products and operations. Funding can be used for marketing, business planning, product and product package development.

“I am pleased to see Enodah's continued commitment to providing world-class tourism experiences to visitors of the Northwest Territories,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “I congratulate owners Ragnar and Doreen Wesstrom and the Enodah Wilderness Travel staff on this achievement. This is yet another example of the dedicated, hard-working operators and high quality tourism products we have to offer in our territory.”

Since the establishment of the Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Program in 2007/2008, ITI has distributed over \$3.42 million in assistance to local businesses. Through the Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Program and other programs and services to support the tourism sector, the GNWT is working to diversify the economy and provide all communities and regions with opportunities and choices as envisioned in the 16th Legislative Assembly's *Northerners Working Together* plan.

For more information, contact:

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Manager of Public Affairs and Communications
Industry, Tourism and Investment
867-920-8696

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R(16)457

Deline Student Gives Name to New Autonomous Underwater Vehicle *Yamoria*

DELINÉ (June 17, 2010) – A Northern name is going to one of Canada's new autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), after a grade 8 student from Deline was chosen as the winner of a contest to find a meaningful name for the AUV.

Tannice Baton from Ehtseo Ayha School in Deline submitted the winning entry, *Yamoria*, which stems from the traditional Sahtu story of Yamoria, the great traveler and lawmaker for the Dene people. Today, the word means "The One Who Travels". Another student from Ehtseo Ayha School, Todd Ellton, is also being honoured for the creativity of his submission.

Once christened, *Yamoria* will spend the summer with the already-christened *Qaujisati*, "One Who Searches," mapping the Arctic Ocean floor and identifying the limits of Canada's continental shelf.

"These state-of-the-art underwater vehicles were developed to support Canada's submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf as part of the ongoing work to scientifically establish the limits of Canada's extended continental shelf," said the Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of Natural Resources. "The AUVs, created by many federal organizations, can dive to depths of 5000 metres and are capable of conducting a continuous three-day mission, travelling a distance of 400 kilometres in arctic waters, so the name *Yamoria* is a great choice."

"I am very proud of these students for showing such creativity in the names," said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "Traditional stories like the legend of Yamoria are one of the ways Northern people gain understanding about their land - as these AUVs will give us a better understanding of our Northern waters."

Naming celebrations took place this week at Ehtseo Ayha School Auditorium in Deline. Baton and Ellton received special commemorative coins stamped with images of the AUV, and a working model of the AUV was on hand for demonstration in Great Bear Lake.

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Natural Resources Canada and Defence Research Development Canada opened the naming challenge to Grade 6 and 8 students in both the Northwest Territories and Nunavut on March 31, 2010. In addition to naming the vehicle, the contest was meant to spark greater interest in science and technology among Northern students.

For more information about the AUV naming contest and celebrations, contact:

Ashley Green

Public Affairs Officer

Education, Culture and Employment

(867) 920-3059

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R(16)458

Premier's Awards Honour Public Service

YELLOWKNIFE (June 17, 2010) – 77 individuals and organizations were recognized today at the Premier's Awards for Excellence and Collaboration. The recipients include GNWT employees, teams and their collaborative partners. In a ceremony held at the Legislative Assembly, Premier Roland thanked the recipients for all they have done for residents of the NWT.

“Every day, the men and women of our public service carry out the all-important work that is expected of our government,” said Premier Roland. “All employees deserve appreciation and recognition – and each year we celebrate those individuals who have gone above and beyond in their duties. On behalf of the residents of the Northwest Territories, I thank the recipients for all their efforts.”

Each year, the Premier honours recipients who show excellence, innovation and dedication in their work. The Premier's Awards were created to acknowledge the exceptional work of employees who might not otherwise be recognized for their work as public servants. Collaboration team awards recognize the outstanding achievements of GNWT employees who work in partnership with other individuals outside the GNWT to improve service for NWT residents.

A full list of this year's recipients is attached.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)458

2010 Recipients of the Premier's Awards

Premier's Award for Excellence (Individual)

- Mr. David J. Hastings, Special Advisor, Legislation and Legal Affairs, Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI)
- Mr. Richard Raffai, Senior Policy Advisor, Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (DAAIR)
- Mr. Andrew Samoil, Program Consultant, Information and Systems Technology, Beaufort Delta Education Council (BDEC)

Premier's Award for Excellence (Team)

Fort Smith Community Wellness Program Team, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority

- Ms. Ann Bush, Clinical Supervisor, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority Community Wellness Program
- Ms. Julie Burke, Community Wellness Worker, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority Community Wellness Program
- Ms. Lida Blesse, Community Wellness Worker, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority Community Wellness Program
- Ms. Jolene Bourque, Community Wellness Worker, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority Community Wellness Program
- Mr. Murray Scott, Community Wellness Worker, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority Community Wellness Program
- Mr. Chris Wanamaker, Mental Health and Addictions Counsellor, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority Community Wellness Program

Safety Management Systems Human Factors and Emergency Planning Team, Department of Transportation, Yellowknife – Premier's Award

- Mr. George Poirier, Operations and Training Officer, Department of Transportation

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- Mr. Chucker Dewar, Operations and Emergency Planning Officer, Department of Transportation
- Mr. Greg Irvine, Operations and Emergency Planning Officer, Department of Transportation
- Mr. Kevin Rowe, Operations and Emergency Planning Officer, Department of Transportation
- Mr. Jason Cutten, Operations and Certification Officer, Department of Transportation
- Ms. Margaret Chaykowski, Administrative Assistant, Department of Transportation
- Ms. Laura Love, Technical Officer, Department of Transportation
- Ms. Jesse Casey, Technical Officer, Department of Transportation

South Slave Integrated Case Management Team, Department of Justice – Premier’s Award

- Ms. Diane St. John, Psychologist, Department of Justice, Corrections Service, SMCC
- Ms. Sharon Caudron, Native Liaison Officer, Department of Justice, Corrections Service, SMCC
- Mr. Tom Hamilton Sr., Warden, Department of Justice, Corrections Service, SMCC
- Mr. Chuck R. Larocque, Case Manager, Department of Justice, Corrections Service, SMCC
- Ms. Bertha Calvin, Case Manager, Department of Justice, Corrections Service, SMCC
- Ms. Janice Daniels, Institutional Nurse, Department of Justice, Corrections Service, SMCC
- Ms. Cindy Caudron, Regional Manager, South Slave Region, Department of Justice, Corrections Service, South Slave Probation
- Ms. Debra Beck, Probation Officer, Department of Justice, Corrections Service, South Slave Probation
- Ms. Abbie Crook-Burger, Probation Officer, Department of Justice, Corrections Service, South Slave Probation
- Ms. Margaret Jerome, Probation Officer, Department of Justice, Corrections Service, South Slave Probation
- Ms. Andrea Lochan, Probation Officer, Department of Justice, Corrections Service, South Slave Probation
- Ms. Stephanie de Pelham, Probation Officer, Department of Justice, Corrections Service, South Slave Probation
- Mr. Charlie MacDonald, Probation Officer, Department of Justice, Corrections Service, South Slave Probation
- Mr. Ray Simon, Probation Officer, Department of Justice, Corrections Service, South Slave Probation
- Ms. Stella Walterhouse, Probation Officer, Department of Justice, Corrections Service, South Slave Probation

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**GNWT Olympic/Paralympics Project Team, Department of the Executive and partners,
Yellowknife – Premier's Award**

- Doug Doan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Sonya Saunders, Director of Investment and Economic Analysis, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Darren P. Campbell, Manager, Public Affairs and Communications, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Boris Atamanenko, Manager, Community Programs, Department of Education, Culture and Employment
- Barb Cameron, Director, Culture and Heritage Division, Department of Education, Culture and Employment
- Amy Doerksen, Manager, Public Affairs, Department of Education, Culture and Employment
- Carmen Braden, Department of Human Resources, HR Training Specialist
- Ian Legaree, Director, Sport, Recreation and Youth, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
- Sigrun Geirsdottir, Strategic Planning Analyst, Department of Executive
- Shaun Dean, Deputy Secretary, Corporate Communications and Protocol, Department of Executive
- Tim Van Overbeek, Marketing and Promotion Officer, Department of Human Resources

Premier's Collaboration Award

H1N1 Response Team

Health and Social Services System

Territorial Emergency Response Committee

Accepting on behalf of the above-noted organizations:

- Dr. Kami Kandola, Chief Public Health Officer, Department of Health and Social Services
- Mr. Scott Robertson, Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health and Social Services
- Ms. Karen Ludlow, Nurse In Charge, Health Authorities (NWT)
- Mr. Shaun Dean, Deputy Secretary, Corporate Communications and Protocol, Department of Executive, Yellowknife, Territorial Emergency Response Committee

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Integrated Community Sustainability Planning Team – Municipal and Community Affairs, Yellowknife and Partners – Premier’s Award

- Mr. Dan Schofield, Director, School of Community Government, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Ms. Lorraine Tordiff, Regional Superintendent, South Slave Region, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Mr. Siva Sutendra, Regional Superintendent, North Slave Region, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Mr. Barry Harley, Regional Superintendent, Sahtu Region, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Ms. Yvonne Doolittle, Regional Superintendent, Beaufort Delta Region, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Ms. Susan Coyne, Sustainability Coordinator, NWT Association of Communities
- Ms. Sabrina Broadhead, Manager, Training and Development, School of Community Government, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Ms. Eleanor Young, Director of Community Operations, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Ms. Olivia Lee, Engineering Team Lead, Community Operations, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Mr. Sean Craig, Financial Policy Analyst, Community Operations, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Ms. Penny Johnson, Coordinator, Strategic Initiatives, School of Community Government, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Ms. Lorie Fyfe, Manager, Capital Programs/Works, Beaufort Delta Region, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Mr. Dave Earle, Support Services Officer, School of Community Government, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Ms. Greta Sittichinli, Training and Development Coordinator, School of Community Government Beaufort Delta Region, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Ms. Glenda Padillo, Training and Development Coordinator, School of Community Government Sahtu Region, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Mr. Ron Hardisty, Training and Development Coordinator, School of Community Government, Deh Cho Region, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Mr. Mike Yakabuski, Training and Development Coordinator, School of Community Government, North Slave Region, Municipal and Community Affairs
- Ms. Yvette Gonzalez, Chief Executive Officer, Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC)
- Ms. RONALDA Wilcox, Administrative Assistant, School of Community Government, Municipal and Community Affairs

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Peel Project Team

Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Geosciences Services, Geological Survey of Canada and Partners

- Ms. Adrienne Jones, Manager, Petroleum Geosciences, ITI/NWT Geoscience Office
- Dr. Leanne Pyle, V.I. Geoscience Services
- Ms. Kelly Pierce, Geomatics Specialist, ITI/NWT Geoscience Office, Yellowknife
- Mr. Len Gal, Consultant
- Dr. Thomas Hadlari, Research Scientist, Geological Survey of Canada
- Dr. Yvon Lemieux, Geologist, Talisman Energy
- Mr. Willem Zantvoort, Geologist, Husky Energy
- Ms. Danielle Thomson, Graduate Student, Carleton University
- Dr. Claudia Schröder-Adams, Professor, Carleton University, Dept. of Earth Sciences
- Mr. Bernie MacLean, Regional Geophysicist, Geological Survey of Canada
- Ms. Tammy Allen, Petroleum Assessment Geologist, Yukon Geological Survey
- Ms. Tiffani Fraser, Petroleum Assessment Geologist, Yukon Geological Survey
- Mr. Shane Tylosky, Undergraduate Student, University of Alberta
- Dr. Octavian Catuneanu, Professor, University of Alberta, Dept. of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
- Dr. John Utting, Research Scientist, Geological Survey of Canada

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R(16)459

Premier Congratulates Nellie Cournoyea, Officer of the Order of Canada

YELLOWKNIFE (June 18, 2010): Premier Floyd Roland calls Nellie Cournoyea's investiture as an Officer of the Order of Canada a fitting recognition of the former Premier's lasting contribution to the Northwest Territories and the lives of NWT residents. Ms. Cournoyea was awarded the honour, the second-highest ranking of the Order of Canada, in a ceremony held this morning in Ottawa.

"Ms. Cournoyea has been a lifelong advocate for the people of the Northwest Territories," said Premier Roland. "More than that, she is a tremendous example of the potential that our territory has. As the first Aboriginal woman Premier in Canada she promoted economic growth and self-sufficiency for our territory, and her work with the Committee of Original Peoples' Entitlement and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation continues to build opportunities for the Inuvialuit. She is a role model to all Northerners, and I want to congratulate Ms. Cournoyea on this latest recognition of her tireless work."

The Order of Canada was created in 1967, during Canada's centennial year, to recognize a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. Ms. Cournoyea was one of 44 Canadians to receive the honour from Governor General Michaëlle Jean today in Ottawa.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)460

Government of the Northwest Territories Marks National Aboriginal Day, June 21st

YELLOWKNIFE (June 18, 2010): Premier of the Northwest Territories Floyd Roland is asking all NWT residents to celebrate National Aboriginal Day this Monday, June 21st – and to use it as an opportunity to honour the contributions that Aboriginal peoples have made, and continue to make, to the Northwest Territories.

“The North’s Aboriginal people originated many of the traditions in which all Northerners now identify and take pride,” said Premier Roland. “An important part of that contribution is the long-standing tradition of cooperative leadership - of people coming together in good times and bad, to meet as equals and discuss issues that affect all of us. It is a time-honoured tradition followed for millennia by Aboriginal groups across our territory. It can be seen in our own consensus government. It is reflected physically in the shape of our legislative chamber, paying tribute to Aboriginal leadership circles – and is continued by our Northern Leadership Forum, a roundtable of NWT leaders from Aboriginal, municipal, and territorial governments.

“Aboriginal peoples have given the Northwest Territories a tradition that is unique to our territory, and it is a tradition that will bring us into a prosperous future. This Aboriginal Day, I encourage all NWT residents to recognize the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to our territory - and to continue in the tradition we have been given.”

For more information, contact:

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R(16)XXX

New Yellowknife Primary Care Centre Officially Open

YELLOWKNIFE (June 22, 2010) – The new Yellowknife Primary Care Centre has officially opened to the public, providing Yellowknife residents with extended care hours and a broader range of services. Created to combine existing downtown clinics in one location, the new Centre is the latest initiative from the Government of the Northwest Territories aimed at improving care services for NWT residents.

“As a government, we’re always looking for ways in which to improve the care that we offer to NWT residents,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee. “By combining the clinics, we can provide more services to our residents while ensuring that our system continues to run affordably and efficiently.”

The Primary Care Centre is a key component of Yellowknife Health and Social Services’ new system of *One Clinic, Two Sites*. Consisting of the Primary Care Centre and the Frame Lake Family Health Clinic, the system is aimed at providing expanded services for Northerners, including increased accessibility for people with disabilities, decreased wait times to see a practitioner, and extended hours.

This move, along with other new Health and Social Services initiatives like electronic health records, are part of the Government of the Northwest Territories’ efforts to realize the 16th Legislative Assembly’s goal of healthy, educated Northerners. One of the priorities of the department’s *A Foundation for Change* action plan is providing the right services, through the right providers, in the right places.

For more information on the Centre, including its hours of operation, available health care professionals and services, please visit <http://www.yhssa.org>

For more information, contact:

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

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R(16)XXX

Backgrounder – New Primary Care Centre

As of June 22nd, the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority (YHSSA) has opened a new primary health care clinic in the downtown area. The Yellowknife Primary Care Centre is located on the first floor of the Yellowknife Centre East Building, 4915 - 48th Street.

Staff and services from existing downtown clinics - Family Medical Clinic, Gibson Medical Clinic, Great Slave Community Health Clinic and Family Counselling - will be moving to either the Yellowknife Primary Care Centre, or to the Frame Lake Community Health Clinic located in the Stanton Plaza.

What is Primary Health Care?

Primary health care is recognized nationally and internationally as a best practice in delivery for health and social services. Primary health care means:

- A wide range of services are based in a community clinic rather than in a hospital setting;
- The client is an active participant in managing their health care;
- A variety of health professionals serve as a first point of contact for clients needing health services;
- Practitioners collaborate on complex cases, and coordinate services for the best possible client outcomes and
- Clients experience increased access to a variety of health services

In 2005, YHSSA launched its first primary health care initiative – the Great Slave Community Health Clinic. Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, a Public Health Nurse, a Mental Health Worker and a Community Outreach Worker were co-located to provide a broader range of services to the community from one delivery site. Thanks to the success of this move, YHSSA is now implementing primary health care as its model of service delivery at both the Yellowknife Primary Care Centre and the Frame Lake Community Health Clinic.

How much did this project cost?

The total capital budget for the project is \$6.64M. Construction costs represented \$3.8M, with the remaining budget covering items such as the purchase of new equipment and furniture, moving expenses, and other related project costs.

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What can the public expect with this change?

Better service and a wider range of supports, including:

- Increased accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Timely delivery of services.
- Decreased wait times to see a practitioner.
- Same-day appointments with some practitioners.
- More services on site.
- Extended hours on a scheduled basis at both sites.
- Saturday service at the downtown site.
- Access to a wide range of diagnostic services provided by Stanton Territorial Hospital at the downtown site – including X-rays, bone densitometry, laboratory services, ultrasound and Electrocardiography (ECG).
- The use of electronic health records, to increase communication between health professionals to ensure appropriate and consistent treatment for clients.
- Programs and services to help people with chronic diseases more effectively manage their health conditions, and
- Access to select public health and home care services through the downtown site.

Public Health and Home Care will continue to operate most of their services from the 1st floor of the Jan Stirling Building. The outreach services that are currently provided at the Salvation Army and Centre for Northern Families will continue as well as the medical services we provide to other Regional Authorities.

Planning throughout this project has been a joint effort between Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority, GNWT departments of Health and Social Services and Public Works, and the Stanton Territorial Health Authority.

Being responsive to the health needs of residents today and in the future is the most important reason behind YHSSA's move to the primary health care model of service delivery.

For more information, please contact: yhssa@gov.nt.ca or visit <http://www.yhssa.org> for more information about our services and hours of operation.

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R(16)462

Premier Roland Says Northern Unity Vital to Resource Development

INUVIK (June 23, 2010): The development of Northern resources will require cooperation and unity on the part of Northern leaders, Premier Floyd Roland told attendees of the 10th Inuvik Petroleum Show yesterday. During his opening address, the Premier told the conference that the potential demand for NWT resources is at a high – but Northern groups and leaders need to work together to ensure that this opportunity is realized.

“With our huge resource potential, the NWT continues to be well positioned to take advantage of substantial investment and economic activity,” said Premier Roland. “But the realization and success of the Mackenzie Gas Project, or any other resource development in the NWT, must be about what we want for ourselves. It will depend on our collective will and ability to collaborate in the interest of a greater goal.

“We need to speak with a single message - and convey a unity that reflects the values and goals we all strive for in the NWT.”

Premier Roland is attending the Inuvik Petroleum Show from June 22nd to 24th. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Show continues to bring hundreds of delegates from across Canada to discuss Northern petroleum potential.

“Many great things have been accomplished from the simple philosophy on which the success of this show has been built: the importance of working for the North, with the North, and in the North,” said Premier Roland.

Premier Roland and Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod are both speaking to this year’s conference. A full transcript of the Premier’s speech is available online at http://www.exec.gov.nt.ca/currentnews/speechDetails.asp?varStatement_ID=1005

For more information, contact:

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R(16)463

GNWT Employee Receives National Award from the Fur Institute of Canada

YELLOWKNIFE (June 24, 2010): The Fur Institute of Canada (FIC) has recognized a Government of the Northwest Territories employee for his commitment to the trapping industry.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment's (ITI) Robert (Guy) Erasmus has been chosen as the recipient of the 2010 Jim Bourque Award. The FIC presents the award annually in recognition of an individual that reflects Bourque's commitment to the sustainable use of resources, improved animal welfare, the development of Canada's modern fur trade, the recognition of Aboriginal peoples' cultures and the stewardship role that trappers play in the conservation and management of Canada's wildlife.

Mr. Erasmus was nominated for his central role in the founding, development and implementation of ITI's Take A Kid Trapping Program. This program began in 2002 and has been successfully implemented in all regions of the Northwest Territories, with nearly 1,500 youth taking part in the program in 2009/2010. Over 8,000 youth have enrolled in the program since its inception.

"Mr. Erasmus has done a remarkable job in promoting the traditional economy to NWT youth through the Take a Kid Trapping Program" said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. "His work has contributed greatly to traditional life skills development and to the NWT's traditional economy, and I want to offer my congratulations to Mr. Erasmus on receiving this well-deserved honour."

The award announcement was made at the 2010 FIC Annual Banquet in St. John's, Newfoundland. The FIC annually recognizes outstanding individual achievements in the Canadian trapping industry with a variety of awards.

Through programs like the Take a Kid Trapping Program, ITI and the GNWT are working towards developing healthy, educated Northerners and safe, sustainable communities as envisioned in the 16th Legislative Assembly's *Northerners Working Together* strategic vision.

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R(16)464

Nursing Graduates Find Employment with GNWT

YELLOWKNIFE (June 25, 2010) – Thirteen new graduates from the Aurora College Nursing Program have been offered employment within the Health and Social Services system.

Under the Graduate Placement Program, positions have been offered with the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority; the Beaufort Delta Health and Social Services Authority; the Stanton Territorial Health Authority; the Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority; the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority; and the Department of Justice.

“We’re committed to ensuring a strong care system that reflects our territory’s diverse population, and hiring NWT graduates is an important component of that,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee. “Providing these graduates with NWT positions today builds capacity for the future, and helps ensure that we continue to meet the needs of NWT residents.”

“It’s always positive to see Northern students graduate from a Northern school and find employment in the North,” said Minister of Human Resources Bob McLeod. “Under the Maximizing Northern Employment strategic initiative, our government continues to work to provide jobs for NWT residents. I want to congratulate these graduates on beginning their new careers.”

There are over 400 nurses working in the Northwest Territories, including Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, and Nurse Practitioners. Together these positions cover the areas of clinical practice, education, research, administration, and health policy.

A priority in the Health and Social Services action plan *A Foundation for Change* is to enable the health care system to deliver the right services through the right providers in the right places. This includes the adjustment of staffing models to best utilize the skills of all health practitioners including nurses and nurse practitioners.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)465

GNWT Partners with CDETNO on *Come Make Your Mark* Marketing Campaign

YELLOWKNIFE (June 29, 2010): The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Conseil de développement économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (CDETNO) have agreed to partner on the *Come Make Your Mark / Faites le saut* national marketing campaign to help address labour shortages in the NWT.

Come Make Your Mark is a comprehensive national marketing campaign aimed at convincing residents of select regional jurisdictions across Canada to move to the NWT to live and work long-term. The campaign was first rolled out in northern Ontario in April and will be launched in the fall of 2010 in Quebec and universities across Canada. It will also target the Atlantic Provinces and northern British Columbia in the future. The agreement allows the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment and CDETNO to work together in a number of capacities on the campaign.

“We’re very excited about this new partnership with CDETNO,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “The collaboration will help broaden the scope of the *Come Make Your Mark / Faites le saut* campaign and is an important step in addressing the challenge of staffing businesses in the NWT.”

“The partnership between the GNWT and CDETNO demonstrates the added-value of working together for a common goal and proves the government's willingness to consider the richness and importance of diversity in the NWT,” said Jean-Francois Pitre, president of CDETNO.

The *Come Make Your Mark / Faites le saut* national marketing campaign is part of the 16th Legislative Assembly’s Maximizing Opportunities strategic initiative, which focuses on ensuring the NWT economy is balanced, diversified and sustainable. Through campaigns such as *Come Make Your Mark / Faites le saut* and other initiatives, the GNWT is working towards a diversified economy that provides all communities and regions with choices as outlined in the 16th Legislative Assembly’s *Northerners Working Together* strategic vision.

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R(16)465

Le GTNO s'associe au le CDÉTNO pour mener la campagne de marketing *Faites le saut*

Yellowknife (TNO), le 29 juin – Le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) et le Conseil de développement économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (CDÉTNO) ont convenu de collaborer dans le cadre de la campagne nationale de marketing *Faites le saut* visant à remédier aux pénuries de main-d'œuvre aux TNO.

Faites le saut est une vaste campagne nationale de marketing qui a pour objectif de convaincre les résidents de régions ciblées du Canada de déménager aux TNO et d'y travailler à long terme. La campagne, amorcée en avril dernier dans le nord de l'Ontario, se poursuivra dès l'automne 2010 dans la province de Québec et dans les universités à travers le Canada. Elle continuera à porter ses fruits dans l'avenir, puisque les responsables de la campagne rendront visite aux provinces de l'Atlantique et aux régions situées dans le nord de la Colombie-Britannique. Cette nouvelle entente permettra au ministère de l'Industrie, du Tourisme et de l'Investissement et au CDÉTNO de travailler ensemble sur de nombreux aspects de la campagne.

« Le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest est très enthousiaste à l'égard de ce nouveau partenariat avec le CDÉTNO, a affirmé le ministre de l'Industrie, du Tourisme et de l'Investissement, Bob McLeod. Cette collaboration nous aidera à élargir la portée de la campagne *Faites le saut* et accélérera le processus visant à remédier à la pénurie de main-d'œuvre au sein des entreprises ténaises. »

« Le partenariat entre le GTNO et le CDÉTNO met en évidence la valeur ajoutée d'un travail de collaboration visant l'atteinte d'un objectif commun et témoigne de la volonté du gouvernement de reconnaître la richesse et l'importance de la diversité aux TNO », a souligné Jean-François Pitre, président du CDÉTNO.

La campagne nationale de marketing *Faites le saut* s'inscrit dans l'initiative stratégique de maximisation des possibilités de la 16^e Assemblée législative, qui a pour but d'assurer que l'économie ténaise est équilibrée, diversifiée et viable. Grâce à ce type de campagnes et à d'autres initiatives, le GTNO travaille au développement d'une économie diversifiée permettant d'offrir, à toutes les collectivités et à toutes les régions, les choix présentés dans la vision stratégique de la 16^e Assemblée législative intitulée *Travaillons ensemble*.

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R(16)466

Premier Roland Emphasizes Importance of Cooperation in Speech to Inuit Circumpolar Council

NUUK (June 30, 2010): Premier of the Northwest Territories Floyd Roland is in Nuuk, Greenland this week, attending the 11th Inuit Circumpolar Council General Assembly and promoting the importance of cooperation amongst Northern groups in the face of growing global interest in the Arctic.

“The world is realizing what we, as Northerners, have always known to be true,” said Premier Roland. “The Arctic holds a key strategic place in the world, and the vast resources it possesses make our land a place full of promise. But while we are all witnesses to the fact that the world is paying more attention to the North and to Northerners, we need to make it clear that the Arctic is more than just its location and resources – it is our home, and must be governed in a responsible way with the full involvement of those who know it best.”

Delivering his remarks at the opening ceremony of the General Assembly, the Premier told the audience that more cooperation is needed to ensure that Northern voices are heard on Northern topics. “We speak loudest when we speak with one message, and Northern public governments and Aboriginal people need to work together in forming that message. We need to define our role in influencing the decision-making and policy-setting that will affect us for decades to come.”

Formed in 1977, the Inuit Circumpolar Council is an international group that represents approximately 160,000 Inuit living in Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka, Russia. The General Assembly meets every four years and draws attendees from Aboriginal groups, governments, and businesses from around the circumpolar world. The ICC has permanent member status on the multinational Arctic Council.

A copy of the Premier’s remarks can be found online at:
http://www.exec.gov.nt.ca/currentnews/speechDetails.asp?varStatement_ID=1007

For more information, contact:

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R(16)467

Government of the Northwest Territories Celebrates Canada Day

YELLOWKNIFE (June 30, 2010): Tomorrow, July 1st, marks the 143rd anniversary of Canada's Confederation. Premier Floyd Roland is encouraging all NWT residents to take the opportunity to reflect on what makes our country a great place to live, and how we can work to make it even better.

“Part of what I value in Canada is our diversity, where every province and territory has its own unique qualities – but when considered together forms a proud, strong and free nation,” said Premier Roland. “Our territory reflects this same dynamic. The people of the Northwest Territories represent many different cultures and backgrounds, but we are able to work together to ensure a vibrant and promising future full of opportunities and choices. I encourage all NWT residents to celebrate July 1st, and the rich heritage and potential that we enjoy as Northerners and Canadians.”

For more information, please contact:

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R(16)468

Community Gardens Provide Affordable Produce in NWT Communities

YELLOWKNIFE (July 5, 2010) - New community gardens are sprouting up in communities across the Northwest Territories thanks to the Government of the Northwest Territories' Small Scale Foods Program.

This summer, community gardens will be developed in communities such as Hay River, N'Dilo, Behchokö, Tsiighetchic and Aklavik. The GNWT plans to have gardens established in 29 NWT communities by the end of 2010. The gardens are important in providing fresh, locally-grown produce to NWT communities.

“The success of the Small Scale Foods Program is a testament to the GNWT’s commitment to reducing the cost of living in our communities” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “Through the support of the GNWT, and the hard work of residents throughout the territory, gardens are being established in as many NWT communities as possible. This is a key step in providing affordable, healthy food for NWT residents.”

The community garden Initiative is part of the GNWT’s Small Scale Foods Program, which is one of the programs contained in the bi-lateral Growing Forward Agreement. The agreement is a joint effort between the GNWT and the Government of Canada that was signed in July of 2009.

Governments are investing \$1.3 billion over five years into Growing Forward programs. Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative, attempts to build a vibrant, sustainable agriculture sector by attending to the local needs of a region.

“Since the Growing Forward Agreement was implemented in 2009, the NWT’s agriculture sector has benefited greatly,” said Minister McLeod. “The success of our community gardens Initiative reflects that.”

The Small Scale Foods Program is another example of action being taken by the 16th Legislative Assembly to reduce the cost of living in all NWT communities as envisioned in the *Northerners Working Together* plan.

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R(16)469

Many Voices - One Message Says NWT Premier

YELLOWKNIFE (July 7, 2010) -- Premier Floyd Roland today launched Creating Our Future Together - his part of a collective effort by NWT elected leaders to identify a common vision for the future of the Northwest Territories.

“In a variety of ways, we are asking all NWT residents to describe the future that they envision for themselves and their Territory,” the Premier said.

“Implicit in arriving at this common vision or goal will be the priorities, steps and initiatives that will help guide future leaders and their governments to advance the best interests of the NWT and its residents – and address the opportunities and challenges that lie before us.”

Premier Roland says he wants to ensure that all NWT residents have the opportunity to be heard. A brochure is being mailed to all NWT households and a website has been established to provide residents with a means to participate.

The Premier will also host a series of roundtable discussions in coming months with individuals, groups and organizations representative of many parts of the NWT’s society.

Prior to formally launching Creating Our Future Together on Wednesday, Premier Roland engaged in a roundtable with some of the NWT’s longest serving media representatives.

“The interests and opinions of NWT residents are represented to their Governments in many ways and by many organizations – but none more so than the media,” he noted.

Efforts to develop a common vision for the NWT are being advanced by the Northern Leaders Forum made up of the NWT’s regional Aboriginal governments, representatives of the NWT Association of Communities, and the 16th Legislative Assembly as well as the Premier.

“The nature of the exercise that we have set out for ourselves is significant,” the Premier noted.

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“We have often talked about speaking with one voice. This is better. Not just one voice – but many voices with one message.”

“Our ability to shape or determine our future is dependent on our ability, as NWT governments, to share a common vision – and to speak with one message on matters relating to NWT residents and their interests,” the Premier said.

On Friday, the Premier will convene a roundtable in Yellowknife of local and territorial representatives of industry businesses and non-government organizations (NGOs).

For more information, visit creatingourfuture.ca

Or contact:

Drew Williams

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R(16)470

GNWT Releases Comparative Analysis Study on Small Business

YELLOWKNIFE (July 8, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories has released a new study that compares the state of small businesses in the NWT with those in the Yukon, Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

The *Small Business in the NWT* study was prepared by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment and includes information recently released by Industry Canada. The study compares how NWT small businesses stack up against Yukon, Alberta and Saskatchewan small businesses, and includes data on wage rates, electrical costs, fuel prices and more.

“This study is a valuable tool in examining the state of small business in the NWT,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “The GNWT is committed to supporting small business, and we recognize the value of a healthy small business sector. The study demonstrates that despite the challenges, NWT small businesses are competitive with their provincial and territorial counterparts, and are significant contributors to our economic well-being.”

Small businesses diversify the NWT economy and the 16th Legislative Assembly has focused on strengthening this sector. Some of the programs aimed at assisting and promoting small businesses include the Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development Policy, which provides financial support to prospective entrepreneurs; and the *Come Make Your Mark* National Marketing Campaign, which is aimed at promoting the NWT as a place to live and work long term to residents of select regional jurisdictions across Canada. The GNWT is also committed to reducing the cost of doing business in the territory through initiatives such as the Electricity Review.

The *Small Business in the NWT* report can be viewed online at www.itl.gov.nt.ca

For more information, contact:

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R(16)471

Expanded Community Access Program Will Provide New Funding for Transportation in the NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (July 9, 2010) - The Government of the Northwest Territories has expanded a program aimed at helping NWT communities address their transportation needs. The newly-named Community Access Program provides funding for transportation projects in the territory. Previously known as the Local Community Access Roads Program, the initiative has now had its scope and its funding increased to cover a wider range of community projects.

Through the program, support will continue to be available for local access roads and trails to nearby attractions such as hunting, fishing and wood gathering areas, and recreation sites. Newly available this year is funding for marine facilities that support local recreation and subsistence harvesting activities, and for winter road access to gravel.

“Some of the best ideas for improving the quality of life in NWT communities come from the communities themselves,” said Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod. “By expanding the scope of this program, I hope that we can continue to build our communities to meet the needs of NWT residents.”

To accompany the new range of projects under its scope, the total budget for the Program has been increased to one million dollars annually. These additional resources have been provided as part of the Government of Northwest Territory’s Refocusing Government Strategic Initiative, and reflect the recommendations of the Committee on the Sustainability of Rural and Remote Communities.

All NWT communities have received information on the process for submitting proposals for funding under the Community Access Program. Further information about the Program can be obtained from Department of Transportation Regional Superintendents.

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R(16)472

GNWT Updates Fax Guidelines for Health System

YELLOWKNIFE (July 13, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Health and Social Services, in close consultation with Health and Social Service Authorities, has updated guidelines for the issuing of all health and social services faxes containing confidential patient/client information. New guidelines have been posted on the department's website and will come into effect immediately.

“Any breach of private information is deeply concerning,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee, “and I want to assure people that we have taken substantial and serious steps to address this problem, to ensure that NWT residents can continue to have full confidence in the privacy of their medical information.”

A fax ban was in effect in the NWT health system from July 6-9. During these few days only urgent medical records such as urgent prescriptions were faxed, and only when no other distribution means were available. At no time was patient care compromised. During that time, an internal review was completed of over 1000 programmed faxes from the Health Authorities.

As the Health and Social Service System continues its work on implementing electronic health records in our territory, the need for faxes will diminish, though they will still be required for some normal day to day functions.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)473

GNWT Provides Funding to Youth Centres

YELLOWKNIFE (July 19, 2010) — The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is investing \$500,000 to assist with the operating costs of 34 youth centers in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod said the Youth Centers Initiative funding will allow the organizations to focus on developing quality programs to shape and strengthen our future leaders.

“Youth are one of our greatest and most valued assets,” said Minister McLeod. “Across the NWT, youth centers provide them with the opportunity to grow into future leaders and help us develop the sustainable, vibrant, and safe communities that we envision for our future.”

A list of 2010-2011 funding recipients is attached.

Through its investment in youth centers, the GNWT is working to improve the positive programming for youth. Investing in youth and strengthening the programs and services available to them will work to build strong individuals, families, and communities in the NWT as envisioned in the 16th Assembly’s Vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

For more information on the Youth Centre Initiative, please visit MACA’s website: www.maca.gov.nt.ca

For more information, please contact:

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**Youth Centres Initiative
2010-2011 Funding Recipients**

Each of the following communities will receive \$14,705.00 to help support 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

Behchokò	Rae Edzo Friendship Center
Behchokò	Edzo Youth Centre
Dettah	Dettah Youth Centre
Gameti	Community Government of Gameti Youth Centre
Lutselk'e	Lutselk'e Youth Centre
N'dilo	N'dilo Youth Centre
Yellowknife	Side Door Youth Centre
Wekweeti	Wekweeti Youth Centre
Whati	Whati Youth Centre

South Slave Region

Fort Providence	Zhati Koe Friendship Centre
Fort Resolution	Antoine Beaulieu Memorial Hall Youth Centre

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Fort Smith	Town of Fort Smith Recreation and Community Centre
Fort Smith	Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre
Hay River	Hay River Community Youth Centre
Hay River	Hay River Soaring Eagle Friendship Center
Hay River Reserve	K'atlodeeche First Nations Youth Centre

Sahtu Region

Colville Lake	Colville Lake Youth Centre
Deline	Brian Kenny Youth Centre
Fort Good Hope	Fort Good Hope Youth Centre
Norman Wells	Norman Wells Youth and Elder Centre
Tulita	Tulita Dene Band Youth Centre

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R(16)474

Public Input Requested on New NWT Wildlife Act

YELLOWKNIFE (July 19, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories is seeking input from the public on a proposed new Wildlife Act for the Northwest Territories.

“Our government has been working to develop a new Wildlife Act that reflects Northerners’ values and respect for wildlife, so we can conserve wildlife for present and future generations,” said ENR Minister J. Michael Miltenberger. “The proposed legislation has been developed using the same collaborative working group process used for the development of the Species at Risk (NWT) Act, and the next step is seeking input from members of the public to ensure the legislation meets the needs and views of our residents.”

Public engagement and consultation is an important component of developing new wildlife legislation. The GNWT is ensuring Aboriginal governments and organizations, resident harvesters, and other stakeholders are considered when developing the legislation.

As part of that process, a public engagement and consultation document outlining the major elements of the proposed new Wildlife Act is available at local ENR Offices or by visiting the ENR website at www.enr.gov.nt.ca

“I encourage everyone in the territory with a stake in this process to review the document and provide us with your comments,” said Minister Miltenberger. “Our goal is to introduce a new Wildlife Act for review by the Legislative Assembly during the 2011 winter session, and we want to ensure that all NWT residents have an opportunity to make their voices heard.”

Some of the main elements of the proposed new legislation are:

- **Broader Application** – The new act will apply to almost all animals that are wild in nature, including insects, but excepting fish.
- **Principles** – Includes principles similar to those found in land-claim agreements.
- **Aboriginal Rights** – Respects and supports Aboriginal rights to harvest, possess, barter, trade, gift and be involved in the management of wildlife.
- **Cooperative Management** – Promotes a collaborative working relationship among all bodies responsible for managing wildlife in the NWT.

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- **Emergency Actions** – Includes the development of a process to guide the implementation of emergency actions taken for conservation purposes.
- **Community Involvement** – Includes elders and local harvesting committees in developing hunter education and identifying traditional values and practices.
- **Aboriginal Harvesters** – General hunting licences would no longer be needed. Proof of entitlement to harvest or an Aboriginal harvester card would be sufficient.
- **Resident Hunters** – People who have lived in the NWT for one year would be eligible for a Resident Hunting Licence.
- **Harvest Reporting** – All licensed hunters would be required to report their annual harvest.
- **Priority for Harvest Allocation** – Follow priorities for allocation of harvest established through land claim agreements. Priorities for allocation in areas without a settled land claim agreement would be set out in the legislation.
- **Wastage** – Prohibitions against wastage would be strengthened and improved.
- **Increased Fines and Penalties** – Maximum fines would increase to \$50,000 for individuals, \$100,000 for corporations and \$250,000 for commercial offences related to wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- **Five Year Review** – The Act would be reviewed by the Legislative Assembly in five years to determine if changes or additions are required.

Development of new wildlife legislation supports the GNWT's Managing This Land strategic initiative and the 16th Legislative Assembly's goal of realizing an environment that will sustain present and future generations.

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R(16)475

NWT Delegation Returns from PNWER Annual Summit

YELLOWKNIFE (July 21, 2010) – The Northwest Territories delegation has returned from the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit in Calgary after exploring and debating issues of importance to the NWT.

The NWT delegation at the PNWER Summit included Premier Floyd Roland; Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod; David Ramsay, MLA Kam Lake and Chair of the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure (SCEDI); and David Krutko, MLA Mackenzie Delta and member of SCEDI.

During the Summit, the NWT delegation discussed resource development, northern infrastructure development, the need for sustainable communities and potential partnerships with PNWER attendees. On Sunday, Premier Roland spoke to delegates about economic development and resource potential in the NWT as the opening speaker prior to a session on infrastructure development.

“The Northwest Territories has vast untapped potential in our resources and our people,” said Premier Roland. “That potential has implications far beyond our own territory, and this summit allows us both to convey that and to work with other jurisdictions to achieve our common goals and foster economic growth.”

“The Summit provided an important opportunity for the NWT to share its views on important issues, such as development and sustainability, with other regions,” said Minister McLeod. “It also provided us with invaluable perspectives on how to improve the economic climate of not just the NWT, but the entire Pacific Northwest Region.”

“Fostering partnerships between other territories, provinces, and states within the geographical area is important in maximizing the potential of the NWT,” said MLA Ramsay. “I was pleased to have the opportunity to interact with our counterparts from across the Pacific Northwest in such a setting.”

While in Calgary, the delegation also participated in a meeting of the Arctic Caucus, which was established by PNWER last year. The caucus, comprised of delegates from the northern jurisdictions of PNWER, met to identify core issues

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that are priorities to the NWT, the Yukon, and Alaska. Some of the issues raised by the NWT delegation included energy, Northern infrastructure, and NWT economic and trade opportunities.

PNWER is a statutory public/private partnership established in 1991 promoting collaboration between the organization's 10 regional partners. The NWT joined PNWER in 2009. The other PNWER members include British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Yukon, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

The NWT's participation in PNWER is an example of the actions being taken by the 16th Legislative Assembly to maximize northern opportunities for economic development, as envisioned in the *Northerners Working Together* plan.

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R(16)476

GNWT Hosts Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Institute in Collaboration with the University of Victoria

YELLOWKNIFE (July 22, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is hosting the first Northwest Territories Aboriginal Languages Summer Institute this month, a partnership between the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) and the University of Victoria Certificate Program in Aboriginal Language Revitalization (CALR). The two-week Institute runs from July 19th to the 31st, 2010 and brings together 21 community language workers and teachers representing official Aboriginal languages of the NWT.

“We heard clearly at the recent NWT Language Symposium that Aboriginal people want to connect to their culture through language. The Language Institute gives us the opportunity to help people do so, by helping language workers from across our territory learn the best ways to spread and revitalize Aboriginal languages,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “It is our hope that this and other initiatives will help enable more people to speak their Aboriginal language in the coming years.”

The partnership with University of Victoria (UVic) program benefits from the University’s relationship with the En’owkin Centre, the post-secondary educational institution of the Okanagan First Nations known for its commitment to language revitalization. En’owkin Centre and University of Victoria staff and faculty worked closely with ECE’s Official Languages Division and community language coordinators to develop the Institute. The facilities at the Yellowknife campus of Aurora College will be used for the duration of the Institute.

“In sponsoring this Institute, the GNWT is taking very important steps in promoting the use and revitalization of the diverse set of Inuit, Dene, and Cree languages of the Territories,” says Dr. Jeannette Armstrong, Executive Director of the En’owkin Centre. No other jurisdiction in Canada has adopted a strategy of professional development for Aboriginal language specialists of the scope of the NWT Institute.

The Institute's instructors are two First Nations scholars and teachers. Iehnhotonkwaw Bonnie Jane Maracle has taught in UVic's CALR program since its inception five years ago and is also a doctoral candidate and instructor with Trent University and Queen's University in Ontario. Brock Pitawanakwat earned his doctorate at the University of Victoria and taught at First Nations

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University and the University of Winnipeg before accepting a secondment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Plans are already under way for an expanded Aboriginal Languages Summer Institute to be offered in partnership with the University of Victoria in 2011.

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R(16)477

GNWT Reminds NWT Residents to Boat Safe

YELLOWKNIFE (July 29, 2010): With the August long weekend approaching, the Government of the Northwest Territories is reminding residents who plan to spend time on the water to boat safe, or they may face serious penalties and consequences. Boaters who are charged with operating a vessel while impaired are subject to potential repercussions like the loss of their driver's licence.

“Our territory is fortunate to have a wealth of lakes and rivers that all NWT residents can enjoy,” said Transportation Minister Michael McLeod, “but it’s important to ensure that we keep ourselves safe while on the water, by wearing a proper flotation device and by remembering that drinking and boating do not mix.”

Barbara Kusyanto, CAO of the Lifesaving Society, Alberta and Northwest Territories, encourages all Northerners to demonstrate Water Smart behaviour while in, on, and around the water. “Most fatal incidents occur without warning, and with no time to put on a lifejacket,” she said. “Lifejackets are your assurance that if you end up suddenly in the water, you will have time to make positive choices that will contribute to your own rescue.”

The majority of drowning deaths in the NWT result from a failure to wear a lifejacket or personal flotation device (PFD). Boats can capsize suddenly, and a person can drown in less than a minute. Alcohol increases the likelihood of getting into a mishap, and the impaired reaction of boaters who are not sober to the shock of being thrown into the water increases their risk of drowning.

Boaters who end up in the water should, whenever possible, stay with the boat, even if it’s overturned or full of water. Searchers and those on the shore can more easily spot victims in the water if they are with the boat.

Drive Alive, the travel safety information program of the Government of Northwest Territories, seeks to remind travellers there is more we can all do to reduce the risk of serious injury and death while travelling in the Northwest Territories this summer.

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R(16)478

GNWT Sponsors Traditional Knowledge Programs for Youth

YELLOWKNIFE (August 3, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories continued its support for traditional knowledge this summer with the successful sponsorship of two initiatives aimed at encouraging young people to learn more about traditional culture and life skills.

In the Sahtu region, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment's Take a Kid Trapping Program sponsored Tulita's Chief Albert Wright School in the development of a mooseskin boat. The boat, which required three mooseskin hides to complete, was launched in June prior to the school's summer break. Community elders harvested the required materials and built the boat with the assistance of Tulita students.

In May, the Take a Kid Harvesting Program sponsored K'alemi Dene School in N'dilo, for a birch syrup harvesting project near the Yellowknife River. The three-week project educated young people on traditional methods of gathering birch sap, and produced several gallons of syrup. The school plans to produce syrup again next year.

"Our government recognizes the importance of providing opportunities to the young people of the Northwest Territories to learn traditional life skills," said Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister Bob McLeod. "I would like to thank the communities of Tulita and N'dilo and the elders who made these projects so successful. It is through their willingness to teach that we ensure these valuable skills are not lost, and I look forward to continuing to launch programs like these in communities across our territory."

Over 8,000 young people have participated in traditional economy programs sponsored by the GNWT since 2002. These culturally-based programs like Take a Kid Trapping and Take a Kid Harvesting are designed to introduce young people in the Northwest Territories to traditional life skill practices, such as hunting, trapping, fishing and outdoor survival. Sponsored programs have taken place in every region of the territory.

Through these traditional economy programs, the GNWT is working towards developing healthy, educated people as envisioned in the 16th Legislative Assembly's *Northerners Working Together* strategic vision.

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R(16)479

A Promising Consultation/Cooperation Committee Meeting for the GNWT and FFT

YELLOWKNIFE (August 3rd, 2010): On Thursday, July 29th, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Fédération franco-ténoise (FFT) had a successful first meeting of the new Consultation/ Cooperation Committee on French language services and communications.

The mandate of the Consultation/Cooperation Committee is to facilitate consultation on the GNWT's drafting, implementation, administration and promotion of a comprehensive plan for the provision of French language communications and services under the *Official Languages Act*. The Consultation/Cooperation Committee will carry out its work in two main phases, namely the Initial Drafting Phase then the Implementation, Administration and Promotion Phase.

"I am very pleased to have the GNWT collaborating with the Fédération franco-ténoise to improve the delivery of French language services and communications in the Northwest Territories," said Dan Daniels, Co-chair of the Consultation/Cooperation Committee and Deputy Minister for Education, Culture and Employment. Consultation with the French languages community is a key factor in the GNWT's implementation plan added Mr. Daniels.

Richard Létourneau, President of the FFT and Co-chair of the Committee said, "I am delighted by this first stage of cooperation which launches a new era of understanding and dialogue with our counterparts in the Government."

The Consultation/Cooperation Committee is comprised of five members of the FFT, Richard Létourneau, President of the FFT; Francis Lemieux, Executive Director of the FFT; Michel Bastarache, Expert, Dyane Adam, Expert and Léo-Paul Provencher, consultants to the FFT; and three representatives of the GNWT, Paddy Meade, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Tom Williams, Deputy Minister of Human Resources, and Dan Daniels, Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for late November.

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R(16)479

Un comité de consultation et de coopération prometteur pour le GTNO et la FFT

Yellowknife, le 4 août 2010 – Le jeudi 29 juillet 2010, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) et la Fédération franco-ténoise (FFT) ont tenu une première réunion du Comité de consultation et de coopération sur les communications et services en français des plus positives.

Le mandat du Comité de consultation et de coopération est de faciliter les consultations sur l'élaboration, la mise en œuvre, la gestion et la promotion, par le GTNO, d'un plan global de prestation des communications et des services en français prévus par la *Loi sur les langues officielles*. Le Comité de consultation et de coopération accomplira son mandat en deux étapes principales, c'est-à-dire l'étape de l'élaboration initiale, suivie de l'étape de la mise en œuvre, de la gestion et de la promotion.

« Je suis très heureux que le GTNO et la Fédération franco-ténoise collaborent afin d'améliorer les communications et la prestation des services en français aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest, affirme M. Dan Daniels, coprésident du Comité de consultation et de coopération et sous-ministre du ministère de l'Éducation, de la Culture et de la Formation. En effet, l'un des éléments essentiels du plan de mise en œuvre du GTNO est la consultation avec la communauté francophone », ajoute-t-il.

« Je me réjouis de cette première étape de coopération qui amorce une nouvelle ère d'entente et de dialogue avec nos vis-à-vis gouvernementaux », soutient M. Richard Létourneau, président de la FFT et coprésident du Comité de consultation et de coopération.

Le Comité de consultation et de coopération est formé de cinq représentants de la FFT; M. Richard Létourneau, président, M. Francis Lemieux, directeur général, M. Michel Bastarache, expert, Mme Dyane Adam, experte, et M. Léo-Paul Provencher, consultant de la FFT, de même que de trois représentants du GTNO; Mme Paddy Meade, sous-ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux, M. Tom Williams, sous-ministre des Ressources

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humaines, ainsi que M. Dan Daniels, sous-ministre de l'Éducation, de la Culture et de la Formation.

La prochaine réunion du Comité se tiendra à la fin du mois de novembre prochain.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, communiquez avec :

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R(16)480

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre to Host Reception with Creator of “Fragments - Art for Life's Sake”

YELLOWKNIFE (August 4, 2010) – The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre will host a reception with the creator of the ongoing exhibit “Fragments” – the Yellowknife-born, Morocco-based artist Blake Ward. Members of the public and the media are invited to attend a reception on Friday, August 6th, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Blake will lead brief talks at 5:30 p.m. on the social responsibility of artists, and at 7:00 p.m. on Canada’s involvement in landmine removal.

The sculptures, on display at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre since mid-May, are dedicated to raising awareness and contributing to the solution of the landmine crisis in developing countries. Designed to show the impact of landmines on the human form, the sculptures were inspired by Blake’s experiences in post-war Vietnam where he witnessed the ongoing danger that landmines pose.

Each Fragments sculpture is a ¼ life-sized fragmented figure modelled from life in clay using ancient Greek sculpting techniques. The sculptures are cast in bronze in Bologna, Italy and then hand finished.

Blake's Fragments sculptures have toured the UK, Monaco, and the USA raising awareness about landmines and funds to address the problem. In October 2010, the sculptures will be on exhibit in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Proceeds from the previous sale of Fragments sculptures have been used for clearing minefields in Vietnam and Afghanistan, supporting cluster munitions removal in Kosovo, mapping minefields in Angola, and providing mine-risk education to children who live in countries contaminated by minefields.

For more information on the exhibit or the event, please contact:

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R(16)481

Premier Roland Congratulates Tłıchǫ Government on 5th Anniversary

YELLOWKNIFE (August 4, 2010): Today, August 4th, marks the 5th anniversary of the creation of the Tłıchǫ government. In honour of the event, Premier Floyd K. Roland congratulated the elders, people, and leadership of the Tłıchǫ on reaching this latest milestone – and for continuing to serve as a role model for Aboriginal self-government across the North.

“The Tłıchǫ Agreement was the first comprehensive land claims and self-government treaty to be signed in the Northwest Territories,” said Premier Roland. “It recognizes the right to self-government, and respects the traditional rights, languages, culture, and way of life of the Tłıchǫ people.

“I applaud the Tłıchǫ Government for ensuring that the Tłıchǫ people are positioned to benefit fully from the opportunities available in the NWT. I look forward to working closely with the Tłıchǫ to strengthen our relationship as governments and people in the interest of realizing the prosperous future that awaits us all.”

For more information, contact:

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R(16)482

Council of the Federation Announces NWT Recipient of 2010 Literacy Award

WINNIPEG (August 4, 2010) – Noreen Morin has been named as the Northwest Territories recipient of this year’s Council of the Federation (CoF) Literacy Award. Presented annually to recipients in each province and territory, the award celebrates outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy.

“I congratulate Noreen Morin both for receiving this award, and for all the passion and determination she displays in her pursuit of learning,” Premier Floyd Roland says. “Ensuring an educated population is a stated priority of our government, and Noreen is a strong role model for her success in attaining literacy and for her efforts to preserve traditional culture.”

Noreen receives this award for her exceptional accomplishment as an adult learner. Noreen’s first language is South Slavey, and she grew up on the land with little formal schooling. She moved to Fort Liard as a teenager where she learned to speak English, but did not learn to read or write. At the age of 26, she decided to enrol in Aurora College. Noreen has dedicated her time, energy and enthusiasm over the past seven years to improving her literacy skills while strongly maintaining her traditional culture. Noreen is now an avid reader and writer, and a role model for adult learners in the community.

The CoF Literacy Award recognizes outstanding contributions made by Canadians across the entire spectrum of the literacy field, including family, Aboriginal, health, workplace and community literacy. Each year the award is presented to one person, community organization or business in each province and territory. Premiers created the award in 2004 to recognize the importance of literacy as a major factor in Canadians’ ability to participate as full and active citizens in all areas of society.

Noreen will receive a certificate signed by the Premier and a Council of the Federation Literacy Award medallion.

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Council of the Federation Announces Literacy Award Winners for 2010

WINNIPEG, August 4, 2010 – Canada’s Premiers today announced the recipients of the sixth annual Council of the Federation Literacy Award. Presented in each province and territory, the award celebrates outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy.

The recipients of the 2010 Council of the Federation Literacy Award are:

Margaret Chegwin – Alberta
Pete Grinberg – British Columbia
Angela Keno – Manitoba
Eleanor Kingston – New Brunswick
Frenzada Mallet – New Brunswick
Robin Grant – Newfoundland and Labrador
Noreen Morin – Northwest Territories
Marcia Jeffers – Nova Scotia
Elisapee Flaherty – Nunavut
Leah Morris – Ontario
Trout River Industries Inc. – Prince Edward Island
Danielle Beaudry – Québec
Kim Newlove – Saskatchewan
Eleanor Millard – Yukon

“On behalf of all Premiers, I extend congratulations to the 2010 recipients of the Council of the Federation Literacy Award,” said Greg Selinger, Premier of Manitoba and incoming Chair of the Council of the Federation. “Recognizing that literacy skills are the essential building blocks for the development of a vibrant society and economy, this year’s recipients have all shown an exceptional commitment to literacy.”

The award recognizes outstanding contributions made by Canadians across the entire spectrum of the field of literacy, including family, Aboriginal, health, workplace and community literacy. Each year the award is presented to educators, volunteers, learners, community organizations, and businesses in each province and territory.

Each recipient receives a certificate, signed by the Premier of their province or territory, as well as a Council of the Federation Literacy Award medallion.

Premiers created the award in 2004 to recognize the importance of literacy as a major factor in Canadians’ ability to participate as full and active citizens in all areas of society.

- MORE -

The Council of the Federation is comprised of all 13 provincial and territorial Premiers. It enables Premiers to work collaboratively to strengthen the Canadian federation by fostering a constructive relationship among the provinces and territories, and with the federal government.

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For more information:

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

2010 Council of the Federation Literacy Award Recipients

Margaret Chegwin – Alberta

Margaret Chegwin has been volunteering in the field of literacy in various capacities and communities since 1994. She began as a volunteer tutor in Grande Prairie and when she moved to Wetaskiwin, her passion led her to the Wetaskiwin Community Literacy Program. She has volunteered in many capacities, including as a board member, a tutor, a mentor, fundraiser, and literacy event organizer. Ms. Chegwin is also a reporter with a local paper and frequently highlights literacy events and issues, engaging the broader community in related challenges and opportunities. Her nominators describe Ms. Chegwin as a passionate, giving, and inspiring individual who strives to learn all that she can about literacy and regards literacy as “one of the greatest gifts” that she can help give.

Pete Grinberg – British Columbia

Pete Grinberg began his career as a high school teacher in Ontario 25 years ago. He later taught at the Kamloops Christian School, where he developed an alternate, self-paced program for struggling students. Since 2003, he has taught at the Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre (KRCC). During his time at the KRCC, he has developed and continues to coordinate Street School, a community literacy program for adults with learning difficulties, and a vital link between the corrections system and the community. Pete actively promotes the Street School and solicits volunteers to support this unique program which helps inmates transition from custody into the community. The program has proven to be successful as enrolment has risen from five students to 170, and this year 19 students will graduate with a grade 12 diploma. As an Adult Continuing Education teacher with School District 73 – Kamloops-Thompson, Pete continues to work tirelessly, helping learners reach their individual literacy goals.

Angela Keno – Manitoba

Angela Keno always wanted to improve her literacy skills, but as a single parent of three sons she was unable to attend programs due to family commitments. In 2009 when the Westgrove Learning Centre opened in her housing complex, she enrolled and eagerly worked on strategies to improve her reading. She achieved a tremendous amount in a short time and overcame many barriers to learning. Now she helps her sons with their homework, assists other students to learn math, and volunteers with Winnipeg Harvest, a non-profit, community-based organization whose ultimate goal is to collect and share surplus food with the hungry. With her increased confidence and new literacy skills, Angela obtained part-time employment as a Community Helper at the family resource centre. She is a leader and role model who offers encouragement and support for those around her, both in the classroom and in the community.

Eleanor Kingston – New Brunswick

Assisting adults with literacy skills can be a challenge, however, assisting adults who have suffered a mental illness to obtain literacy skills can be even more challenging. However, this is not the case for Eleanor Kingston, who championed a unique program that helps this group acquire literacy and life skills. In 2003, Eleanor, having devoted her life to working with the Schizophrenia Society, realized a more comprehensive program was needed. She partnered with the New Brunswick Department of Education to develop the first literacy class in the province for people with mental illness. The impact of this program is overwhelming in that over 40 learners have completed this class, have moved on to college or other areas of training, become employed either full or part-time or become volunteers in the community.

Frenzada Mallet – Nouveau-Brunswick

Frenzada Mallet has taught for 35 years in Quebec and New Brunswick schools as well as in community colleges in the Acadian Peninsula. As a volunteer, she taught French grammar courses at the local library for 15 years and, in addition to revising texts, has helped out at the local seniors' home for approximately 10 years. Ms. Mallet has a passion for the French language, and no matter how great the challenge, she wanted to ensure that literacy would be a learning solution that could open up opportunities for people of all ages, levels of education and from all walks of life. In addition, she made it possible for some of her learners to challenge themselves by getting them to participate in regional and national dictation competitions.

Robin Grant – Newfoundland and Labrador

Ms. Robin Grant is a professional writer, researcher, producer and editor, perhaps best known as founder and Executive and Artistic Director at *For the Love of Learning Incorporated*, an alternative education organization serving young Newfoundland and Labrador adults. Guided by the belief that too many individuals were being held back by a lack of education and literacy, through circumstances often beyond their control, she made the development of reading and writing skills an integral part of her organization's curriculum. In May, 2008, Ms. Grant was shortlisted as one of three national finalists in the Social Action category of *Canadian Living* magazine's "Me to We" awards for her work with *For the Love of Learning*. Ms. Grant was also profiled in the January 2009 issue of *Chatelaine* magazine. The article entitled "How One Woman Made a Difference" focused on Canadians working to help improve literacy skills in Canada. Ms. Grant has a B.A. (English) from Memorial University of Newfoundland, a Journalism degree from King's College, and a never-ending passion to bolster and encourage literacy and creativity in those who need it most.

Noreen Morin – Northwest Territories

Noreen Morin is an adult learner who grew up on the land and had little formal schooling. Her first language is South Slavey. When she was a teenager she moved to Fort Liard where she learned to speak English but did not learn how to read or write. After experiencing numerous personal hardships, at age 26 Noreen decided to go to Aurora College to improve her literacy skills. Over the past seven years Noreen has worked with determination and passion while keeping her traditional culture strong. Her attendance record is outstanding, and "her optimism is indestructible." Noreen is now an avid reader and writer, and a role model for adult learners in the community.

Marcia Jeffers – Nova Scotia

Marcia Jeffers has every reason to be proud of herself. She returned to school after ten years and has excelled both academically and personally. When an opportunity arose to enrol in the Link Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) Program, she did so, not expecting to succeed. However, that first month she decided to change and attributes this desire to change, to a handful of teachers who believed in her. Marcia approached school work with a determination she had never experienced before and her marks soon reflected her abilities. Her volunteer work includes the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) Student's Association, the Breakfast Program, Student Success Banquet and Orientation Committee, in addition to tutoring at a community learning program. Marcia graduated in June 2010 with a Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma for Adults and a Continuing Care Assistant certificate from NSCC Truro Campus through the Link CCA Program. She is very proud to have been chosen to be Valedictorian at her graduation ceremonies.

Elisapee Flaherty – Nunavut

Elisapee's career in the field of literacy began as a teacher in the community of Kimmirut where she taught primary grades for eleven years. Having moved to Iqaluit in 2006, Elisapee became a Consultant at the Department of Education's Teaching and Learning Centre. As a further example of her commitment to higher learning, she received her Master's of Education in 2009. Elisapee continues to promote literacy in her community by working as a Consultant at the Teaching and Learning Centre and through her dedication as the Friends of Iqaluit Centennial Library's Inuktitut Literacy Coordinator. Elisapee plays a key role in the success of the Literacy program, encouraging literacy by targeting school-aged and early learners. The ability to offer literacy programs in Inuktitut is vital to the goal of serving all Iqaluit families, and as a result, many parents have commented on their children's improvement with the language. Elisapee is an outstanding role model for children and the local community. She is both safeguarding the Inuktitut language for the future, and providing children with the tools they will need to succeed in a rapidly-changing territory.

Leah Morris - Ontario

Leah Morris has shown herself to be a passionate, visionary and engaging person, who has inspired her community toward action on literacy. Under her leadership, the Adult Basic Education Association of Hamilton has become a well-established regional literacy network and community resource. Ms. Morris was instrumental in educating the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce about the relevance of literacy and essential skills as a business imperative. In 2004 Ms. Morris set out to create Lifelong Learning Week, without any dedicated funding, staff or partners. Her dream is now a reality and the Lifelong Learning Week will be celebrating its sixth anniversary this year. This is just one of many other examples demonstrating the singular success of Ms. Morris as a networking leader.

Trout River Industries Inc. – Prince Edward Island

Trout River Industries Inc. in Coleman, PEI manufactures uniquely designed live bottom trailers. In March of 2009, this company initiated a workplace education program at the plant. Workplace Learning PEI Inc. assessed the workers to determine what they felt they needed to be successful in their day-to-day work. Staff suggested General Education Development (GED) preparation to earn the PEI Grade Twelve Equivalency certificate, basic computer, communications and leadership training. To date, ten of the forty-one employees have written and passed the 5 GED tests and have received the grade 12 equivalency diploma. Many other employees have taken computer skills training at work. Trout River Industries Inc. introduced a unique in-house program called "Trout River 101". Production was shut down for a week while all employees took part in training to enhance teamwork, attitude, communication and essential skills. By investing in their employees, Trout River has seen increased confidence among their employees and they have decreased their trailer production time from 4 days to 1½ days. Trout River Industries Inc. is truly a literacy leader and a company that fosters a learning culture at work.

Danielle Beaudry – Québec

Danielle had to drop out of school at the end of Grade 7. Despite her mother's support and encouragement, she had a hard time integrating in her first school experience. Several years later, she decided to register in a literacy program in order to improve her writing and reading skills. "I decided on my own to go back to school and I'm very proud of it." Her literacy training gave her additional skills to communicate with her peers, increasing at the same time her self-confidence and independence. She is now a member of several women's associations and is involved with helping the elderly. All her life Mrs. Beaudry has met challenges, both the ones presented to her and those she gives herself. "I haven't always been lucky, but today I want to go forward and I'm motivated to do so."

Kim Newlove – Saskatchewan

Demonstrating a commitment to literacy leadership, innovation, research, promotion, advocacy and professional knowledge exchange throughout her 29 years at Saskatoon Public Schools, Ms. Newlove has served as an elementary teacher, vice-principal, consultant, coordinator and Superintendent of Education. Kim Newlove was instrumental in Saskatoon Public Schools adopting early learning and literacy as a learning priority and establishing the multi-faceted Literacy for Life program. Now in its fifth year, the program's overall goal is to have all K-12 students reading at, or above, grade level. According to the Deputy Director of Saskatoon Public Schools, Kim Newlove's legacy "has had a resounding positive impact on our school division, our community, and our partners. It has also had a positive impact throughout our province and even onto the national and international scene."

Eleanor Millard – Yukon

Much of Eleanor Millard's adult education work was originally in the field of adult literacy. As a founding member and president of the Yukon Literacy Council, she was instrumental in designing and implementing the first adult literacy programs in Yukon. Ms. Millard was the developer and coordinator of Project Wordpower (Yukon Learn Society), which has successfully operated since the program's inception, and she has since been contracted to train volunteer tutors for them. She has trained First Nations in training-on-the-job positions in social services, adult education and economic development. Ms. Millard designed and developed several education and social service projects, including a flexible six-step funding proposal writing workshop which was presented in the Yukon and B.C. Ms. Millard's northern experience has given her a creative but practical approach to community-based research and education that responds realistically to unique situations. She has work experience in all three territories and has applied, and continues to apply, her education and experience to several volunteer board positions in the field of adult literacy.

R(16)483

NWT Housing Corporation Announces New Intake Period for *Housing Choices* Homeownership Program

YELLOWKNIFE (August 11, 2010): As part of its ongoing efforts to encourage homeownership amongst NWT residents, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation has announced the application intake period for the 2011-2012 delivery of the NWTHC's *Housing Choices* homeownership programs will run from September 1 to October 15, 2010.

“Our government recognizes the importance of adequate and affordable housing to the wellness of individuals, families and communities,” said Minister Robert C. McLeod. “The *Housing Choices* programs help to ensure an improved standard of living for hundreds of Northerners each year, and I’m pleased to begin a new phase of applications for this important initiative. I encourage anyone who is interested in applying for *Housing Choices* to call their District Office or LHO to schedule an appointment today.”

Housing Choices is a suite of four homeownership programs designed to provide housing assistance to NWT residents. Access to housing assistance is application-based, and NWTHC staff will be visiting each community to accept applications from NWT residents.

The four *Housing Choices* programs are: Contributing Assistance for Repairs and Enhancements (CARE); Homeownership Entry Level Program (HELP); Providing Assistance for Territorial Homeownership (PATH); and Solutions to Educate People (STEP).

A public relations campaign will be launched during the week of August 9th to inform NWT residents of the scheduled community visits. This will give residents the opportunity to complete an application and obtain information regarding the NWTHC's housing programs.

To obtain the schedule for when NWTHC staff are taking appointments in the communities or for more information, please visit www.nwthc.gov.nt or contact the nearest NWTHC District Office or Local Housing Organization.

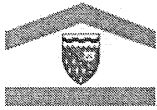
For more information contact:

Paula MacFadyen

Senior Policy Advisor, Strategic Planning, Policy and Communications
Northwest Territories Housing Corporation
Phone: 867-920-3051.

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

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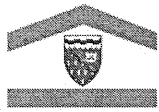
Housing Choices Program Application Intake 2011-2012
Schedule for Community Visits – Sept.1, 2010 to Oct. 15, 2010

BEAUFORT DELTA

Community	Dates	Venue	Contact No
Inuvik	September 1 - 10 October 04 - 08	District Office	(867) 777-7271
Aklavik	October 04 – 08	Local Housing Organization	(867) 978-2303
Fort McPherson	September 20 -24	Local Housing Organization	(867) 952-2125
Tsiigehtchic	September 27	Local Housing Organization	(867) 953-3110
Tuktoyaktuk	September 13 - 17	Local Housing Organization	(867) 977-2137
Sachs Harbour	September 07 - 09	Local Housing Organization	(867) 690-4703
Ulukhaktok	September 13 – 17	Local Housing Organization	(867) 396-8015
Paulatuk	September 21 – 24	Local Housing Organization	(867) 580-3386

SOUTH SLAVE

Community	Dates	Venue	Contact No
Kakisa	September 01 & 02	Band Office	(867) 825-2000
Fort Resolution	September 08 - 10	Local Housing Organization NWT HC House: 512 Main Street (Lot 19-57, Plan 582)	(867) 394-3171
K'atlodeeche First Nation	September 13 - 15	Band Office	(867) 874-7600
Fort Smith	September 20 - 24	Local Housing Organization/South Slave District Office Sub Office	(867) 872-2516
Hay River	Sept 27 – Oct 01	District Office	(867) 874-7600
Enterprise	October 04 – 08	Hamlet Office	(867) 984-3491
Fort Providence	October 05 - 07	Local Housing Organization	(867) 699-4551



SAHTU

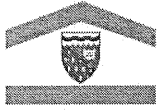
Community	Dates	Venue	Contact No
Colville Lake	September 01 - 03	Bed & Breakfast	(867) 709-2200
Deline	September 21 - 23	Local Housing Organization	(867) 589-3131
Fort Good Hope	September 07 - 10	Local Housing Organization	(867) 598-2200
Norman Wells	September 07 - 09	District Office	(867) 587-5107
Tulita	September 14 - 16	Local Housing Organization	(867) 588-4111

NAHENDEH

Community	Dates	Venue	Contact No
Fort Simpson	Sept 01 – Oct 15	District Office	(867) 695-2519
Trout Lake	September 08, 09, 30	Hamlet Office	(867) 206-2800
Fort Liard	September 01 – 03 September 20 – 23 October 05 - 07	Hamlet Office	(867) 770-4104
Jean Marie	September 01, 02, 28	Hamlet Office	(867) 809-2000
Nahanni Butte	September 07 – 08 September 29	Hamlet Office	(867) 602-2900
Wrigley	September 14 – 15 October 12	Hamlet Office	(867) 581-3321

NORTH SLAVE

Community	Dates	Venue	Contact No
Whati	September 13 – 17 October 05 – 08	Community Government Office	(867) 573-3401
Wekweeti	September 1 & 2 September 28 – 30	Community Government Office	(867) 713-1010
Behchoko	September 14 – 17 October 05 – 08 October 12 - 15	Local Housing Organization	(867) 392-6431
Gameti	September 13 – 17 Sept 27 – Oct 01	Community Government Office	(867) 997-3441
Luselk'e	Sept 27 – Oct 01 October 12 – 15	Local Housing Organization	(867) 370-3207
Dettah/N'Dilo	September 07 – 10 October 12 – 15	Local Housing Organization	(867) 920-4403
Yellowknife	September 02 & 03 September 07 – 10 September 20 – 24	District Office	(867) 873-7795



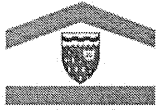
HOUSING CHOICES PROGRAM

Housing Choices is a simplified structure of 4 Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) programs which offer flexible delivery options, is more accessible to NWT residents and continues to recognize special interest groups. The structure also uses education and counselling to help residents become more self-reliant and successful homeowners.

STEP (Solutions To Educate People)

STEP is an education and counselling program that helps people acquire the skills needed to be successful homeowners. All components include discussion and hands-on involvement by our participants. STEP consists of 4 modules each 6.5 hours in duration. Applicants attend specific STEP modules based on the program for which they have applied. The general public may request to attend STEP; however, priority is given to program applicants.

- Financial Skills I: Budgeting
 - To teach the importance of money management.
 - To assist participants in setting and achieving financial goals.
- Financial Skills II: Banking and Credit
 - To develop an understanding of various banking systems.
 - To teach how banks make the decision to approve credit.
 - To share the principles of debt management and the wise use of credit.
 - To explain how participants can establish and/or repair a poor credit history.
- Home Purchase
 - To help participants determine their readiness to become homeowners
 - To help participants identify the factors to consider when choosing a suitable home.
 - To help participants understand the mortgage application and approval process and the additional cost of buying a home.
- Home Maintenance/Repair
 - To teach participants, who will have little or no knowledge of home maintenance and repair issues, through visual and hands-on instruction.
 - Participants are given clear instructions regarding what maintenance and repair tasks they should not do themselves.
 - Course material involves: electrical, heating and plumbing maintenance and repair; basic home repair and home safety & preventative maintenance.



HELP (Homeownership Entry Level Program)

HELP is a transitional lease program intended to assist public housing tenants and residents with credit issues or housing arrears to eventually become homeowners. Through the program, tenants have an opportunity to purchase the unit in which they reside and lease from the NWT HC. During the minimum two year lease period, tenants pay 20% of their gross income towards rent and shelter costs. To facilitate the purchase, an equity contribution is available for tenants who successfully complete a number of requirements, which include: a minimum two year tenancy and that the tenant is in good standing and has successfully completed the required homeownership courses offered through the STEP program. The equity contribution is capped at \$10,000 and can only be used to lower the price of a home. This equity contribution can be used in conjunction with other NWT HC homeownership programs. Despite the incentive to purchase, tenants are able to remain in the unit beyond the two year tenancy period. In addition to the \$10,000 equity contribution, HELP clients may also be eligible to access further financial assistance through the PATH homeownership program.

PATH (Providing Assistance for Territorial Homeownership)

PATH is the program that provides homeownership opportunities to NWT residents. Under this program the ability to obtain bank financing is only a requirement when cost exceeds assistance. Assistance levels range from \$10,000 to \$125,000, with the amounts being determined using income level, family size and the community based construction costs. Larger families and those living in remote areas receive higher assistance levels relative to smaller families and those living in communities with year round access assuming similar incomes. Assistance levels are no longer tied to total project costs, thereby allowing clients to make their own housing choices based on what they can afford.

CARE (Contributing Assistance for Repairs and Enhancements)

CARE is the NWT HC's sole repair program. It encompasses the successful aspects of the previous repair programs while introducing new criteria that make CARE more accessible to NWT residents. CARE assistance may be provided up to \$90,000. Previous assistance is no longer a barrier for program eligibility and the provision of funding is no longer conditional on bank financing. Repairs are coordinated by the NWT HC with the scope of work adjusted according to the assistance amount. Health and safety repairs remain a priority. Assistance is also available to assist lower income families with scheduled activities such yearly furnace inspections, and other preventative maintenance activities.

R(16)484

Government of the Northwest Territories Celebrates International Year of Youth

YELLOWKNIFE (August 12, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories is celebrating the importance of young people today, August 12th, with International Youth Day and the beginning of the International Year of Youth. Designated by the United Nations, the International Year of Youth was created to draw attention to the rights and potential of young people around the world.

In the Northwest Territories, Premier Floyd Roland spoke of the role that young people will play in the future of our territory – and the work that the governments must do to ensure that the territory we leave them is one that reflects their values, goals and hopes.

“In the Northwest Territories, our young population gives us reason to be optimistic about the future of our territory,” said Premier Roland. “It also means that we must work all the harder to ensure that our young people have every opportunity to succeed. As part of the GNWT’s Creating Our Future initiative, I will be holding forums with young Northerners throughout this month to discuss what they want for their future, and how today’s governments can help to realize those goals.”

In Yellowknife, Minister Responsible for Youth Robert C. McLeod also encouraged residents to bridge the gap between generations on International Youth Day and throughout the Year of Youth.

“To create vibrant communities, we need to work with our youth and encourage them to participate in economic, social and cultural development with energy, enthusiasm and creativity,” Minister McLeod said. “During the Year, we need to listen to our youth so that we can understand their needs and concerns, and recognize that they can contribute a great deal towards improve our communities.”

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 International Year of Youth marks the 25th anniversary of the first International Youth Year, held in 1985, with the theme *Participation, Development and Peace*.

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Investments in children and youth are a major component of the Government of the Northwest Territories' *Building Our Future* Initiative. Over four and a half million dollars of new funding is in the 2010-2011 budget to expand programming for children and youth in support of the 16th Assembly's goal of health educated people.

For more information on youth programs in the Northwest Territories, visit www.proud2bnwt.ca

For more information, please contact:

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

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R(16)485

Environment Minister Meets with Alberta Counterpart to Discuss Protection of Water

YELLOWKNIFE (August 18, 2010) – The Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources for the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the Honourable Rob Renner, Environment Minister for the Government of Alberta, met yesterday to discuss the issue of transboundary waters as it relates to the Alberta-Northwest Territories Bilateral Water Management Agreement.

During the meetings, the governments of Alberta and the Northwest Territories agreed to share information on a variety of topics related to transboundary waters, and to continue to hold periodic meetings as an important part of the Bilateral Water Management Agreement process.

“Regular, effective sharing of information with our neighbours to the south will help us protect the ecological integrity of the aquatic ecosystems in both our jurisdictions,” said Minister Miltenberger. “I look forward to continuing to work with Minister Renner to ensure the protection of our shared waters.”

During the meeting, both governments agreed that the federal government must be engaged to meet the research and monitoring needs for transboundary waters, and recognized the intense public interest in the Bilateral Agreement to date. Regular meetings are planned over the next few months to ensure that residents are kept updated on the status of the agreement. It was also asserted that the Agreement will not prejudice the rights of Aboriginal peoples and will be consistent with jurisdictional legal obligations.

Trilateral discussions between British Columbia, Alberta and the Northwest Territories will also be held to help form the BC-AB and AB-NWT Bilateral Water Management Agreements. A meeting involving the Environment Ministers from each region will occur within the next few months.

For more information, contact:

Andrew Matthews
Communications Officer
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(867) 669-2302

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R(16)486

GNWT Committed to Increasing Energy Efficiency

YELLOWKNIFE (August 20, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories emphasizes its commitment to energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gases.

The Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance released its 2009 National Energy Efficiency Report Card on August 19, downgrading the Northwest Territories from a B+ in 2007 to a C. According to the report, the NWT follows the National Building Code of Canada, which fails in its energy efficiency objectives, particularly in northern climates. While no NWT building code exists, NWT building standards are beyond those of the National Building Code.

“GNWT buildings are required to meet energy efficiency requirements of the Federal EcoENERGY program for new buildings,” said Minister of Environment and Natural Resources J. Michael Miltenberger. “This program follows the same requirements as the discontinued Commercial Building Incentive Program (CBIP), and means all buildings must be 25% more energy efficient than a comparable building built to the minimum requirements of the National Building Code.”

The NWT Housing Corporation has developed its own brand, *ecobuild80plus*, to reflect its commitment to designing, building and retrofitting houses that meet or exceed EnerGuide 80. The corporation is in the process of developing enclosure designs that will exceed these standards.

Approximately half of all residences in the NWT are in the City of Yellowknife, which has energy efficiency standards for residential buildings. Effective January 1, 2011, a minimum score of 80 on the EnerGuide for New Houses rating system will be mandatory. The City of Yellowknife also requires that all commercial, institutional and industrial buildings comply with a minimum energy efficiency building standard that is 25% higher than the minimum requirements of the National Building Code.

“It is unfortunate the Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance didn’t take into account the code requirements we do follow for all GNWT buildings, NWT Housing Corporation buildings and buildings in the City of Yellowknife,” said Miltenberger. “We are committed to increasing the energy efficiency of all buildings across the Northwest Territories, and continue to work with other organizations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the cost of living.”

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The GNWT continues to support and maintain a range of energy efficiency programs and initiatives.

The Energy Efficiency Incentive Program is administered by the Arctic Energy Alliance and encourages residents and businesses to purchase energy efficient appliances to reduce their energy consumption and greenhouse gases. With the cancellation of the federal ecoEnergy retrofit program, the GNWT added rebates for residential insulation, doors, windows, and drain water heat recovery systems. This program has been in effect since 2007 and has provided over \$1.4 million in rebates to NWT residents.

The Alternative Energy Technologies Program is available to assist Aboriginal and community governments, GNWT departments, boards and agencies, non-profit organizations, commercial businesses, including off-grid camps and lodges, and NWT residents, to install alternative energy systems to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gases.

The Energy Conservation Program was developed to help community-funded departments, boards and agencies, and non-profit organizations reduce their use of electrical and heat energy, and water. The program funds upgrades to existing lighting, heating, ventilation, water and electrical systems. These projects increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gases.

The 16th Legislative Assembly has taken bold steps to reduce waste, encourage the development of renewable energy, and implement energy efficiency initiatives and programs. Programs include the Beverage Container Program, the Single-Use Retail Bag Program, the Waste Paper Products Initiative, and numerous renewable energy pilot projects. A priority of this Assembly is to ensure the environment will sustain present and future generations. This commitment is supported by \$60 million dedicated to renewable energy projects under the energy priority investment. This includes biomass, geothermal, hydro, wind, residual heat recovery, and other energy projects.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple

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R(16)487

GNWT Welcomes Federal Funding for Beaufort Sea Research

INUVIK (August 20, 2010) – Premier Floyd Roland welcomed federal support for increased research to inform planned offshore exploration activities in the Beaufort Sea.

“It’s important to ensure that any future development in the NWT is conducted in a sustainable way,” said Premier Roland. “Research is key to protecting our environment. This additional funding will help to ensure that future development is sustainable for our land and wildlife.”

The federal government announced \$21.8 million in support for the Beaufort Regional Environmental Assessment, a multi-stakeholder initiative, over five years. This project will address spill preparedness and response, cumulative effects monitoring and assessment, and climate change.

Protection of human health, safety, the environment and the Beaufort Sea ecosystem is of primary concern to the GNWT. The GNWT will be an active participant in the National Energy Board’s upcoming review of Arctic safety and environmental offshore drilling requirements. This announcement of federal support will enhance efforts to ensure adequate measures are in place to protect the environment and human health and safety in the Beaufort offshore.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)489

GNWT Invites Nominations for Fire Service Merit Awards

YELLOWKNIFE (August 23, 2010) – The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) is seeking nominations for the NWT Fire Service Merit Awards. These awards honour and recognize individuals and community fire departments for their significant contributions to fire safety and fire service in communities.

“Local fire fighters throughout the NWT create vibrant, safe communities for all residents,” said Robert C. McLeod, Minister of MACA. “These awards are a way to honour and acknowledge their outstanding dedication.”

Nomination forms are available at www.maca.gov.nt.ca. The deadline for applications is September 10, 2010, and the recipients will be announced during National Fire Prevention Week, October 3 – 9, 2010.

For more information, please contact:

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R(16)490

Premier Responds to Canada's Statement on Arctic Policy

YELLOWKNIFE (August 23, 2010) – Premier Floyd Roland acknowledged the federal government's growing interest in the Arctic and called on Prime Minister Harper to make further investments in strategic areas of national importance.

Premier Roland is encouraged by the recent announcement that Canada intends to focus its international efforts to advance the pillars of the Northern Strategy by engaging northerners on its Arctic foreign policy. This is the same point made by Northern Premiers in releasing their Northern Vision document in 2007 as a framework for their common efforts to build a North that benefits all Northerners and contributes to the well-being of all Canadians.

“The statement speaks to the recognition of the important role Northern governments play in shaping Canada's international actions in the circumpolar world,” said Premier Roland. “We need to be actively involved in determining solutions and developing strategies to address Arctic issues. The federal government understands that the North is strategically important to the country and the national economy. I have repeatedly stressed that we have a vital role to play in our country's future. This is our home. We must be involved in decisions that affect us and we must be participants in setting northern priorities.”

In particular, the GNWT would welcome federal support to build the Mackenzie Gas Project, conclude a satisfactory devolution agreement on the management of public lands, build the Mackenzie Valley Highway, and harness the NWT's clean energy potential by expanding the Taltson River hydro facility. The GNWT also shares the federal government's interest in making progress on Arctic coastline boundary issues, and looks forward to working with the federal government on the settlement of the dispute in the Beaufort Sea, which concerns an area within the boundaries of the Northwest Territories.

The federal government's federal Arctic foreign policy was announced in Ottawa on August 20, 2010.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)488

Improvements to North Arm Territorial Park Completed

BEHCHOKO (August 25th, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) officially unveiled improvements to the North Arm Territorial Park during a ceremony at the park. The infrastructure improvements include a new gazebo and playground equipment. The \$200,000 project, which was jointly funded by the GNWT and the Government of Canada, was completed by Tli Cho Construction.

“It is important that the GNWT continues to invest in park enhancement projects such as this one,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “Our parks system is used heavily by NWT residents and tourists alike. Parks are an important asset, and any time improvements are made to them, it benefits the entire NWT tourism industry and supports sustainable local economies.”

The park is located within Monfwi MLA Jackson Lafferty’s riding. MLA Lafferty is pleased to see the project completed. “The improvements to this park enhance the experience for both visitors and residents,” he said. “I am also pleased that the work was completed by a local contractor, Tli Cho Construction. This demonstrates the GNWT’s commitment to maximizing the benefits NWT residents receive from projects in their regions.”

As set out in *Northerners Working Together*, the 16th Legislative Assembly is committed to providing all communities and regions with opportunities and choices and to promoting the NWT as a place to visit.

For more information, contact:

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Industry, Tourism and Investment
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R(16)491

GNWT Awards Scholarships to Seven NWT Aviation Students

YELLOWKNIFE (August 27, 2010) — Seven students who are pursuing careers in the NWT's aviation industry received \$5,000 scholarships today.

The scholarships are funded by the GNWT Department of Transportation, Discovery Air, and Adlair Aviation through the Aviation Career Development Program. This is the 10th year of the program, and close to \$400,000 has been contributed over that period to help pay for aviation-related education and training.

Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod applauded the students. "I am pleased that these young women and men have taken steps to become part of the next generation of pilots, aircraft technicians, administrators, and other employees needed in the NWT's aviation industry," he said. "This is an investment in their futures, as well as in the future of the NWT, and the contributions of Discovery Air and Adlair Aviation are an important part of that investment."

Discovery Air's Chuck Parker, on behalf of the partners, said he is impressed with the recipients' commitment to northern aviation. "You need to be dedicated and have a desire to go above and beyond to serve our customers," he said. "These young people have shown us they are ready to take on that challenge. We look forward to welcoming them back to the North as they pursue their careers in aviation."

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 of up to \$30,000 supports the GNWT's goal of improving skills for northern workers in the critical NWT aviation industry.

Applicants for the scholarship came from communities across the Northwest Territories. The 2010 recipients are:

- Brandon Gelinias of Yellowknife;
- Larissa Doyle of Fort Smith;
- Devan Blacklock of Yellowknife;

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- Joshua Lippert of Yellowknife;
- Jonathan Paul of Yellowknife;
- Bryce Styan of Yellowknife; and
- Kyla Zenko of Yellowknife.

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:

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Department of Transportation
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R(16)493

NWT Arts Council Provides Funding to 70 Artists and Groups

YELLOWKNIFE (August 31, 2010) – In the NWT Arts Council's 25th anniversary year, it announces \$500,000 in funding contributions for NWT artists and groups.

Since its inception in August 1985, the NWT Arts Council has received annual funding from the Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Education, Culture and Employment to support over 1,000 Northern artists, arts organizations and festivals as they pursue creative activities in all artistic disciplines.

"This funding is part of the GNWT's commitment to the NWT Arts Strategy," said Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "The arts are a source of pride for all Northerners and contribute to our territory's unique culture. As Minister, I am very pleased to continue to support the NWT's artists, performers and events."

Seventy artists and groups from across the NWT were awarded funding for projects, including dance, film, storytelling, music, theatre, visual arts and crafts, writing, festivals, presentations, and creative skills development workshops. The list of 2010-2011 contributions is attached.

For more information, please contact:

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NWT Arts Council Funding Recommendations

Contributions for Artistic Projects in 2010-2011

AUDIO RECORDING

1. Clark, Kelly Yellowknife
Record a CD of 10 original songs, "Return to Me"
2. Dei, Amanda (The Breakup) Yellowknife
Record a demo CD for the band, "The Breakup"
3. Gillis, Catherine Yellowknife
Record a CD of 10 original songs, "Affliction to the Addiction"
4. Hardisty, Wesley Fort Simpson
Record a demo CD of original and traditional fiddle music
5. Hello Paisley Yellowknife
Record a demo CD for the band, "Hello Paisley"
6. Kikoak, Ricky Tuktoyaktuk
Record a CD of original and traditional songs
7. MacLean, Kerrissa Yellowknife
Record a CD of original music
8. Nimegeers, Matthew T. Hay River
Record a CD of original songs, "Mystery Man"
9. Oystrek, David Yellowknife
Record a CD collection of holiday stories, "Reindeer Station"
10. Sipos, Dana Yellowknife
Record a CD for the band, "The Bluemoons"
11. Zaidan, Karen Fort Smith
Record a demo CD featuring piano

12. Fort Good Hope EDC Fort Good Hope

Record a CD of traditional K'asho Got'ine drum music

13. Goose, Louie Inuvik

Record a CD featuring 40 years of songs as a "Mackenzie Delta music legend"

CRAFTS

14. Boreal Piece Makers Fort Smith

Coordinate a quilting techniques workshop

15. Great Northern Arts Festival Inuvik

Festival arts workshops and professional development seminars

16. Kuptana, Robert Paulatuk

Carving project on the theme of residential school experiences

17. Mandeville, Lillian Fort Resolution

Conduct traditional sewing workshops for the community

18. Wilson, James William Aklavik

Carving series depicting wildlife in all four seasons

19. YK Guild of Arts & Crafts Yellowknife

Conduct workshops in pottery, fibre art and woodcarving techniques

20. YK Quilters Guild Yellowknife

Conduct fabric stamping and dyeing workshops

21. Inuvik Native Band / Artsy Inuvik
Fartsy Club

Coordinate workshop program series, "Traditional Arts With a Contemporary Twist"

22. Tulita Learning Centre Tulita

Coordinate traditional Dene arts and crafts course

FILM/MEDIA

23. Benoit, France Yellowknife

Write, direct and distribute a short black and white documentary film

24. Inuvik Literacy Circle Inuvik

Conduct a three-part video project with students focusing on northern perspectives, "Take it From the Top"

25. Lessard, George Yellowknife

Workshops for artists on use of social media and internet to promote their works

26. MacDougall, Ian Yellowknife

Produce music video with Yellowknife band "Priscilla's Revenge"

27. Reaney, Brent Yellowknife

Photographic project, "Abstract Art From the Northern Air"

28. Silke, Andrew Yellowknife

Produce 2 short music videos with Yellowknife band "The Breakup"

29. Western Arctic Moving
Pictures

Coordinate a variety of film and media workshops and host a film festival

PERFORMING-DANCE

30. Crazy Legs Dance Yellowknife

Produce a collaborative performance with original choreography, involving local performers, musicians,

31. Scottish Country Dancers Yellowknife

Conduct a Scottish country dance workshop

PERFORMING-MUSIC

32. Aurora Fiddle Society Yellowknife

Conduct a series of weekend developmental fiddle workshops with focus on youth

33. Northern Arts & Cultural Yellowknife /
Centre / Folk on the Rocks Deline / Fort
Good Hope/
Fort Smith

Coordinate a "Blues in the Schools Program" in several NWT communities

34. Darkes, Holly Fort Smith

Attend advanced musical studies in organ performance and sacred music

35. Kole Crook Fiddle Association Yellowknife /
Hay River

Conduct annual fiddle camp, including a traditional Metis fiddling class

36. Radio Taiga Yellowknife

Sponsor a series of northern performances, "Live Music in Yellowknife"

37. South Slave Friendship Fort Smith
Festival

Coordinate festival workshops for local and northern performers to develop their talents

38. YK Choral Society Yellowknife

Host developmental workshop for singers, accompanist and musical directors

PERFORMING-STORYTELLING

39. Borderless Art Movement Yellowknife

Touring arts group will present stories in spoken word, visual arts and music at two NWT festivals

40. Arluk & Mercredi Yellowknife

Develop and showcase a short story as a radio drama, "I count Myself Among Them"

PERFORMING-THEATRE

41. Association Franco-Culturelle de Yellowknife Yellowknife
Host performances, "Un Anniversaire Qui S'improvise"
42. Classics on Stage Yellowknife Yellowknife
Development and performance of a stage production, "A Letter Home"
43. Glowach, Norm Yellowknife
Development of a stage production, "Anynight, Anytown"
44. Northern Arts & Cultural Centre Yellowknife
Conduct community outreach series of professional development workshops
45. Snowbank Theatre Yellowknife
Production of original northern script, "The Aklavik Journals"

VISUAL ARTS

46. Aubrey, Marie Christine Fort Smith
Attend professional development training in fibre arts
47. Aurora Arts Society Yellowknife
Coordination of professional development workshops for the creation, production and presentation of local art in collaboration with other arts groups
48. Boudreau, Diane Yellowknife
Conduct mural workshops for youth in four different NWT communities
49. Fort Smith Photo Fort Smith
Conduct digital photography workshop series
50. Frozen Eyes Photo Yellowknife
Conduct photography workshops for youth in eight NWT communities

51. Gardner, Jazmine Yellowknife

Create a silkscreen/oil painting series, "Water and Our Bodies"

52. Jewell, Melanie Fort Smith

Showcase series of drawings on wood panels, "Repertoire of Daydreams"

53. Kruger, Natacha Hay River

Showcase a painting series, "A Year's Work, Inspired by the NWT"

54. Mary Kaeser Library Fort Smith

Host workshop on altered books, "Pockets of Lucidity"

55. Northern Life Museum Fort Smith

Present three high quality art workshops to the public

56. Open Sky Creative Society Fort Simpson

Host workshops at 10th annual multidisciplinary arts festival in Fort Simpson

57. Robert, Monique Yellowknife

Exhibit a painting series on images of the north at Agora Gallery in New York City

58. Yamoza Kue Society Hay River

Conduct workshops for young artists, employing locals artists as mentors

59. Terry Pamplin Yellowknife

Coordinate a collaborative project between visual artist and musicians based on the theme, "What is The Cost of War"

WRITING/PUBLISHING

60. Angik School Paulatuk

Conduct writing and film workshops for the community

61. Becker, Jan Yellowknife

Publish a volume of original poetry

62. Bromley, Marianne Yellowknife

Attend workshop, "A Passion for Poetry: Learning, Writing and Publishing"

63. Freeman, Randy Yellowknife

Publish a book, "Tales From Down North: Yellowknife"

64. Hurcomb, Fran Yellowknife

Attend four week writer's residency at Banff Centre

65. Nardone, Michael Yellowknife

Attend a month-long writer's workshop to develop the book, "The Ritualites: a Collection of Poems"

66. NorthWords Festival Yellowknife

Conduct workshops, mentorships and discussion panels for writers at all levels

67. Nyysonen, Erika Yellowknife

Publish an illustrated children's book, "Pogo and Gus Go to the Vets"

68. Pokiak, Myrna Yellowknife

Write a story based on personal experiences, "Hunting With Dad"

69. Wallbridge, Garth Yellowknife

Publish a book about the Canol Trail Youth Leadership Hike

70. Sanderson, Alice Yellowknife

Write and present readings from a book, "My Journal"

R(16)494

GNWT Announces Support to Northern Performers

YELLOWKNIFE (August 31, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories is providing a total of \$181,000 to 19 NWT events through the Support to Northern Performers program.

This program contributes to the development and promotion of the arts in the Northwest Territories by helping performing artists to participate in local and regional public festivals and events.

Minister Jackson Lafferty praised the artists' efforts. "I am pleased to congratulate this year's performers and festival organizers. They truly contribute to vibrant community life. These events provide opportunities for all NWT residents to celebrate our northern identity through many exciting forms of creative performance."

The 2010-2011 contributions will be distributed as per the attached list.

For more information, please contact:

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Support to Northern Performers Contribution Recipients 2010/2011

Multi-Region Events

Borderless Art Movement:	Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Simpson, Inuvik
Northern Arts and Cultural Centre Storytelling Festivals:	Yellowknife, Fort Resolution, Fort Smith, Enterprise, Hay River, Fort Simpson, Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte, Behchokò, Inuvik
Music NWT:	Hay River, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Inuvik, Yellowknife
Erika Wallbridge Book Readings:	Behchokò, Fort Providence, Kakisa, Hay River, Enterprise, Fort Resolution

Beaufort/Inuvik/Sahtu Regions

Razzamajazz!:	Inuvik
Great Northern Arts Festival:	Inuvik
Midway Lake Festival:	Fort McPherson
James Boraski & Momentary Evolution:	Inuvik

South Slave/Deh Cho Regions

Hay Days Festival:	Hay River
South Slave Friendship Festival:	Fort Smith
NWT International Lute Festival:	Hay River
Kole Crook Fiddle Association:	Hay River
Open Sky Festival:	Fort Simpson

North Slave/Tłı̨chǫ Regions

Whatì Youth Jiggers:	Whatì
Crazy Legs Contemporary Dance:	Yellowknife
Folk on the Rocks:	Yellowknife
Yellowknife Solstice Festival:	Yellowknife
NorthWords Festival:	Yellowknife
Table for Five Concert Series:	Yellowknife

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R(16)495

Alberta and Northwest Territories advance cooperation during meeting in Edmonton

EDMONTON (August 31, 2010) – The governments of Alberta and Northwest Territories met in Edmonton August 31 to discuss the economy, environment, tourism, transportation and energy.

Alberta Minister of Finance and Enterprise Ted Morton and Northwest Territories Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance Michael Miltenberger are co-chairs of the Northwest Territories-Alberta Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Cooperation and Development Steering Committee and meet on a regular basis. The MOU gives both jurisdictions the opportunity to discuss cross-boundary issues and their impacts.

The co-chairs discussed the current economic situation and growth that each jurisdiction has experienced in the last 10 months. They received presentations on several Northwest Territories (NWT) initiatives with environmental implications.

Morton noted a number of topics were discussed at the meeting including the pace of economic recovery. “Alberta is emerging from the global recession and we’re seeing signs of recovery,” he said. “But we’re proceeding with caution as our provincial and territorial economies will continue to be directly impacted by ups and downs in global markets.”

The co-chairs’ discussions included Alberta’s land-use framework and the NWT’s Water Stewardship Strategy.

“The Northwest Territories and Alberta share a common border and face many similar challenges,” said Miltenberger. “Meeting on a regular basis to discuss issues of common concern will only help each jurisdiction advance its own agenda.”

The next meeting of the co-chairs will be in 2011.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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R(16)496

Call for Applications to “Active After School” Program

YELLOWKNIFE (September 1, 2010) – Schools and community groups are invited to apply for funding to run “physically active after school” programs during the coming school year.

Through the Active After School Program, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and the NWT Sport and Recreation Council provide direct financial support to schools and community groups to get kids moving after school.

“The most inactive time for youth is the after-school period from 3:30 to 6:00 P.M.,” said Robert C. McLeod, Minister of MACA. “By creating more opportunities for children to be active during this period, we aim to significantly increase overall physical activity levels.”

“This funding is another step towards our long-term goal that sees kids automatically choosing to move after school instead of selecting less active pursuits,” said Bridget Larocque, Chairperson of the NWT Sport and Recreation Council. “It is our hope that, given an exciting alternative, more kids will discover the joy of physical activity.”

In order to qualify for the funding, schools and community groups must demonstrate they are providing activities that appeal to inactive or underactive youth, and ensure that the youth are active for a minimum of 40 out of every 60 minutes.

The deadline to apply for funding is October 15, 2010. For more information, including an application form and eligibility guidelines, please visit www.maca.gov.nt.ca or www.nwtsrc.com.

The NWT Sport and Recreation Council provides leadership and support to the sport and recreation sector in the NWT, and its vision is the establishment of a culture of physical activity throughout the Northwest Territories.

The Government of the Northwest Territories 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*.

For more information, please contact:

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NEWS RELEASE – COMMUNIQUE
Northern Development Ministers' Forum
Thunder Bay, Ontario – August 31 – September 1, 2010

**MINISTERS RENEW ACTION PLAN ON DEVELOPMENT ISSUES FACING
CANADA'S NORTHERN COMMUNITIES**

THUNDER BAY, Ontario (September 1, 2010) – Federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for northern development across Canada have renewed and refreshed their commitment to collaborative action on social, economic and fiscal issues of importance to the North.

Hosted here by Ontario's Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry Michael Gravelle, this year's two-day Northern Development Ministers Forum (NDMF) focused on the theme, "Seizing the Future: Taking Hold of Our Economic Opportunities." Ministers received progress reports and presentations on their current priority projects.

Minister Gravelle said the theme was particularly appropriate for this year's Forum.

"Northerners are strong, resilient people who are adept at taking advantage of the opportunities presented to them," he said. "We must ensure that our northern communities are well-positioned to identify and seize economic opportunities when they arise, so we can continue to thrive in this new global economy."

Forum presentations and discussions revolved around three ongoing priority projects from 2009: *Changing Northern Economies*, *Northern Infrastructure*, and *Climate Change Priority Project: Best Practices Boreal Forest Management*. In addition, a new priority project for 2010, *Aboriginal Economy – Youth Entrepreneurship*, was presented. Through studies, surveys and joint actions, member ministries gained insights as to how entrepreneurship can be supported and nurtured within Aboriginal economies.

Ministers also approved a 2010-2012 Focus North action plan that launches a collaborative process to develop new priority projects for 2011 and beyond.

Newfoundland and Labrador will be hosting the NDMF for 2011. The Honourable John Hickey, Minister of Labrador Affairs, Newfoundland and Labrador, announced next year's forum will be held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, August 22-24, 2011. Minister Hickey introduced the 2011

Forum theme *Northern Directions: An Evaluation of Strategic Planning in Northern Canada*. Ministers will have an opportunity to exchange ideas on the effectiveness and future models of northern strategic planning.

The NDMF was established in 2001 to advance the diverse and common interests of northerners and to raise awareness of the accomplishments, contributions and potential of the North.

This forum is held annually, rotating among participating jurisdictions. It provides an opportunity for ministers to monitor progress on their ongoing action plan and consider new joint initiatives. In past conferences, ministers have explored workforce attraction and retention, a transportation investment strategy, an innovation agenda, education and training, initiatives to maximize economic and social impacts from major projects, and other priorities for the North. Reports on these and other NDMF projects are available on the Focus North website at www.focusnorth.ca.

BACKGROUND

Comments from Northern Development Ministers in Attendance

Canada

“This Forum is an important vehicle for intergovernmental collaboration to take advantage of emerging opportunities in the North,” said John Duncan, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. “With the establishment of the Canadian Northern Development Agency (CanNor), we now have a federal agency headquartered in and devoted exclusively to North of 60°. I am pleased to have the opportunity to also work with provinces south of 60° that are addressing similar issues in the near-North and welcome the focus on young Aboriginal entrepreneurs at this year’s Forum.”

“There is a growing entrepreneurial leadership emerging in the Aboriginal community that recognizes economic development as the means towards self-reliance and greater independence,” said MP Greg Rickford, who attended the Forum on behalf of Minister Duncan. “The Forum is an excellent opportunity for governments to share ideas and discuss common issues, challenges and approaches to developing the economic potential of Canada’s North and near-North as well as to achieve strategic direction pertaining to Northern development.”

Newfoundland and Labrador

“The Northern Development Ministers Forum is an important gathering of ministers and government officials to learn and gain valuable information for our own jurisdictions. It was an honour to make a presentation to this year’s delegation on *Northern Infrastructure*, which provided clear indications of infrastructure priorities in northern Canada,” said Minister Hickey. “Newfoundland and Labrador will be hosting NDMF 2011 and it was my pleasure to invite all members to the beautiful region of Lake Melville and in particular, the towns of Happy Valley-Goose Bay and North West River, and the Sheshatshiu reserve, for next year’s Forum.”

Northwest Territories

“This Forum provides an important opportunity for collaboration and sharing of information across Canada’s North” said the Honourable Bob McLeod, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment for the Northwest Territories. “Today’s global economy presents unique challenges and opportunities for Canada, and now more than ever we must work together to ensure a strong future.”

Nunavut

“The 2010 Northern Development Ministers Forum has allowed Nunavut to share its experiences and inform the rest of Canada about the territory’s great need for infrastructure,” said Nunavut’s Minister of Economic Development and Transportation Peter Taptuna. “I hope what the provinces and territories have learned from each other during our meeting will provide the unity and a better understanding among us of the urgent need for new and better infrastructure in our northern territories. With this information we will persuade the Federal Government to invest in northern infrastructure and prepare the North for climate change. These investments will not only boost the nation’s economy, but will demonstrate Canadian sovereignty in the North.”

Quebec

“I am pleased to promote, along with my northern colleagues and partners, the interests of northern populations. With this Forum, we are laying the foundations of a prosperous economic future for people who live in aboriginal and non aboriginal communities in the North,” said Pierre Corbeil, Québec's Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Minister responsible for the Abitibi-Témiscamingue and the Nord-du-Québec regions. “Together, we must find the right balance that will enable us to support the development of the North’s economic potential while protecting the environment. It is also by supporting the education and skills training of First Nations and the Inuit that these key stakeholders will be able to actively participate in the development of future projects in their region. This approach guides our actions in the development of the Plan Nord.”

R(16)497

GNWT Thanks Recreation Leaders

YELLOWKNIFE (September 10, 2010) – Today is Recreation Leaders Day. Minister Responsible for Sport and Recreation, Robert C. McLeod, encourages all NWT residents to celebrate and recognize the efforts of the dedicated volunteers and professionals involved in the planning and delivery of quality recreation programs and services across the NWT.

“Recreation coordinators and volunteers keep our parks, facilities, and trails well maintained and safe,” he said. “They are the backbone of our recreation programs, which help us all lead active lives and build strong, healthy communities. On Recreation Leaders Day, I encourage all NWT residents to thank them for their hard work and dedication.”

Through new programs like the Regional Youth Sport Events program and the Active After School program, the GNWT is expanding recreation and sports programming to support the 16th Assembly’s vision, *Northerners Working Together*.

To learn more about recreation and sports programs, please visit www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, please contact:

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R(16)498

Get Active NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (September 10, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), in partnership with the NWT Recreation and Parks Association (NWTRPA), is offering \$750 Get Active NWT grants to community groups who help to get NWT residents active this year.

“We all need to be more active,” said the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. “Get Active NWT events offer residents a fun way to be active, which, in turn, improves their mental and physical well-being.”

Created in 2006, Get Active NWT encourages community groups to organize local events to get residents more physically active. Grant recipients must organize at least three physical activity events. Detailed criteria and an application form are available at: www.getactivenwt.ca.

“I encourage community groups to host a community physical activity and have a blast,” said Ms. Jennifer Morin, Executive Director of the NWTRPA. “Physical activity makes you happy and feel good, so get active NWT!”

The deadline to apply for funding this year is October 8, 2010.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is working to build our future by promoting healthy and active living. Improving the physical and mental well-being of our people will create healthy, educated Northerners as envisioned in the 16th Assembly’s Vision of Northerners Working Together.

For more information, please contact:

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Communications and Website Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Phone: (867) 920-3092

Jennifer Morin
Executive Director
NWT Recreation and Parks Association
Phone: (867) 669-8380 / (867) 444-0298

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R(16)499

GNWT Celebrates Arts Week in the Northwest Territories

YELLOWKNIFE (September 14, 2010) -- This is NWT Arts Week – a celebration of the NWT’s arts and fine crafts community, and the cultural and business contributions it makes to our lives in the NWT.

“The arts and fine crafts sector not only reflects the culture and history of the NWT’s people, but is also an important element in a diversified NWT economy,” says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) Bob McLeod. “It is one of the key areas in which the Government of the Northwest Territories is working to promote economic activity in our smaller communities and to expand and diversify our economy,”

“Creating and enjoying art contributes to the quality of life in the North, says Minister of Education Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “NWT Arts Week allows us to celebrate our artists and the fine work that they do, and to reflect on the valuable impact they have on our culture as well as our economy.”

Through various means, the Government of the Northwest Territories is working to support the arts and fine crafts sector in the Northwest Territories in the interest of Maximizing Opportunities for all NWT residents as envisioned by the 16th Legislative Assembly in Northerners Working Together strategic vision.

With its focus on the marketing and business development side of the arts and fine crafts sector, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment provides regional workshops on e-commerce and pricing, funds marketing and arts activities such as regional festivals, and assists artists participating in special events, such as the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Department of Education Culture and Employment ECE provides financial contributions to NWT arts and cultural organizations and individual artists of all mediums. ECE also coordinates exhibits, festivals and workshops to help showcase the NWT’s rich artistic and cultural portfolio, in addition to fostering the further development and growth of northern artists.

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In Yellowknife, Arts Week is organized by the Aurora Arts Society as a registered element of Culture Days – a national event that raises awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement of all Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities. Culture Days includes free events celebrating and exploring arts and culture in every province and territory in Canada.

For more information, please contact:

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Industry, Tourism and Investment

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R(16)500

Penny Ballantyne Appointed Secretary to Cabinet

YELLOWKNIFE (September 15, 2010) -- Premier Floyd Roland has today announced, former Deputy Minister and long-time NWT resident, Penny Ballantyne will assume duties as the Secretary to Cabinet, Government of the Northwest Territories effective Monday, September 20th, 2010.

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

"It is a pleasure to welcome Ms. Ballantyne back to the GNWT's public service," Premier Roland notes. "Her return to our Government comes as we are approaching the final year of the 16th Assembly with an extraordinary level of tasks and projects that we are committed to completing."

Penny Ballantyne originally joined the GNWT in 1977 and has previously held Deputy Minister portfolios in: Education, Culture and Employment, Health and Social Services and Municipal and Community Affairs. Ms. Ballantyne has also served as the President of the NWT Housing Corporation and the President and CEO of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

From 2006-2009 Ms. Ballantyne served as City Manager for the City of Victoria, the first woman ever to be hired for that role.

Ms. Ballantyne replaces Dave Stewart who has performed the duties of Secretary to Cabinet since February. "I thank Mr. Stewart for his guidance and good work through what has been a difficult time," Premier Roland said."

For more information, contact: **Drew Williams**
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R(16)501

Migratory Passages Opens at PWNHC - Exhibit Serves to Highlight NWT Arts Week/Culture Days

YELLOWKNIFE (Wednesday, September 15th) – “Migratory Passages ~ Passages Migratoires” - a bilingual exhibition featuring aboriginal art and design from northern Quebec will open this weekend at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC).

The public and media are invited to attend the exhibition opening and reception on Friday, September 17th at 7:00 pm.

The exhibit, presented in part by the NWT Arts Council and on display until November 30th, includes stunning handcrafted objects combining traditional aboriginal craftsmanship skills with contemporary design.

Produced by the Chicoutimi-based art organization, La Boite Rouge Vif, the exhibit portrays the creative works of 23 Aboriginal artists from three aboriginal Québec communities: Odanak, Mashteuiatsh, and Uashat mak Mani-Utenam.

It shares results of a six year project (2003-2009) with First Nations and academic researchers, and stimulates creativity through networking and exchange. Artists and francophone academics involved with the exhibition are also participating in a community feast and an exchange with NWT artists and students at K’alemi Dene School in N’Dilo.

“Our territory has a rich cultural history that we need to continue exploring and celebrating says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty.

“Supporting exhibits like this, which promote the sharing of traditional knowledge through the arts; helps to raise awareness to the important role our heritage plays in our lives as Northerners.

In conjunction with the Aurora Arts Society Arts Week events, Migratory Passages artists from Quebec will join regional NWT artists in public demonstrations on Saturday, September 18th from 10:30 am through 12:00 pm at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

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The opening of “Migratory Passages” is also part of Culture Days, a national event that raises awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement of all Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities. Culture Days includes free events celebrating and exploring arts and culture in every province and territory in Canada.

Public access to the events is also made available via webcasting on the internet. Please see www.pwnhc.ca for updates.

For more information about the Migratory Passages Exhibition and events, contact:

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R(16)501

Les Territoires du Nord-Ouest célèbrent la Fête de la culture par l'inauguration de l'exposition Passages migratoires, au Centre du patrimoine septentrional Prince-de-Galles

Yellowknife, (le mercredi 15 septembre 2010) – Le Centre du patrimoine septentrional Prince-de-Galles et le Conseil des arts des TNO sont heureux de présenter « Passages migratoires ~ Migratory Passages », une exposition bilingue qui met à l'honneur l'art et le design autochtones du Nord québécois. Le public et les médias sont invités à assister à l'inauguration officielle de l'exposition et à la réception, qui se tiendront le vendredi 17 septembre 2010, à 19 h.

Cette exposition est le fruit d'un projet de six ans (de 2003 à 2009) auquel ont pris part des membres des Premières nations et des chercheurs universitaires. L'objectif de l'exposition est de stimuler la créativité grâce aux échanges et au réseautage. À ce propos, des artistes et des chercheurs francophones ayant pris part à ce projet et à la mise sur pied de cette exposition profiteront de leur passage parmi nous pour participer à une fête communautaire et pour échanger avec des artistes ténois et des élèves de l'école K'alemi Dene, à N'Dilo.

« Le fait de soutenir l'organisation d'une exposition de ce genre, qui favorise la transmission du savoir-faire traditionnel par les arts, aide à relever le niveau de sensibilisation de la population au rôle important que joue notre patrimoine dans nos vies quotidiennes en milieu nordique », explique Jackson Lafferty, ministre de l'Éducation, de la Culture et de la Formation. « Notre territoire est doté d'une riche histoire culturelle qu'il faut continuer d'explorer et de célébrer. Et une bonne façon de le faire, c'est au moyen de l'exploration artistique. »

L'exposition, qui se tiendra jusqu'au 30 novembre 2010, comprend de magnifiques objets confectionnés à la main, qui allient les techniques et le savoir-faire traditionnels des Autochtones au design contemporain. L'organisme La Boîte Rouge Vif, de Chicoutimi, a veillé à la réalisation de l'exposition, laquelle regroupe les créations de 23 artistes autochtones provenant de trois communautés autochtones du Québec (Odanak, Mashteuiatsh et Uashat mak Mani-Utenam).

Bureau du premier ministre et du Conseil exécutif

Le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest
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En collaboration avec la Aurora Arts Society, qui organise une semaine de promotion des arts, des artistes québécois dont les œuvres font partie de l'exposition Passages migratoires se joindront à des artistes des TNO pour faire une démonstration publique de leurs talents, le samedi 18 septembre 2010, de 10 h 30 à midi, au Centre du patrimoine septentrional Prince-de-Galles.

L'exposition Passages migratoires est présentée dans le cadre de la Fête de la culture, une célébration pancanadienne des arts et de la culture qui vise à favoriser la sensibilisation, l'accessibilité, la participation et l'engagement de tous les Canadiens à la vie artistique et culturelle de leurs communautés. La Fête de la culture englobe tout un éventail d'événements gratuits destinés à célébrer et à explorer les arts et la culture, dans toutes les provinces et tous les territoires du Canada.

L'accès aux événements est aussi disponible au grand public grâce à une diffusion sur le Web. Nous vous invitons à consulter le site www.pwnhc.ca pour obtenir des mises à jour.

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements sur l'exposition et les événements connexes, veuillez communiquer avec :

Ashley Green

Agente des relations publiques

Ministère de l'Éducation, de la Culture et de la Formation

Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Tél. : 867-920-3059

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R(16)502

Minister Promotes NWT Potential at World Congress

MONTREAL(September 16, 2010) -- Developing NWT hydrocarbon and hydro potential and encouraging federal investment in the NWT was the focus of Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod's this week at the 2010 World Energy Congress in Montreal.

In addition to highlighting the NWT's oil and gas and hydro potential and the contribution those resources could make to the world's energy supply, the Minister stressed the economic and environmental benefits of the Mackenzie Gas Project and called on the federal government to invest in NWT communities and NWT resource projects.

"The NWT is rich in energy resources and we must take advantage of every opportunity to tell the world how our resources can contribute to the global energy mix," says Minister McLeod. "Events like the World Energy Congress allow us to promote our energy potential to a national and international audience and create awareness of vital projects like the Mackenzie Gas Project and the Taltson Expansion Project."

The World Energy Congress takes place every three years and brings together more than 4,600 of the world's energy leaders. Along with meeting with energy decision-makers and attending various technical sessions, Minister McLeod also had two speaking engagements during the Congress.

The Government of the Northwest Territories' participation in the 2010 World Energy Congress is an example of the actions being taken by the 16th Legislative Assembly to maximize northern opportunities for economic development, as envisioned in the 16th Assembly's vision: *Northerners Working Together*.

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R(16)503

Discussion Paper for Revenue Options Released

YELLOWKNIFE (September 23, 2010) -- Minister of Finance J. Michael Miltenberger has released a discussion paper on revenue options for public discussion. This is the third round of public consultation held by the Finance Minister since 2008.

The discussion paper lays out, for consideration and debate, options for introducing a revenue-neutral carbon tax to encourage the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and a hotel tax to fund tourism strategies.

Both of these options have been brought forward in earlier consultations and while neither of these options reflects current GNWT tax policy, they are intended to stimulate public discussion.

The Minister will also be hosting a third roundtable in early October, to discuss the paper with representatives from a broad range of business, social and environmental organizations, as well as community and Aboriginal governments.

“Protecting our environment and promoting the NWT as a place to visit and live remain top priorities for the government,” said the Minister. “I look forward to hearing from NWT residents on these important issues.”

The discussion paper can be found on the Department of Finance website at www.fin.gov.nt.ca.

NWT residents are encouraged to view the document and provide comments by October 31, 2010 to Revenue_Options@gov.nt.ca or by mail to:

Tax Options Consultations
Fiscal Policy
Department of Finance
5th Floor, Laing Building, 5003 – 49th Street
PO BOX 1320
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2L9

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R(16)504

NWT Celebrates Literacy Week

YELLOWKNIFE (Monday, September 27, 2010) – September 27 to October 2 is Literacy Week in the Northwest Territories.

Events and activities are being sponsored across our Territory by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) the NWT Literacy Council and local communities to highlight the importance of literacy to NWT residents.

“Literacy in today’s world includes a wide range of communication and comprehension skills in one or more of our eleven official languages,” notes Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “These are the skills NWT residents need to meet the challenges of 21st century society.”

Reading text, document use, writing, oral communication, numeracy, thinking skills, computer use, working with others and continuous, lifelong learning are all part of literacy.

Highlights of this year’s celebrations include today’s presentation of the Council of the Federation and NWT Ministerial literacy awards, including a new award for a young adult learner, at the annual Adult Learners’ Luncheon today in Yellowknife. Adult learners are invited to join in celebrating this year’s recipients at the Northern United Place auditorium from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.

The Literacy Council’s Read for 20 Challenge with Nunavut on Wednesday will commemorate the NWT Literacy Council’s twentieth anniversary. Residents across the North are encouraged to watch for poster and announcements on how to participate in this and other local Literacy Week events.

For more information, please contact: **Ashley Green**
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R(16)505

Ministerial Award Recipients Honoured During Literacy Week

YELLOWKNIFE (September 28, 2010) – Recipients of the Council of the Federation Literacy Award, the new Youth Learner Literacy Award, and the Ministerial Literacy Awards were honoured today during an Adult Learners' Luncheon in Yellowknife.

“Literacy skills are fundamental in creating a strong and prosperous northern society,” says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “These individuals and organizations demonstrate tremendous commitment to education and to improving their own literacy skills or those of others in their communities. Their successes enrich us all.”

Noreen Morin - Council of the Federation (CoF) Literacy Award. Announced earlier this summer, this is a special medallion awarded by the Council of the Federation in each of Canada's thirteen provinces and territories to celebrate outstanding literacy achievements. The award is customarily presented to an adult learner. Ms Morin, whose first language is South Slavey, is recognized for her determination and exceptional progress over seven years to achieve literacy in English.

Donalyn Benwell - The Youth Learner Literacy Award. Presented for the first time this year, this award celebrates a young adult's commitment to literacy and honours their literacy achievements. Ms. Benwell, a 22-year-old mother of two, overcame many hardships to complete her high school diploma through the Phoenix School, an alternative high school in Fort Smith.

Heather Villeneuve - The NWT Ministerial Award (Educator). This award honours outstanding practitioners in the field of literacy. This year's recipient is, a teacher at the Phoenix School in Fort Smith. Ms. Villeneuve, the School's first instructor, has a strong, positive relationship with her students. She successfully reaches out to “at-risk” youth and attracts them to her program, sees them through to graduation, and maintains contact with many of them afterwards.

Goyatiko Language Centre - The Ministerial Award (Organizations). This award recognizes a group's exceptional dedication to promoting and enhancing literacy in one or more of the NWT's eleven official languages. The Goyatiko Language Centre nurtures, teaches, and honours the Aboriginal culture and languages of the communities of Dettah, N'Dilo and Yellowknife. It has

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developed numerous books and provided workshops and classes in the Weledeh dialect of Tłı̄chǫ Yat'ı̄ı (Dogrib) and in Dēne Sı̄lıné (Chipewyan).

The awards luncheon provided by Aurora College and hosted by the NWT Literacy Council, is a highlight of NWT Literacy Week. It is supported by funding from the Department of Education Culture and Employment.

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Northwest
Territories

R(16)506

News Release

Increase to Volunteer Organization Development Fund

YELLOWKNIFE (September 28, 2010) — The Government of the Northwest Territories' Volunteer Organization Development Fund has been increased from \$20,000 to \$70,000 annually.

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod, says the increased funding will help expand the skills and knowledge of the NWT's volunteer base. "It reflects our recognition of the important role that volunteer organizations and their memberships play in building sustainable, vibrant, safe communities," he says.

The Volunteer Organization Development Fund is available to assist volunteer organizations in the Northwest Territories with training, development and other associated investments in the capacity of the NWT's volunteers.

Supporting the voluntary sector is an important part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' *Building our Future* initiative which is working to support the goal of healthy educated people and sustainable, vibrant, safe communities as envisioned in the 16th Assembly's Vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

For more information or an application form, please visit: www.maca.gov.nt.ca or contact:

Rebecca Alty
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R(16)507

Aboriginal Student Achievement the Focus of Regional Minister's Meetings

YELLOWKNIFE (September 30, 2010) Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty, has begun a series of regional meetings to address Aboriginal student achievement in the Northwest Territories' education system.

Aboriginal government and community representatives, alongside DEC educators and school principals from each community within the Sahtu will gathered in Norman Wells to talk with the Minister and senior ECE staff about developing a coordinated and shared approach to improving academic performance amongst Aboriginal students in school.

"We know it takes a community to raise a child and these meetings are about building stronger communities," says Minister Lafferty. "We're talking about the future of our youth and that conversation needs to happen at all levels of society, as well as the government. We're excited about bringing people together to learn how we can work collectively to create an education plan that meets the unique needs of our diverse and talented students."

Key areas being addressed at regional meetings are early childhood and child care, student and family support, literacy and Aboriginal language curriculum and resource development. These priorities were identified earlier by the ASA Working Group that was composed of various territorial partners. Established in April 2009, the Working Group assisted in directing the work of the ASA Initiative.

Following each Minister's meeting, a community forum will begin to develop education action plans specific to each community. Feedback and outcomes from the regional Minister's meetings and community forums will help direct the development of ECE's Aboriginal Student Achievement Education Plan.

Future regional Minister's meetings:

- Tlicho (Behchoko) November 16th & 17th
- Dehcho (Fort Simpson) November 30th & 31st

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|---------------------------|---|
| - Akaitcho (Yellowknife) | January 18 th & 19 th |
| - South Slave (Hay River) | April 5 th and 6 th |
| - Beaufort Delta (Inuvik) | April 12 th & 13 th |
-

BACKGROUND:

Aboriginal Student Achievement

A Department of Education, Culture and Employment Initiative

The 16th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories identified goals in *Northerners Working Together* that include a 'Strong and Independent North Built on Partnerships' and 'Healthy Educated People'.

Members of the Legislative Assembly also identified Strategic Initiatives to achieve these priorities. Under one such Strategic Initiative, *Building our Future*, a key action is expanding programming for children and youth. Under this framework, in 2008 ECE created the Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA) Initiative to help build programming for Aboriginal children and youth by developing and implementing a plan with partners through a cost-shared arrangement.

The following timeline highlights the progress of the ASA Initiative:

December 2008 to March 2009

- ECE held workshops with regional superintendents, teachers and staff to help determine how to close the achievement gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. Recommendations included the need to:
 - increase attendance;
 - hold cultural orientations for all new and beginning teachers;
 - increase literacy among students; and
 - develop a communications campaign to explain the education system and the importance of regular attendance.

April 2009

- ECE established an ASA Coordinator.
- ECE established an ASA Working Group with territorial partners including:
 - Aurora College;
 - District Education Authorities Superintendents;
 - Dene Nation;
 - Native Women's Association of the NWT;

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- Northwest Territories Teachers' Association;
- NWT Literacy Council;
- NWT Métis Nation;
- Department of Education, Culture and Employment;
- Department of Health and Social Services;
- Department of Justice; and
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC).

2009 – 2010 School Year

- ECE started developing and implementing initiatives under the ASA Initiative based on partner input and past recommendations.
- ECE funded one attendance pilot project in each region of the NWT, with matching funds from partners.
- ECE implemented a territorial wide communication campaign to explain the education system and the importance of regular school attendance
- The ASA Working Group met three times in Yellowknife and had three other meetings via teleconference during the year.
- The ASA Working Group presented the Minister with the following agreed upon strategic priorities and areas of focus:
 1. Early Childhood and Child Care
 - Quality early childhood and child care reflecting local community and culture
 - Helping parents
 - Kindergarten
 - Partnering with the Department of Health and Social Services
 2. Student and Family Support
 - Positive student-home-school relationships
 - Helping NWT youth complete their education
 - Providing tools to help kids progress through school
 3. Aboriginal Language Curriculum and Resource Development
 - Develop Aboriginal language curriculum and resources
 - NWT Aboriginal language instructors, resources and mentors
 4. Literacy
 - Increase and improve literacy skills

2010 – 2011 School Year

ECE is providing funding for student attendance projects in all communities in the NWT, again with the requirement that funding or other in kind contributions be provided by partners.

- The communications campaign is continuing.

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- A culturally appropriate orientation for all teachers took place in each region of the NWT during the 2010-11 school year. ECE worked in consultation with the NWTTA and school superintendents to develop the criteria for the orientations. They will continue to be held every year.

ECE is holding meetings in each region to discuss the four priority areas recommended by the ASA Working Group. The meetings are hosted by the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of ECE.

For more information on the regional Minister's meetings, please contact:

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R(16)508

Minister Recognizes Excellence in Academics

YELLOWKNIFE (September 30, 2010) – Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty is pleased to announce the 2010 Minister’s Awards for Academic Achievement. These awards are given to students who receive the highest diploma examination mark, 80% or above, in each diploma examination subject that is administered in the Northwest Territories.

The following is a list of the 2010 recipients:

Applied Mathematics 30 - Brienne Glaicar
Biology 30 - Edward Hunt
Chemistry 30 - Aimee Gauthier
English Language Arts 30-1 - Joshua Balanuik
English Language Arts 30-2 - Tanya Silke
French Language Arts 30-1 - Angus Wilson
Physics 30 - Wesley Lines
Pure Mathematics 30 - Minghua Guo
Social Studies 30-1 – Hailey McLeod/Sarah Gullberg
Social Studies 30-2 - Justin Dore
Social Studies 30 – Kathleen Sullivan
Social Studies 33 - Sean Anderson

“Congratulations to this year’s recipients. Earning the top mark on a grade 12 diploma exam is quite an accomplishment, and their hard work and dedication paid off,” says Minister Lafferty. “These students exemplify what students across the Northwest Territories are capable of when they commit to their studies and apply themselves.”

For more information contact:

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R(16) 509

GNWT Releases Discussion Paper to Seek Input from Tourism Industry

YELLOWKNIFE (October 4, 2010) - The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) has released a discussion paper to gain feedback from industry stakeholders on a new tourism strategy.

The document, *Tourism 2015: A Discussion Paper*, provides background information for the tourism industry to review and consider as the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) seeks its input on what strategy will succeed *Tourism 2010: A Tourism Plan*. The GNWT has been working with NWT Tourism and industry stakeholders on this project. *Tourism 2010* will sunset on March 31, 2011.

“The men and women involved in the NWT’s tourism industry have valuable ideas and opinions to offer on what should be the focus of a new tourism strategy,” says the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “This discussion paper will help us gather those opinions and ideas from across the territory. It will be an important tool as we develop a new tourism strategy to guide future GNWT investment in a sector that contributes \$130 million annually to the NWT economy.”

Comments based on the discussion paper will be accepted until the end of November by ITI and will be used to assist in formulating a new tourism strategy. ITI is also holding tourism industry workshops in all the regions to gain input from industry stakeholders on the new strategy.

Through its support of the tourism sector, the GNWT is working to diversify the economy and provide all communities and regions with opportunities and choices as envisioned in the 16th Legislative Assembly’s *Northerners Working Together* plan.

For more information contact:

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R(16)510

NWT Ready for More Decision Making - Premier

YELLOWKNIFE (October 6, 2010) - Premier Floyd Roland says NWT leaders and residents are welcoming opportunities to talk seriously about their future. Something he says, the 16th Assembly has been focussed on from the beginning.

Speaking to delegates at the Prospects North Conference in Yellowknife, Premier Roland says efforts taken by the Government to invest, advance and protect a prosperous future is now evidenced in the increased capacity of NWT corporations, businesses, communities and governments.

“More and more of our people are realizing the independence, empowerment and economic self sufficiency that comes with being a part of a successful wage economy,” he noted.

In the next year, the Premier says he’s confident that even more progress can still be made on NWT infrastructure projects like the Mackenzie Gas Project, the Taltson Hydro Expansion and the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

But while the NWT has the nation-building blocks to create a strong and prosperous Territory - and a better Canada - the Premier says GNWT resources and authorities can only go so far.

“We need to move beyond the reliance that we have on the federal government so that we can govern, guide and advance development in our Territory – ourselves,” he said.

An estimated \$61 million in resource revenues will flow to Ottawa from the Northwest Territories in 2010. An average of \$40 million per year has been lost to Canada over the last five years.

These are fiscal resources, the Premier says that could advance priorities and goals of the 16th Assembly in areas like health care, housing, education – and the development of viable secondary industries for our resource sector.

“More importantly, an Agreement will unlock the tools and instruments with which NWT residents and their governments can shape, build and sustain their future,” Premier Roland said. “Northern decision making can serve to provide clarity in our regulatory regime, our land and water agreements, and the countless other areas in which our investment and business partners are asking us to provide some level of certainty.”

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The Premier looks forward to continuing his work with the Northern Leaders Forum to advance a common vision for the future of the NWT.

“The evolution of the Northwest Territories, for the benefit of all Canadians, will require creativity and courage,” he noted. “In everything that I have heard from NWT residents one thing is clear: residents of the NWT want to take the next step.”

To read the Premier’s speech: [click here](#)

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R(16) 511

GNWT Tourism Product Workshop a Success

YELLOWKNIFE (October 5, 2010) - Seven tourism operators can add fly fishing to the list of services they can now provide clients thanks to a Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) product development workshop.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) recently put on the two-day workshop in Yellowknife. The goal was to teach operators how to fly fish, how to teach their guests to fly fish and the equipment needed to offer fly fishing as a tourism product for clients.

“In today’s competitive tourism industry, it is important NWT operators embrace new opportunities and offer clients unique experiences,” says the Minister of ITI Bob McLeod. “Through this fly fishing workshop and other training opportunities the GNWT provides our operators, we are working with our operators to allow this sector of our economy to reach its full potential.”

“We got a lot out of this workshop,” says Roger Kuptana, owner of the Sachs Harbour-based Kuptana’s Polar Grizz Enterprises, who attended with son Jeff Kuptana. “The instructor was very knowledgeable and patient and the instructions were first-rate. Jeff and I went away with lots of valuable information, and we learned new skills that will help us provide different products. This was one of the most interesting courses that I have been on. I can’t wait to share my experiences with my clients and to catch my first fish by fly fishing.”

Other operators participating in the workshop were Don Stretch of Hearne Lake Lodge, Amanda Peterson of Peterson’s Point Lake Lodge, Greg Robertson of Bluefish Services and Carleton and Christina Kennedy of Taltson Lake Lodge. The instructor was Duane Radford, an experienced fly-fisherman from Edmonton.

By providing training workshops and other programs and services for the tourism sector, the GNWT is working to diversify the economy and provide all communities and regions with

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opportunities and choices as envisioned in the 16th Legislative Assembly's *Northerners Working Together* plan.

For more information contact:

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R(16)510

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“More and more of our people are realizing the independence, empowerment and economic self sufficiency that comes with being a part of a successful wage economy,” he noted.

In the next year, the Premier says he’s confident that even more progress can still be made on NWT infrastructure projects like the Mackenzie Gas Project, the Taltson Hydro Expansion and the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

But while the NWT has the nation-building blocks to create a strong and prosperous Territory - and a better Canada - the Premier says GNWT resources and authorities can only go so far.

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The Premier looks forward to continuing his work with the Northern Leaders Forum to advance a common vision for the future of the NWT.

“The evolution of the Northwest Territories, for the benefit of all Canadians, will require creativity and courage,” he noted. “In everything that I have heard from NWT residents one thing is clear: residents of the NWT want to take the next step.”

To read the Premier’s speech: [click here](#)

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R(16)512

Regulatory Reform Has Been Too Long – Miltenberger

YELLOWKNIFE (October 6, 2010) - The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources says the Government of the Northwest Territories is no longer content to be treated simply as a stakeholder while the federal government decides if changes are required in the NWT's Regulatory Regime.

Speaking as part of a panel discussion on Navigating the Northern Regulatory Environment, Minister Miltenberger said that the decade-long debate to establish a clear and effective decision making process in the North has gone on too long.

Yet, while territorial boards and the GNWT are meeting the mandated timelines and responsibilities in the regulatory process, federal delays continue to frustrate northern governments and industry and increase the price of lost economic opportunities.

“We are a mature political jurisdiction,” he noted, “yet we cannot even make appointments to regulatory boards within our Territory. If we want to control things, we have to make decisions in the North. Surely to goodness we are ready.”

Through processes such as the Regional Leaders Meetings and the Northern Leaders Forum, the GNWT is working to forge stronger relationships with Aboriginal and NWT governments.

Pivotal initiatives such as the Water Strategy, Land Use Framework, the GNWT's Approach to Regulatory Improvement and the Species at Risk Act have been advanced by the Legislative Assembly in collaboration with Aboriginal and northern governments.

“Evidence,” Minister Miltenberger says, “that the NWT is ready to take the next step.”

For more information, contact:

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R(16)513

All Weather Road to Nahanni Butte Now Complete

YELLOWKNIFE (October 6, 2010) - An all-weather road from Highway 7 to the South Nahanni River has been completed and residents of Nahanni Butte can expect to receive year-round benefits.

Yesterday, Transportation Minister Michael McLeod joined the community in celebrations for the new Nahanni Butte Access Road. "This is an important investment in a community with tremendous potential," he said. "Nahanni Butte residents can look forward to a reduced cost of living and increased economic opportunities, especially from tourism, as a result of this improved access."

MLA for Nahendeh Kevin Menicoche said the project reflects the commitment of the Government of Northwest Territories to small communities. "The people of Nahanni Butte will welcome the cost savings and the opportunities this all-weather road will bring," he said. "Their future is certainly brighter today."

Chief Fred Tesou welcomed the new all-weather road. "Our residents are looking forward to saving money on everyday items and being able to travel outside the community by road," he said. "With a national park in our backyard, year-round road access will greatly improve our tourism and other economic opportunities."

Travellers by road to Nahanni Butte will be able to cross the South Nahanni River by water taxi in the summer and ice crossing in the winter.

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R(16)514

New Campaign Encourages Post-secondary Students to “Come Make Your Mark” in the Northwest Territories

YELLOWKNIFE (October 6, 2010) - The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has launched the second phase of the *Come Make Your Mark* national marketing campaign aimed at addressing labour shortages in the NWT — this time focusing on university, college and trade-school students.

Come Make Your Mark is a comprehensive national marketing campaign aimed at convincing residents of select regional jurisdictions across Canada to move to the NWT to live and work long-term. The campaign was first rolled out in northern and central Ontario in April.

In a breakfast address to delegates at the Prospects North Conference in Yellowknife, Minister Bob McLeod highlighted GNWT efforts to advance a prosperous and diverse economy. “A strong labour force will be key,” he noted.

“The Northwest Territories offers limitless opportunities for young people,” says the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “Our future is bright. But we face a critical labour shortage in the next decade.”

The second phase of the *Come Make Your Mark* campaign will run from October 6, 2010 until March 2, 2011 in over 60 universities, colleges and trade schools across Canada. One of the innovative aspects of this phase of the campaign is the introduction of “Mark” — a young man who will set out to discover job and lifestyle opportunities throughout the NWT and relay those experiences to the post-secondary audience.

The *Come Make Your Mark* marketing campaign supports the 16th Legislative Assembly’s Maximizing Opportunities strategic initiative, which focuses on ensuring the NWT economy is balanced, diversified and sustainable.

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To read Minister McLeod's speech: [click here](#).

For more information on the Come Make Your Mark university campaign please contact:

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R(16)516

First Aboriginal Student Achievement Minister's Meeting a Success

YELLOWKNIFE (October 8, 2010) – The first in a series of regional Minister's meetings on Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA) met with success in Norman Wells last week. Over the course of three days, Sahtu Aboriginal governments and community representatives, alongside District Education Council (DEC) educators and school principals from each community discussed how to improve Aboriginal students' academic success with senior staff from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE).

The common theme supported at the meetings was building connections within each community to help students. "The level of engagement from participants was outstanding. We couldn't have asked for more," says ECE Minister Jackson Lafferty. "People came ready to really talk about challenges they face in their communities and to focus on developing solutions and a collaborative approach."

Sahtu Dene Council Grand Chief, Frank Andrew and the Sahtu District Education Council (SDEC) Chair Beverly Masuzumi co-chaired the meeting with Minister Lafferty.

"The symposium was informative and I gained a better understanding of the education system," says Grand Chief Frank Andrew. "The symposium was well organized and well attended with Aboriginal leaders, DEA members, and school principals, which was a first. Discussions on languages were interesting and I feel that this is very important within the education system. I want to recommend more education symposiums be held on a yearly basis."

"It went great and everyone who took part had a positive outlook," says Beverly Masuzumi. "The leadership in the Sahtu is aware of our children's issues and because of this, we all came together to help find solutions. I believe this is a step in the right direction for all involved."

Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya also attended much of the meeting. "Education is so important for the future of the NWT and all of its citizens that it is great when so many stakeholders can come together to work through some of the tougher issues facing us in this area," he stated.

There was much discussion on early childhood development and how important it is to incorporate tradition, culture, and language into school courses and programs. Key areas addressed at the regional meetings were the priorities identified earlier by the ASA Working Group, which was comprised of various territorial partners. Established in April 2009, the Working Group was instrumental in directing the work of the ASA Initiative.

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On the third day of meetings, Ethel Blondin Andrew, Chair of Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated (SSI) and Terry Fortin, Education Consultant, set an inspirational tone for a community forum. Aboriginal government leaders and educators from the same communities worked in groups to discuss their community's education issues and what they would do to resolve those issues when they return home. The community groups made a commitment to start working towards short and long term goals in their respective communities.

"The Sahtu Aboriginal Student Achievement conference was an excellent start," says Ethel Blondin Andrew, Chair of SSI. "The leadership of the Sahtu did not stand back. They were hands on in the discussion of each of the four ASA priorities. To do better on all the issues raised will take a hands on and very well planned approach by the entire community."

The meetings also included a community cultural evening with a feast and drum dance featuring the Tulita drummers.

The feedback and outcomes from the regional Minister's meetings and community forums will help direct ECE's Aboriginal Student Achievement Education Plan.

Future regional Minister's meetings include:

- Tlicho (Behchoko) November 17 to 19, 2010
- Dehcho (Fort Simpson) December 7 to 9, 2010
- Akaitcho (Yellowknife) January 18 to 20, 2011
- South Slave (Hay River) April 5 to 7, 2011
- Beaufort Delta (Inuvik) April 12 to 14, 2011

For more information on the regional Minister's meetings, please contact:

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R(16)517

NWT Community Gardens Enjoy a Successful Fall Harvest

YELLOWKNIFE (October 13, 2010) – Communities across the Northwest Territories have harvested a bumper crop of produce ranging from potatoes and carrots to spinach and lettuce thanks to dedicated community gardeners and the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) Small Scale Foods Program.

After a successful summer growing season, residents in communities across the territory have now harvested the crops they planted in the spring, including the three newest community gardens established this summer in Hay River, N'Dilo, and Behchokò. The GNWT plans to have gardens established in 29 NWT communities, by the end of 2010.

"I am happy to see so many community gardens thriving throughout the Northwest Territories, due in large part to the hard work and dedication of our residents," said the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. "Increasing the amount of food grown at the community level is one way to bring down the cost of living in our territory. These gardens provide fresh, locally-grown produce to NWT communities."

"Our Government is proud to support initiatives like the Small Scale Foods Program in the Northwest Territories," said Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz. "This is another great example of how *Growing Forward* is delivering flexible and responsive programs for the unique needs of farming communities across Canada."

The community garden initiative is part of the GNWT's Small Scale Foods Program, which is one of the programs in the bilateral Growing Forward Agreement signed in July of 2009 between the GNWT and the Government of Canada. Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative, attempts to build a vibrant, sustainable agriculture sector by attending to the local needs of a region. Governments are investing \$1.3 billion over five years into Growing Forward programs.

The Small Scale Foods Program is another example of action being taken by the 16th Legislative Assembly to reduce the cost of living in all NWT communities as envisioned in the *Northerners Working Together* plan.

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R(16)518

Influenza vaccine recommended for NWT residents

YELLOWKNIFE (October 14, 2010) – The annual flu bug will be making its rounds in the Northwest Territories and the Chief Public Health Officer of the NWT is advising residents to get their annual flu shot.

“Getting the flu shot benefits everyone,” said Dr. Kami Kandola, Chief Public Health Officer. “People must get their flu shot annually to be protected from the flu.”

To protect yourself against the flu, it is also recommended you wash your hands frequently to avoid the spread of germs, stay home when you are sick, and cover your mouth when coughing.

Flu vaccine clinics will begin in October and run for the entire month. The public should contact their public health clinic or health centre for dates and times.

The Health and Social Services Action Plan, *A Foundation for Change*, promotes healthy choices for communities, families and individuals so they are protected from disease such as influenza.

Common symptoms of the flu are cough, fever, headache, sore throat, and an achy sore body for two to seven days.

For more information please visit www.getyourflushot.ca.

For more information, please contact:

Damien Healy
Manager, Communications
Health and Social Services
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R(16)519

16th Assembly Focussed on Future - Premier

YELLOWKNIFE (October 14, 2010) – In his Sessional Statement to Members of the Legislative Assembly, Premier Floyd K. Roland today highlighted the many initiatives and investments that have been put in place by the Government of the Northwest Territories to build the foundation for future decisions and opportunities.

“The vision, mission and goals of the 16th Assembly - the strategic Initiatives of this Government – the work that we have done – the decisions we have made – the over 142 initiatives and investments that we have put in place with the support of this House. Together, they offer a strong track record focussed on building a stronger Northwest Territories, a foundation that will serve us all well long past the term of this Government,” the Premier said

In coming months, the Premier says he hopes the 16th Assembly can advance the benefits of the NWT’s resource sector and the nation-building potential of infrastructure projects; further advance the relationship with Aboriginal Governments established under the Regional Leadership table; and secure the authorities and resources from Ottawa so future Governments and leaders will be able to shape the NWT’s future.

“We all know that this work of creating a strong foundation for the future is not easy,” said the Premier. “But we have all worked to put in place the resources, tools, and processes that will allow us to realize the unprecedented opportunities that are still before us.”

For the Premier’s full statement, visit: www.gov.nt.ca

For more information, contact:

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R(16)521

GNWT Revises Business Incentive Policy

YELLOWKNIFE (October 18, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has revised its Business Incentive Policy.

The completion of a revised BIP is the result of consultations that took place from 2008 to 2010 with Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Northwest Territories (NWT) business community, Aboriginal governments and other interested parties. BIP gives preference to registered NWT businesses for the GNWT's purchase of all products and services. The Policy was last revised in 1992.

“The Business Incentive Policy has ensured that the realities of operating a business in the Northwest Territories are reflected in government procurement practices,” says Minister McLeod. “The revisions the GNWT has made to BIP are designed to ensure benefits are maximized for NWT residents and businesses, while ensuring best value on GNWT procurement.”

“The NWT Construction Association is pleased with the revised BIP,” says Bob Doherty, President of the NWT Construction Association. “Our members expressed their desire during the consultation to have the previous bid adjustments on GNWT contracts changed, and to develop a standard bid form, and the GNWT listened. This announcement is a positive one for the NWT Construction Association and our members.”

The revised BIP will come into effect on November 1, 2010.

Through initiatives such as revising the BIP, the GNWT is working towards maximizing opportunities for NWT residents as envisioned in the 16th Legislative Assembly's *Northerners Working Together* plan.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)520

Fiscal Strategy to a Sustainable Future - Miltenberger

YELLOWKNIFE (October 15, 2010) – With a period of growth now forecast in the NWT economy, the Government of the Northwest Territories’ fiscal strategy will maintain a tight rein on spending growth while reducing capital investment over time to historical levels.

In his fiscal and economic update to Members of the Legislative Assembly, Minister of Finance J. Michael Miltenberger says the GNWT’s fiscal strategy will see the NWT through uncertain times and return it to a sustainable fiscal path in coming years.

“We must manage our way ahead with caution and vigilance,” he noted. “Achieving a sustainable fiscal path will require strong discipline on the expenditure side.”

During a period of global economic downturn, the GNWT has responded by maintaining spending levels and pursuing an aggressive infrastructure investment plan to mitigate the effects of the recession.

Yesterday, the GNWT tabled its 2011-12 Capital Estimates. With infrastructure contributions to communities and the NWT Housing Corporation, the Government is proposing infrastructure investment totalling \$171 million this year. Over \$1 billion has been identified for infrastructure investment over the life of the 16th Assembly.

The Minister noted to Members that the GNWT is not alone in the fiscal approach it is taking.

“All governments in Canada are expecting a period of tight fiscal control as they seek to return to balanced budgets,” he noted. “With the limited time left to us, we need to focus on consolidating the gains we have made, and finish and deliver what we have begun.”

For the Minister’s full statement, visit: www.gov.nt.ca

For more information, contact:

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Communications Officer

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R(16)522

GNWT Salutes NWT Entrepreneurs during Small Business Week

YELLOWKNIFE (October 18, 2010) – This is Small Business Week – a time to celebrate the small and medium-sized businesses and co-operatives, and the contributions they make to our communities and the territorial economy.

“From the home business run by one person to the dynamic enterprises employing dozens of NWT residents, our small businesses provide valuable employment and services throughout our territory,” says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “They also serve to further diversify our economy and provide our communities and regions with opportunities and choices.”

It is estimated that small and medium-sized businesses make up 95 percent of Canadian businesses. There are also approximately 9,000 co-operatives in Canada providing products and services to 17 million members.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) recognizes the importance of assisting NWT entrepreneurs. Through programs like the Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development Policy, and organizations such as the Community Futures Development Corporations and the NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation, the GNWT is providing support to our small businesses.

By providing this support through various means, the GNWT is working on maximizing opportunities as envisioned by the 16th Legislative Assembly in the *Northerners Working Together* plan.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)523

Sissons/Morrow Carvings at Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

YELLOWKNIFE (October 25, 2010) – In honour of the 55th anniversary of the establishment of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories, the Sissons/Morrow carving collection is on public display at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife.

“The carvings depict important parts of our legal and cultural history,” said the Minister of Justice and Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “The exhibit shows the development of our justice system throughout its early days. The majority of the cases shown in the collection involve Aboriginal traditions and justice.”

Justice Sissons was the first judge of the Supreme Court of the NWT and he began collecting Inuit art in 1956. It all started when Kaotak, a man from one of his trials, gave Justice Sissons a carving that depicted Kaotak’s experience in the courtroom. Justice Sissons commissioned local carvers to depict the events that led to noteworthy trials. When Justice Morrow succeeded Justice Sissons in 1966, he continued collecting carvings in stone, ivory, caribou antler, soapstone and metal. The “billion-dollar duck” from *R. v. Sikyea* is also on display as part of the collection.

Upon Justice Sissons’ death in 1969, the people of the NWT received the entire collection, deeded in trust to the Senior Judge of the Supreme Court.

“I am very pleased that the Sissons/Morrow Collection will once again be available for public viewing,” said Justice John Vertes, Senior Judge of the Supreme Court of the NWT. “This invaluable collection represents some of the most significant early cases in the court’s history and the modern contact between the north’s population and the Canadian justice system. The collection belongs to the people of the Northwest Territories, as part of our collective heritage, and it is only right that the people be able to view them first-hand.”

Photographs of the collection are available on the NWT Courts website at <http://www.nwtcourts.ca/Sissons/sissons.htm>.

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R(16)524

Devolution - Aboriginal Rights Agreements and Negotiations

YELLOWKNIFE (October 26, 2010) – Premier Floyd K. Roland says concerns that Devolution will impact existing land claims and current land, resources and self-government negotiations are unfounded.

In the first of a series of statements he will make to clarify misconceptions and misinformation arising out of the leak of the proposed Agreement-in-Principle (AiP), the Premier refuted speculation that approval of a draft AiP will prejudice current Aboriginal rights negotiations or violate existing land claims agreements.

“Nothing is further from the truth,” the Premier said.

The Premier highlighted for Members of the 16th Assembly many of the specific protections for existing Aboriginal Treaty rights and settlements as well as future settlements included in the draft Agreement-in-Principle on Devolution:

- if there is a conflict between the devolution agreement and a land claim, the land claim will prevail;
- devolution deals with administration and control over Crown lands; land claim agreements and self government agreements address the Aboriginal party’s authority to administer and control settlements lands;
- the focus of self-government negotiations is in areas such as education, social assistance, child protection, adoption and social housing; devolution negotiations only address the powers and authorities of a public government to administer and control public land;
- devolution does not affect rights related to Aboriginal lands as set out in comprehensive land claim agreements, or Aboriginal government jurisdiction, including jurisdiction over Aboriginal lands contemplated under Aboriginal self-government agreements; and
- with or without devolution, claimant groups will all continue to own the surface and subsurface lands identified in their respective agreements.

“I believe we may have the basis for a deal on Devolution that will create real benefits and opportunities, that will bring decision making about the North, to the North, for all residents of the Northwest Territories,” he noted.

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For the Premier's full statement, visit: www.gov.nt.ca

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Devolution and Existing Land Claim Agreements

- Land claim agreements are modern treaties and therefore constitutionally protected. If there is a conflict between a Devolution Agreement and a land claim, the land claim prevails.
- Existing land claim agreements anticipated devolution. The Gwich'in, Sahtu and Tlicho Agreements include statements that nothing in the land claim will prejudice the devolution of jurisdictions from Canada to the GNWT. Land claim agreements were never intended to prevent the devolution of authorities from Canada to the GNWT.
- The draft Devolution Agreement-in-Principle includes specific protections for existing Aboriginal Treaty rights and settlements as well as future settlements.

Devolution and Aboriginal Governments with Unsettled Land, Resources and Self-Government Agreements

- Devolution deals with administration and control over Crown lands. Land claim agreements and self government agreements address the Aboriginal party's authority to administer and control settlements lands.
- Land claim agreements also address the land, water, and environmental regulation throughout the settlement area. This regulatory regime applies to all parties who own land, be it settlement corporations, Aboriginal governments, other third parties, or the federal government or the GNWT as it administers Crown land.
- The focus of self-government negotiations is in areas such as education, social assistance, child protection, adoption and social housing. Devolution negotiations, on the other hand, only address the powers and authorities of a public government to administer and control public land.

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- The ownership of land and resources, both surface and subsurface, recognized under existing or future land claims will not be jeopardized by a devolution agreement. Aboriginal people, through their claimant organizations, will continue to be significant land owners in this territory. With or without devolution, the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtu and Tlicho will all continue to own the surface and subsurface lands identified in their respective agreements.
- The Gwich'in, Sahtu and Tlicho Agreements have specific chapters dealing with Resource Royalties that already provide them a share of all resource royalties collected throughout the Mackenzie Valley. Additional resource revenues will be offered to Aboriginal governments as part of a final agreement on Devolution.

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R(16)525

Northwest Territories Aboriginal Languages Plan – A Shared Responsibility

YELLOWKNIFE (October 27, 2010) – The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty, tabled the *Northwest Territories Aboriginal Languages Plan – A Shared Responsibility* document earlier today in the Legislative Assembly.

“I believe the Plan developed will improve the condition of our official Aboriginal languages,” said Minister Lafferty. “It is reflective not only of the priorities of the people in the Northwest Territories, but also of the recognition of the Assembly that languages strengthen our society and are critical to our culture and heritage.”

Minister Lafferty said the document outlines a plan to strengthen people’s understanding of Aboriginal languages, encourages people to use their languages and establishes practical approaches to deliver government services in Aboriginal languages. The document’s founding principle is that revitalizing, preserving and maintaining our Aboriginal languages is a collective responsibility of all residents of the Northwest Territories.

“The development of the plan was a collaborative effort involving over 300 people across the Territory,” said Mr. Kevin Menicoche, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Nahendeh and Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations. “I would like to thank everyone who provided valuable insight on the current state of our Aboriginal languages and suggestions on how to revitalize, preserve and maintain them.”

The Plan calls for over 70 actions to revitalize and support Aboriginal language use. Though some actions take longer to implement, Minister Lafferty says there are also some actions that can be implemented now using existing resources.

To view the Minister’s Aboriginal Languages Strategy Statement, visit: www.gov.nt.ca

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R(16)526

Devolution Agreement-in-Principle – Net Fiscal Benefit

YELLOWKNIFE (October 28, 2010) – Minister of Finance, J. Michael Miltenberger says fiscal arrangements included in the proposed draft Devolution Agreement-in-Principle (AiP) are consistent with what Canadian provinces receive in transfer payments from the federal government.

“No province receiving Equalization payments receives better treatment for their (onshore) resources than is proposed in the draft Devolution AiP,” the Minister advised Members of the 16th Legislative Assembly today.

The draft Devolution AiP provides for a net fiscal benefit of 50 per cent of resource revenues, up to a cap.

Based on the royalties actually collected by Canada from the NWT over the last 10 years – and a Devolution agreement finalized on currently proposed terms – the cap would have only been reached twice. In all the other years, the NWT would have received its full 50 per cent share of resource revenues in addition to regular transfer payments from the federal government.

“Since we cannot know how the world might change in the future, the net fiscal benefit provisions will not be written in stone,” he added. “The AiP contemplates periodic reviews of the net fiscal benefit.”

Over the last five years, Minister Miltenberger estimates the NWT has lost \$208.6 million in potential net fiscal benefit.

For the Minister’s full statement, visit: www.gov.nt.ca

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The Devolution Agreement-in-Principle – Net Fiscal Benefit

- Once Devolution is achieved, 100 per cent of the resource royalties, currently paid to the federal government, will stay in the NWT. However transfer payments to the GNWT under Canada's Territorial Formula Financing arrangements will also be reduced - but not dollar for dollar. The difference represents the net fiscal benefit.
- Based on the royalties actually collected by Canada from the NWT over the last 10 years, the NWT would have reached the cap only twice. In all other years – had a Devolution agreement been finalized based on the terms we have currently negotiated – the NWT would have received its full 50 per cent share of resource revenues in addition to regular transfer payments from the federal government.
- The arrangements contemplated in the AiP are completely consistent with what the provinces receive under the Federal-Provincial Equalization program. Under Equalization, 50 per cent of a province's resource revenues are excluded from the equalization calculation, and the net fiscal benefit is subject to a cap.
- Equalization payments are cash transfers from the federal government to eligible provincial governments to help offset differences in available revenues. No province receiving Equalization receives better treatment for their onshore resources than is contemplated in the draft Devolution AiP.
- Some provinces, like Alberta, keep 100 per cent of their resource revenues, but this is because Alberta's revenues are high enough that the province is not entitled to Equalization payments. If, in the future, the royalties received by the GNWT are high enough that we don't qualify for Formula Financing, we would also get to keep 100 per cent of the royalties.
- Every year that passes without a Devolution agreement means that the NWT forgoes another year's net fiscal benefit. Over the last five years, the NWT has lost \$208.6 million in potential net fiscal benefit.
- The AiP contemplates periodic reviews of the net fiscal benefit.

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R(16)527

Supplementary Health Benefits Policy

YELLOWKNIFE (October 29, 2010) – Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee has responded to the report of the Supplementary Health Benefits Joint Working Group.

The 2007 Policy on Supplementary Health Benefits will be withdrawn and the Department of Health and Social Services will concentrate efforts on ensuring existing extended health benefits programs are fairly and consistently administered. The GNWT will now begin work to advance changes in the life of the 16th Assembly based on:

1. developing a pharmaceutical strategy to include generic drugs, drug pricing and efficiencies, and cost containment of pharmaceuticals, procurement, distribution and access;
2. eliminating the 2004 grandfathering of Extended Health Benefits; and
3. amending the Extended Health Benefits and Métis Health Benefits programs to require the use of third party insurance as the first option, and to ensure parity with the Federal Non-Insured Health Benefits program.

“Decisions surrounding health care, particularly who pays and for what, are some of the most contentious and sensitive that a government faces,” Minister Lee acknowledged. “We have agreed to move forward with changes consistent with the principles agreed to by the Joint Working Group, and to implement these changes during the life of this Government.”

“There were principles in the Policy that had merit,” said Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, Hay River South MLA and Chair of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning. “Our Report has highlighted the key principles and issues that need to be addressed in order to ensure that residents receive fair and equitable health care benefits.”

For a copy of the Report, please visit: www.assembly.gov.nt.ca

For more information, contact:

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R(16)528

Aboriginal Participation in Devolution Negotiations

YELLOWKNIFE (October 29, 2010) – Premier Floyd Roland says he hopes Aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories will be prepared to take the next step in the process to advance a proposed Devolution Agreement-in-Principle (AiP).

The Premier presented a history of the AiP process to Members of the Legislative Assembly this morning. While the draft AiP is not binding, it provides the necessary parameters for negotiations leading to a final agreement on Devolution.

“We have made every effort over the past nine years to involve NWT Aboriginal governments in the negotiations and there is nothing in the AiP that they have not had the chance to review and fully consider many times before,” he said.

The current Devolution process began in May 2001 at a meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum, consisting of Aboriginal leadership, the Premier of the Northwest Territories and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs. Since 2001, negotiations have been ongoing between the Federal, Territorial, and Aboriginal governments. In June 2010, there was agreement among the parties that the negotiators had reached the extent of their mandate and the proposed AiP was forwarded to leadership for consideration.

“Gaining control over public lands, water and resources will be a major step in the political evolution of the NWT,” the Premier noted. “I believe that the proposed AiP provides the basis for a deal that will create real economic benefits for all residents of the NWT.”

For the Premier’s full statement, visit: www.gov.nt.ca

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The Devolution Agreement-in-Principle Timeline

- **May 2001:** The current Devolution process began at a meeting of the then Intergovernmental Forum, consisting of Aboriginal leadership, the Premier of the Northwest Territories and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs. It was at this meeting that agreement was reached on a Memorandum of Intent that stated the intention of all parties to begin negotiations.
- **September 2002:** Tripartite negotiations between Canada, the GNWT and representatives from the Aboriginal governments began.
- **March 2004:** A Devolution Framework Agreement, was signed by the GNWT, Canada and Aboriginal governments indicating agreement among all parties on the broad outlines of Devolution.
- **March 2005:** Canada made an offer to the NWT parties. The Negotiator for the Aboriginal Summit was prepared to recommend the draft AiP and advanced it that summer at a number of general assemblies. The GNWT, however, declined the offer, not agreeing with Canada over primarily financial matters, including A-base, one-time costs and Net Fiscal Benefit.
- **May 2007:** The GNWT and four Aboriginal governments – the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtu and NWT Métis Nation – signed an AiP on resource revenue sharing that would see 25% of the Net Fiscal Benefit shared among Aboriginal governments. Provisions were made for the remaining three Aboriginal governments to sign on when they were ready to do so.

The four Aboriginal governments and the GNWT then agreed on a revised Devolution Agreement-in-principle that they formally jointly transmitted to Minister Prentice for signature. The Minister declined and suggested returning to the negotiation table. The main issues of money remained.

- **In 2009:** Canada and the GNWT began to make progress on resolving the outstanding bilateral issues. With the final elements of a Devolution AiP starting to come together, plans were made to brief Aboriginal governments and resume full tripartite negotiations.

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- **November /December 2009 - January 2010**

A series of briefings were provided to:

- The President and Vice-President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council;
- The Chair of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and senior officials;
- All Tlicho leadership and senior staff;
- All Sahtu leadership and senior officials;
- The majority of Akaitcho Chiefs;
- NWT Métis Nation leadership and officials; and
- Dehcho representatives.

- **January 2010:** A technical session with Canada, the GNWT and Aboriginal governments was held.

- **April/June 2010:** Main Table negotiations were held. The Inuvialuit, Sahtu and NWT Métis Nation were full participants in the Main Table negotiations along with Canada and the GNWT. The Tlicho, Akaitcho and Dehcho attended the negotiations as observers. (The Gwich'in Tribal Council withdrew from participation in April 2010, despite having been signatories to the 2007 AiP on resource revenue sharing between the GNWT and Aboriginal governments.)

- **June 2010:** Following the Main Table negotiations there was agreement that negotiators had reached the extent of their mandate and the proposed AiP should be forwarded to leadership for consideration.

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R(16)529

Career Week: “*Seek Change, Find Direction*”

YELLOWKNIFE (November 1, 2010) – Career Week kicked off today, and there are many events planned throughout the Northwest Territories to celebrate. This year’s theme is “*Seek Change, Find Direction.*”

“Planning for your future, making career choices and breaking into the job market can seem overwhelming,” says the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Jackson Lafferty. “Career Week is a great chance for all residents of the Northwest Territories to learn more about the many career opportunities, programs and services available to them.”

From open houses to workshops to information sessions, there are a variety of career development events taking place. During Career Week, residents are encouraged to visit their local ECE Regional Service Center for a full list of events planned, and to find out about the services they provide. ECE Regional Service Centres are located in Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik, Norman Wells, and Yellowknife.

One of the highlights of Career Week is the annual Take Our Kids to Work Day which is Wednesday, November 3rd. Grade 9 students across the territory will spend the day at work shadowing their parent or an adult friend. This day provides students with an opportunity to see what happens on a job and at the workplace, providing insight into possible future careers.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)530

GNWT Committed to Water Smart Program

YELLOWKNIFE (November 1, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to ensuring the delivery of the Lifesaving Society Water Smart™ program in every community in the Northwest Territories over the next four years. The Program is intended to significantly reduce the number of preventable drownings each year associated with boat use and water activities in the NWT.

“Over the years, the Department of Health and Social Services has initiated numerous campaigns and programs, such as the Safe in a Swim Vest program, to ensure residents are safe in and around water,” said Minister of Health and Social Services, Sandy Lee. “We are pleased to partner with the Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs, and Transportation so that we can offer another program across the Territory.”

“Water activities are part of happy and healthy lifestyle choices for residents of the NWT,” said Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Robert C. McLeod. “By working closely with our sport and recreation partners and with community governments, we will be able to get the Program out to all of our residents.”

“For many of our people, being out on the water is part of harvesting and other traditional activities that are important to the way we live,” said the Minister of Transportation, Michael McLeod. “It is my priority and a priority of this Government to do what we can to reduce the number of people that we lose each year to preventable drowning deaths.”

Some of the activities that will be delivered as part of this commitment are:

1. Partnerships with local communities, community groups and individuals to improve boat and water activity safety awareness in each community;
2. Training for community trainers to deliver boat safety programs in participating communities;
3. Expert advice and support for communities wanting to develop shoreline swimming areas and aquatics programs; and
4. Awareness programs for individuals on and around the water to help them make healthy choices when it comes to lifejacket use, safe and sober boating, and planning for a safe trip.

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The Departments of Transportation, Health and Social Services, and Municipal and Community Affairs will be working through the Healthy Choices initiative to coordinate their response to drowning prevention and boat safety awareness in the NWT.

For more information, contact:

Rebecca Alty
Communications Officer
Office of the Premier/Cabinet
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Phone: (867) 669-2302

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R(16)531

Beverage Container Program Celebrates Five Successful Years

YELLOWKNIFE (November 1, 2010) – More than 125 million beverage containers have been returned since the NWT Beverage Container Program first began on November 1, 2005.

“Since its’ inception, the Beverage Container Program has had enormous public support,” said Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), J. Michael Miltenberger. “We have an 84 percent recovery rate overall and we have NWT residents to thank for this success.”

The Beverage Container Program was the first program created under the *Waste Reduction and Recovery Act* to manage approximately 30 million containers that annually end up in NWT landfills or as litter along the NWT streets and highways.

Since the Program began, more than 13 million dollars have been returned to NWT residents in refundable deposits. 1,078 tons of aluminum have been shipped south for recycling, enough to make 61 million new cans, and 618 tons of plastic has been diverted from NWT landfills and recycled into new plastic products.

“This program would not be possible without the dedicated workers who operate the community depots and the processing centres run by stores, schools, non-profit groups, band development corporations, individuals and businesses,” added Minister Miltenberger. “They have tirelessly collected, sorted, baled and shipped these containers to keep them off our streets and out of our landfills.”

This program is part of the Government of the Northwest Territories’ broader vision of environmental stewardship under the GNWT’s Managing This Land strategic initiative.

For more information, visit www.icarenwt.ca or contact:

Judy McLinton

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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R(16)532

Devolution of Lands and Resources

YELLOWKNIFE (November 1, 2010) – Gaining northern control over the management and administration of resources is a key reason why the Government of the Northwest Territories is pursuing Devolution, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, J. Michael Miltenberger told Members of the Legislative Assembly today.

“Until Northerners have this control, we are not in a position to determine the pace of development in our Territory,” said Minister Miltenberger. “A Devolution Agreement will give NWT residents the ability to make sure development proceeds in accordance with the principles of environmental protection and sustainability that are so important to all of us.”

The draft Agreement-in-Principle (AiP) respects and protects Aboriginal interests by committing – with associated funding – to negotiate a government-to-government relationship on post-Devolution resource management. The provisions in the AiP commit GNWT and Aboriginal parties to a review of land and resource systems and, where appropriate, recommend changes to these systems and the legislation governing them.

“If we do not proceed with Devolution, the current resource management process will continue to reflect Canada’s national interests first and the Northwest Territories’ second,” Minister Miltenberger said.

For the Minister’s full statement, visit: www.gov.nt.ca

For more information, contact:

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R(16)533

Communities take on the Get Active NWT Challenge

YELLOWKNIFE (November 2, 2010) – After a successful first round of applications, Get Active NWT grants of \$750 were awarded to 45 organizations in 20 different communities by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and the NWT Recreation and Parks Association (NWTRPA).

“These Get Active NWT events will help NWT residents stay physically active this winter,” said the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Robert C. McLeod. “A special thanks to all of the community groups who are keeping the communities of the NWT healthy and vibrant places to live by organizing these events.”

Hoping to encourage even more communities to take the Get Active NWT challenge, MACA and the NWTRPA are extending the application deadline to November 30, 2010, and are reminding the public that group leaders and participants in this year’s challenge also have an opportunity to win flights for two, courtesy of long time supporter First Air.

“We are thrilled by the response so far, and with the extension to the funding deadline, are hopeful that many more communities will be submitting applications for projects that will encourage people to get moving during the winter season,” said Mr. Geoff Ray, Executive Director of the NWTRPA.

For more information, including application forms and a list of Get Active NWT events, visit www.getactivenwt.ca.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is working to build our future by promoting healthy and active living. Improving the physical and mental well-being of our people will create healthy, educated Northerners as envisioned in the 16th Assembly’s Vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

For more information, contact:

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

Sheena Tremblay
Active Communities Coordinator
NWT Recreation and Parks Association
Phone: (867) 669-8381

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R(16)534

Survey Results for Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Released

YELLOWKNIFE (November 3, 2010) – Results from the 2010 summer surveys of the Bluenose-East caribou herd indicate the herd has recovered to 2000 levels.

“The new estimate of the size of the herd is 98,600 animals,” said Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Minister J. Michael Miltenberger. “While the increase in the herd is good news, this herd is shared by many harvesters from many regions and we must still exercise caution when recommending management actions so the herd can continue to increase.”

Two different survey methods were used this summer and both methods provided similar estimates. Comparing these two survey methods responds to a recommendation made by the Alberta Research Council, in its independent review of caribou management in the NWT.

The new estimate of 98,600, plus or minus 7,100 animals, for the Bluenose-East herd is based on the post-calving photographic survey. The last post-calving survey was done in 2006. The calving ground photographic survey estimate is 102,700, plus or minus 40,000 animals.

Observers from Sahtu, Tlicho, Akaitcho and Nunavut communities participated in both surveys.

“The increase is likely due to good calf recruitment since 2006 and reduced harvest pressure on cows since the bulk of the herd did not winter near winter roads or communities for the past four years,” added Minister Miltenberger. “I commend all our partners and harvesters for their on-going actions to help conserve all our barren-ground caribou herds.”

The next steps involve meetings of appropriate wildlife co-management boards and Aboriginal governments in the Dehcho, Sahtu, Inuvialuit, Tlicho regions and Nunavut regions to discuss the harvest target proposed for the Bluenose-East herd by the Wek’èezhii Renewable Resources Board in its Recommendations Report. They will also determine what harvest limitations, if any, should be recommended to the Minister of ENR and how the harvest limitations would be allocated.

The Government of the Northwest Territories and Tlicho Government will submit their response to the Wek’èezhii Renewable Resources Board recommendations by the end of December 2010.

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For more information, contact:

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New Estimate for the Size of the Bluenose-East Herd

- Two different survey methods (post-calving ground survey and calving grounds survey) were used during the summer of 2010 to obtain a new estimate for the size of the Bluenose-East caribou herd.
- The two surveys address the recommendation, made by the Alberta Research Council in its independent review of caribou management in the NWT, to compare these methods.
- The new estimate of 98,600, plus or minus 7,100 animals, for the Bluenose-East herd is based on the post-calving survey. The last post-calving survey was done in 2006.
- The calving ground survey estimate is 102,700, plus or minus 40,000 animals.
- A research paper comparing both survey techniques will be written and undergo a peer review before being released.

Calving Ground Photographic Survey

- During June, the calving grounds are located using collared animals and an extensive reconnaissance survey.
- During the reconnaissance survey observers are in an aircraft flown at 400 feet above the ground to count caribou in transects spaced 10 kilometres apart.
- These counts are used to divide the calving grounds into blocks based on low, medium and high densities. The ratio of breeding cows to calves and non-breeders is determined for each block.
- A photo plane flies predefined transects in the medium and high density blocks and the photos are sent out for counting by an independent observer.
- Once the photos are counted, the number of breeding cows on the calving grounds is estimated. An estimate of the total herd size is derived from the fall sex ratio and an estimated pregnancy rate to account for caribou not on the calving grounds.

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- Conditions for the 2010 survey, the first one done on the herd, were excellent and 8,800 km of survey lines were flown. Observers from Sahtu, Tlicho, Akaitcho and Nunavut communities participated and the estimate from the survey is 102,700, plus or minus 40,000 animals.

Post-Calving Ground Photographic Survey

- During July, post-calving aggregations of caribou are located using collared animals.
- The large groups of animals are photographed, using a photo plane, for counting and estimating the herd size. If additional groups without collars are found, they are also photographed.
- Representatives from the Sahtu, Tlicho, Akaitcho and Nunavut communities participated in a tour of the cow-calf aggregations during the end of 2010 post-calving survey.
- The herd estimate based on the 2010 post-calving ground survey is 98,600, plus or minus 7,100 animals.
- The 2006 estimate for the Bluenose-East was 66,200. The 2000 estimate was 104,000 animals. Both estimates were based on results of post-calving ground surveys.

Comparison of Survey Techniques

- Difference in survey estimates is low and both results indicate the herd has increased since 2006.
- The increase is likely due to good calf recruitment since 2006 and the reduced harvest pressure on cows as the herd has not wintered near winter roads or communities for the past four years.
- The estimate from the post-calving ground survey maintains consistency with the previous herd estimates.

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Management Next Steps

- The appropriate wildlife co-management boards and Aboriginal governments (Tlicho and Dehcho) will discuss:
 - the harvest target proposed for the Bluenose-East herd by the Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board in its Recommendations Report;
 - what harvest limitations, if any, should be recommended to the GNWT; and
 - how the harvest limitations would be allocated.
- The GNWT and Tlicho Government will submit a response to the Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board recommendations by the end of December 2010.
- The Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management, consisting of wildlife co-management boards established under the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtu, Tlicho and Nunavut land claims agreements, will complete management plans for the Bluenose-East herd, as well as the Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst herds, by 2011.
- In December 2010, the GNWT will release the 2011-2015 NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy.

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R(16)535

Amazing Family Sundays: Photography Exhibit and Book Launch by René Fumoleau

YELLOWKNIFE (November 4, 2010) – Amazing Family Sundays returns to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre this Sunday, November 7, with the opening of the René Fumoleau exhibit, *Seasons of Beauty*. The exhibit will be on display until May 2011.

The display parallels the launch of Rene's new photo book: *Way Down North: Dene Life - Dene Land*, in which he captures the changing seasons and changing times of Denendeh – the land of the people. *Way Down North* is a celebration of beauty, highlighting a selection of the thousands of photos René took while living and learning among the Dene.

“René Fumoleau took thousands of photographs, documenting Dene life in the Northwest Territories during his 57 years in the north,” says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty. “We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to catch a glimpse into the beauty of life and the land through René’s lens.”

Seasons of Beauty is a display of 21 photographs showing the beauty of the four seasons of life and land. René generously donated his photographs and records to the NWT Archives, and over 15,000 of René’s images and an on-line version of the exhibit can be found at www.pwnhc.ca.

“There is beauty in the wind, in the sunset, in children, in creation, in the peaceful face of the old, in the hope in children’s eyes,” René Fumoleau says. “We will see it if we are very attentive to the present moment.”

This event, which runs from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m, is the first of the museum’s Amazing Family Sundays fall lineup. Admission is free and visitors of all ages are invited. Other Amazing Sundays programs are scheduled for November 14th, 21st and December 5th.

For more information, contact:

Barb Cameron, Director
Culture and Heritage Division
Department of Education, Culture and Employment
Phone: (867) 873-7551

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R(16)536



RioTinto



Northern Mining Workforce Initiative Partners Conclude Successful Meeting

YELLOWKNIFE (November 4, 2010) – The members of the Northern Mining Workforce Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Initiative re-affirmed their commitment to achieving the objectives of this partnership at a productive steering committee meeting held Tuesday.

The MOU was signed in November of 2008. Its members include the Departments of Industry, Tourism and Investment, and Education, Culture and Employment, BHP Billiton Canada Inc., Diavik Diamond Mines Inc., and De Beers Canada Inc. It is designed to maximize opportunities from diamond mining for NWT residents. Through the MOU, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the diamond mines have agreed to work towards two main objectives – develop the skills of NWT workers, and attract and retain an NWT workforce.

The need for an increased emphasis on training was identified during the meeting. The GNWT and the diamond mine companies intend to work together on training. They agreed to focus their resources on targeted training efforts that ensure NWT residents have the skills to take advantage of the job opportunities at the mines, while also meeting the needs of the industry.

The meeting also gave the partners the chance to review the efforts that have been made to attract and retain an NWT workforce. Since 2009, the three mines have worked with the GNWT to promote the territory as a place to pursue a career, both in the NWT and across Canada.

“Maximizing opportunities for NWT residents from natural resource development is a GNWT priority and this MOU is an important initiative that will help us achieve our goals,” says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister Bob McLeod. “There is still much work that needs to be done, but this meeting provided the partners with a chance to talk about the progress we’ve made and how we can continue to work together for the betterment of the people of the Northwest Territories.”

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“Preparing, recruiting and retaining workers is an issue that affects all sectors in the Northwest Territories,” says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “The mines have identified safety standards, trades and technical training as key priorities in addressing northern workforce issues. Focusing our collaborative training efforts in these areas will have spin-off benefits for other sectors and employers in the NWT.”

“For over a decade, BHP Billiton has provided employment, training and business opportunities for the people of the North at EKATI Diamond Mine,” said Paul Harvey, Asset President. “We are proud of our record, and are committed to continuing to work closely with government and industry partners under the MOU, to ensure that the North continues to prosper. Our commitment is to achieve a lasting positive impact in the communities in which we operate.”

Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. President and Chief Operating Officer, Kim Truter states that Diavik is fully committed to sustainable northern benefits for all stakeholders from its operations, including maximizing northern recruitment and retention. “We continue to pursue various initiatives to enhance this endeavor, such as recently committing to a target of training 86 heavy trade journey persons by 2020 and making Hay River another 4 x 3 pickup location. Supporting the MOU initiative is a critical way forward to work together in partnership with the Government and the two other diamond operations to evaluate, recommend, and implement actions that will bear benefits to increase northern employment, training, recruitment, as well as addressing retention issues.”

“Developing and keeping the skills we need here in the NWT continues to be a high priority for De Beers,” said Chantal Lavoie, Acting Chief Executive Officer for De Beers Canada. “The diamond industry has been a trail blazer for success models that build community capacity and develop new sustainable skills here in the NWT. We haven’t achieved this success by working alone and De Beers remains committed to working with industry partners and government.”

For more information, contact:

Darren Campbell
Manager, Public Affairs and Communications
Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories
Tel: (867) 920-8696

Amy Doerksen
Manager, Public Affairs
Department of Education, Culture and Employment
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R(16)537

Media Literacy Week

YELLOWKNIFE (November 5, 2010) – Media Literacy Week kicked off nationwide earlier this week by highlighting the need for parents, educators and youth to talk about the ways that gender is portrayed in media and how this can influence young people’s perceptions of themselves and others.

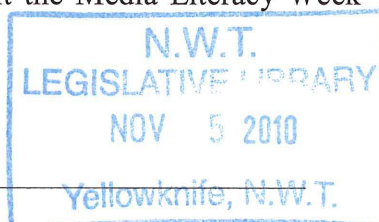
“Teachers see first-hand how media and information technology influence the manner in which students interact with each other and how they view the world around them. Media Literacy Week is an opportunity for teachers to discuss with and engage young people so they can become literate in the understanding of visual images and media messages,” says Canadian Teacher’s Federation (CTF) President Mary-Lou Donnelly.

For the past five years, Media Literacy Week has promoted the integration of media literacy activities in communities, schools and families across Canada. The week underscores the importance of nurturing critical thinking skills in youth to help them understand and effectively navigate their media-rich world.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), in partnership with the Northwest Territories Teachers’ Association (NWTTA), encourages schools to host a *Parenting the NET Generation* workshop for parents and guardians throughout the month of November. The workshop aims to give parents and guardians the tools to become Internet savvy and keep pace with their children’s online activities. ECE and the NWTTA are giving away 10 Kobo e-Readers as draw prizes for participating parents and guardians.

“Media, especially the Internet, plays a powerful role in the lives of youth,” says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty. “We need to help young people gain the skills and knowledge to ensure that their interactions with media are positive and enriching, and we need to make sure parents have the tools to keep up with, and understand, their children’s online activities. Media Literacy Week reminds us how important these skills are for our kids.”

For information on other events happening across the country, visit the Media Literacy Week website at www.medialiteracyweek.ca.



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R(16)538

Premier and Aboriginal Leaders Discuss Draft Devolution Agreement-in-Principle

YELLOWKNIFE (November 5, 2010) – Premier Floyd Roland and the Northwest Territories' regional Aboriginal leaders met last night to discuss issues relating to the draft Devolution Agreement-in-Principle (AiP).

The meeting between the Premier and Aboriginal leaders is the latest step in the ongoing Devolution negotiations process.

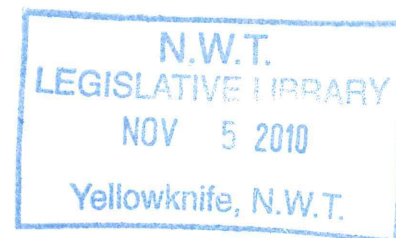
“We had a healthy discussion on the importance of Devolution and the AiP,” the Premier said. “We have agreed to work on a process that will allow us to move forward with the AiP.”

The draft AiP was forwarded to Aboriginal Leaders, the GNWT and Canada in August by Chief Negotiators who are recommending that it be signed and that negotiations be initiated towards a final agreement.

Approval of the AiP will be necessary before further negotiations on Devolution can take place. The draft AiP confirms the intent of the parties to negotiate a final Devolution agreement, outlines the subjects that will be included in a final agreement, and sets out a process and timelines for negotiations. The AiP is not legally binding and will not commit the parties to signing a final Devolution agreement.

Yesterday's meeting included the Premier and leaders from the:

- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation;
- Gwich'in Tribal Council;
- Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated;
- Akaitcho Territory Government;
- Tłı̨ch̨o Government;
- Dehcho First Nations; and
- NWT Métis Nation.



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“Devolution will be a major step in the political evolution of the Northwest Territories and we have been working towards it for years,” said Premier Roland. “It will put the control of NWT public lands and resources in the hands of NWT residents for the first time and ensure that we are in a position to make decisions that are in the best interests of the NWT.”

The GNWT is still considering the proposed AiP and expects to make a decision on approving the AiP later this year.

For more information, contact:

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Press Secretary

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R(16)539

Northwest Territories Honours Veterans

YELLOWKNIFE (November 10, 2010) – In honour of Remembrance Day, a new web feature entitled *A Place of Honour: War Casualties Commemorated in NWT Place Names* is available on the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre's website. The webpage features lists of Second World War casualties, Victoria Cross recipients, Wartime Naval losses, Canadian Military Actions and Military Commanders.

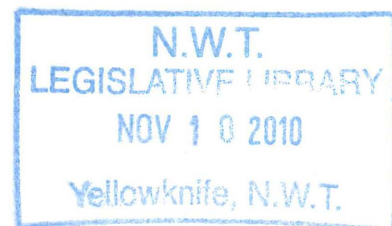
“Hundreds of lakes, rivers and landmarks in the Northwest Territories (NWT) are named after the many brave Canadian men and women who gave their lives in service of their country,” says the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty. “The courageous efforts of these individuals during the Second World War helped ensure Canadian sovereignty and establish Canada as a major player on the world stage. It is an honour to have so many NWT Place Names commemorating these individuals.”

In total, 316 NWT place names and geographic features commemorate Second World War casualties, Victoria Cross winners, military leaders and naval actions. This includes fifty-six lakes and two rivers named in honour of Royal Canadian Navy and Commonwealth ships sunk or badly damaged during World War II.

In honour of Remembrance Day, take time this month to remember all our Canadian veterans and the men and women serving today by learning about these NWT commemorative locations. To view the complete listings of *War Casualties Commemorated in NWT Place Names*, visit http://pwnhc.ca/programs/commemorative_names/index.asp.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)540

GNWT Agrees to Sponsor Dehcho Protected Area

YELLOWKNIFE (November 12, 2010) – The Łue Túé Sųłái area in the Dehcho region has been recommended as a Candidate Conservation Area under the NWT Protected Areas Strategy.

In November of 2009, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) received a proposal from the Jean Marie River First Nation requesting protection of Łue Túé Sųłái, also known as Five Fish Lakes. During the GNWT review of the proposal, it was decided ITI should sponsor the area.

“The Łue Túé Sųłái area is considered a culturally significant site by the Jean Marie First Nation and it is important that we look at how it can be protected for future generations,” says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod. “An environment that will sustain present and future generations is a key priority of our Government.”

The proposed protected area is located southwest of the community of Jean Marie River. It consists of two distinct areas and encompasses 185 square kilometres. Sponsorship is the third step in the eight-step Protected Areas Strategy process. The next step is to establish a working group with representatives from interested parties. The working group’s purpose will be to evaluate and make recommendations for the final designation and management of Łue Túé Sųłái.

Sponsorship of Łue Túé Sųłái supports the commitment the GNWT has made as a partner in the NWT Protected Areas Strategy process.

For more information, contact:

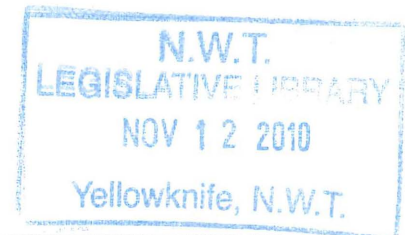
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R(16) 541

Governments' Response Addresses JRP Concerns Re: MGP

YELLOWKNIFE (November 15, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is satisfied that the government response to the Joint Review Panel Report (JRP) on the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) addresses concerns raised by the JRP. Some of the same issues were also raised by parties to the environmental assessment of the MGP.

“The modifications made to recommendations directed to the GNWT clarify our expectations for implementation,” Minister of Environment and Natural Resources J. Michael Miltenberger said. “We believe our response is in keeping with the overall intent of the JRP Report and, if the MGP proceeds, allows our Departments to meet the commitments made in the Governments’ Response.”

Most of the recommendations not accepted as written, have merit and actions are still being taken to address the underlying issues raised in a broader context than the MGP. For example, the recommendation on the development of a grizzly bear range plan was modified to state that this plan will be lead by the GNWT and focussed on the Mackenzie Delta.

Other recommendations considered out of scope, such as completion of land use plans and land claim agreements, are on-going and follow previously established processes.

Proposals for additional or new natural gas fields and other developments are subject to the appropriate legislative and regulatory review. The JRP Report will be available to parties to these processes including regulators, proponents and interveners.

“The GNWT is confident its requirements can be met as a result of the National Energy Board proposed conditions, the MGP Socio-economic Agreement, the Proponents’ commitments and the implementation of additional JRP recommendations by the federal government and other parties,” added Miltenberger.

The next step in the process is for the National Energy Board to release its regulatory decisions. These decisions are expected before the end of the year.

The Governments Response to the JRP Report can be found online at: www.ceaa.gc.ca

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R(16) 542

Joe Greenland Centre Transitions

YELLOWKNIFE (November 16, 2010) – Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee and Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Robert C. McLeod announced that the focus of the Joe Greenland Centre will be on independent living and day programming for seniors. Current residents requiring long term care will be placed by the Territorial Admissions Committee according to their care needs. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) is now considering options to renovate the units currently administered by Health and Social Services.

The Joe Greenland Centre is composed of fifteen units. Seven units are managed and administered by the Aklavik Housing Association/NWTHC as public housing that provide independent living for seniors. The remaining eight units are administered by the Department of Health and Social Services.

“The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation will continue to operate the Joe Greenland Centre as a facility for seniors’ independent living and will continue to work closely with the Department of Health and Social Services and the Aklavik Housing Association throughout this transition,” said Minister of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Robert C. McLeod.

“The Joe Greenland Centre will continue to assist clients that don’t require high level care through the use of Home Care Support Workers and family. Our Territorial Admissions Committee will continue to place residents that require long term care into the appropriate facilities. I look forward to transitioning with the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation,” said Minister of Health and Social Services, Sandy Lee.

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Paula MacFadyen
Senior Policy Advisor
Housing Corporation
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R(16) 543

Aboriginal Student Achievement Forum in the Tłı̨chǫ Region

YELLOWKNIFE (November 17, 2010) – The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Jackson Lafferty, is in Behchokǫ today for the Minister’s Regional Forum on Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA). During the Forum, the Minister will be discussing Aboriginal student academic achievement with Aboriginal government, community and youth representatives, as well as Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency educators and school principals.

“Each time we meet with a new region, we’re covering new ground while also building on the great work done at the previous forums,” says Minister Lafferty. “I’m excited to hear what people in the Tłı̨chǫ have to say on this important issue.”

The meeting is the second in a series of ASA Regional Forums with a goal of developing a coordinated and shared approach to improving academic performance among Aboriginal students in school. After each Forum, a community meeting is held where specific education action plans are developed for each community.

Key areas being addressed are: early childhood and child care; student and family support; literacy and Aboriginal language curriculum; and resource development. In April 2009, these priorities were identified by the ASA Working Group which is composed of various territorial partners to assist in directing the work of the ASA Initiative.

In 2011, Regional Minister’s Forums are taking place in:

1. Deh Cho (Fort Simpson): January 5 and 6
2. Akaitcho (Yellowknife): January 18 and 19
3. South Slave (Hay River): April 5 and 6
4. Beaufort Delta (Inuvik): April 12 and 13

For more information, contact:

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R(16)544

National Child Day

YELLOWKNIFE (November 19, 2010) – National Child Day on Saturday, November 20, 2010 marks the 21st anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). This year's theme for National Child Day promotes *Article 13* of the CRC which states "children have the right to freedom of expression."

"All children have the right to express themselves, openly and without barriers, either orally, in writing or print, in the form of art or through other media of the child's choice," says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Jackson Lafferty. "I encourage all parents and caregivers to take the Day to celebrate their children."

To celebrate the Day, ECE Service Centres are holding activities throughout the territory.

- **Beaufort-Delta Region** – Today, a Children's Art Studio for all licensed early childhood programs will take place in the ECE Boardroom in Inuvik from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Other communities will be mailed resource packages so they can complete the same activities in their own classrooms.
- **Dehcho Region** – Craft activities for children are available to licensed child care programs and day homes.
- **North Slave Region** – Craft activities, snacks and a book circle for licensed day homes took place on Thursday, November 18 and today for licensed centre based programs. Free bus transportation is available to and from the events.
- **Sahtu Region** – Tomorrow, a children's art activity and luncheon is open to all licensed child care programs in Norman Wells.
- **South Slave Region** – Craft activities are available to licensed child care programs and day homes. There is also an Early Childhood Information wall within the regional ECE Service Centre displaying licensing information, National Child Day/Rights of the Child information and photos.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)545

GNWT Closely Monitoring Fuel Supplies in North Slave Communities

YELLOWKNIFE (November 22, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is working closely with fuel suppliers in the North Slave Region to ensure that adequate supplies continue to be available to fuel distributors in the communities of Fort Providence, Behchokò and Yellowknife.

GNWT officials have been in discussions with local fuel suppliers to assess current inventories. Suppliers have confirmed that there are substantial supplies of diesel and heating oil available. Supplies of gasoline and propane are adequate to meet immediate demands and suppliers have already implemented plans for resupply operations.

The current closure of the Mackenzie River Ferry Crossing is preventing the resupply of North Slave communities by road at this time. A resumption of ferry service will require adequate water levels, subject to weather and ice conditions permitting the safe operation of the ferry. The Department of Transportation is providing regular reports on its website at www.dot.gov.nt.ca.

The GNWT is advising the public that there is no need to take unusual steps or stockpile fuel, which may create artificial shortages and undermine efforts already underway to ensure everyone has access to sufficient supplies. Temporary disruptions in community resupply are not unique or unusual and suppliers and northern governments have experience in responding to them.

GNWT officials will continue to work closely with suppliers and community government officials to monitor the situation and respond as necessary.

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A (16)153

**ITI Minister Attends NWT Tourism
Annual General Meeting and Conference**

YELLOWKNIFE (November 24, 2010) – The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod will attend NWT Tourism’s 2010 Annual General Meeting and Conference being held from November 24-26 in Inuvik. The meeting will bring together public and private sector industry stakeholders.

Minister McLeod will deliver opening remarks at the meeting and will be the keynote speaker for the November 25 gala dinner and awards banquet. He will also be attending several information sessions scheduled during the three-day event. While attending the meeting, Minister McLeod will emphasize the Government of the Northwest Territories’ commitment to the tourism industry through continued investment.

Media interested in interviewing Minister McLeod while he is attending NWT Tourism’s 2010 Annual General Meeting can contact:

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R(16)546

Trapping Workshops in the Beaufort Delta

YELLOWKNIFE (November 25, 2010) – A series of GNWT funded trapping workshops in the Beaufort Delta is one way in which the GNWT is maintaining the NWT's international reputation for harvesting high quality wild fur.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), Bob McLeod says the workshops are a key element in the GNWT's ongoing efforts to keep the NWT fur industry strong and vibrant, providing jobs and opportunities to our residents.

"Training is vital to the continued success of our trappers in the international fur industry," the Minister says. "Our workshops educate trappers on industry best-practices in pelt handling and fur grading which is then reflected in higher returns for NWT trappers."

ITI will be hosting the workshops in Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk, Tuktoyaktuk and Aklavik from November 28-December 3.

The trapper workshops are one of the activities delivered under ITI's Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program. Through the program, the GNWT works in partnership with NWT trappers, the fur industry, and the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources and Municipal and Community Affairs to support the territory's traditional fur economy.

Through initiatives like the workshops, Take-a-Kid Trapping and Trapper Recognition programs the GNWT is taking steps to diversify the economy and provide all communities and regions with opportunities and choices as envisioned in the 16th Legislative Assembly's *Northerners Working Together* plan.

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R(16)547

NWT Must Focus On Tourism Opportunities – ITI Minister

YELLOWKNIFE (November 26, 2010) – Now is the time to focus on emerging opportunities in the Northwest Territories tourism industry says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod.

Speaking to delegates at the NWT Tourism Annual General Meeting and Conference in Inuvik, Minister McLeod says the NWT tourism sector is poised for growth as more travellers seek out authentic, unique experiences – something the Northwest Territories has in abundance.

“There is a large and growing market of travellers looking for authentic experiences,” Minister McLeod noted. “They want to learn something on their trips. They want to know how people once lived, and continue to live, in the destinations they visit.”

To capitalize on those opportunities, Minister McLeod says there must be a focus on diversifying the industry, promoting the territorial system of parks and campgrounds as a tourism product, and developing the Aboriginal tourism sector.

“With more and more travellers looking for authentic Aboriginal cultural experiences to take part in, an opportunity is out there for the tourism industry,” he said. “Now is the time to explore ways to create a sustainable Aboriginal tourism sector.”

By investing over \$19 million in the industry in the last four years, the GNWT continues to support a sustainable tourism industry and is working towards diversifying the economy as envisioned in the 16th Legislative Assembly’s *Northerners Working Together* plan.

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R(16)548

Dehcho Region Parks Staff Honoured For His Contributions

YELLOWKNIFE (November 29, 2010) – Mr. Burton Campbell’s dedication to making every visitors’ experience at Blackstone Territorial Park in the Dehcho region a spectacular one has earned him the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment’s (ITI) 2010 Parks Award.

The award is part of ITI’s Happy Camper Program which was created in 2005 to recognize people who exhibit extraordinary hospitality and service in our parks and visitor centres.

“Burton Campbell is a fine example of the outstanding individuals that staff our parks, campgrounds and visitor centres,” says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “It is people like Mr. Campbell, through their commitment and dedication to their duties, who help ensure travellers get the very best experience in our wonderful territory.”

“I’m honoured to have received this award,” says Mr. Campbell. “Blackstone Territorial Park is one of the many great parks and campgrounds in the NWT. My goal every day I come to work is to make the stay of guests in the park as safe and as enjoyable as possible.”

Parks and visitor centre staff members are considered for the award through nominations submitted by visitors to the territory. Nomination forms are available at visitor centres, parks and campgrounds across the territory.

Through employee recognition programs like the 2010 Parks Award and its investment in the territorial system of parks and campgrounds, the GNWT continues to support a sustainable tourism industry and is working towards diversifying the economy as envisioned in the 16th Legislative Assembly’s *Northerners Working Together* plan.

For more information, contact:

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R (16)549

High Performance Athlete Grant Recipients Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (December 1, 2010) – The recipients of the 2010-2011 High Performance Athlete Grant were announced today by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Robert C. McLeod, and the president of the Sport North Federation, Richard Daitch.

“It is great to see so many northern athletes doing so well on the national and international scene,” said Minister McLeod. “We are proud of them all and hope that this grant will assist them in achieving their goals and aspirations and allow them to represent the NWT with pride.”

“The High Performance Athlete Grant program has been an excellent resource for our emerging athletes,” said Richard Daitch. “The support we provide will have a positive impact on the development of our best young athletes from the north, and I would like to congratulate all recipients on their hard work and wish them the best of luck in the coming year.”

The recipients for the High Performance Athlete Grant program for 2010-2011 are:

Jessie Loutit	Rowing	Fort Simpson
Shaun MacPherson	Hockey	Fort Smith
Sarah Daitch	Cross Country Skiing	Fort Smith
Elizabeth Mawdsley	Biathlon	Fort Smith
Brandon Thompson	Volleyball	Fort Smith
Brendan Green	Biathlon	Hay River
Cali Groenhyde	Hockey	Hay River
Adrienne Schmalz	Soccer	Yellowknife
Andy Williams	Hockey	Yellowknife
Arran Ferguson	Soccer	Yellowknife
Chad Hinchey	Volleyball	Yellowknife
Hazem Shoblak	Athletics	Yellowknife
Jan Barbier	Soccer	Yellowknife
Molly Milligan	Snowboarding	Yellowknife
Sarah Cannell	Soccer	Yellowknife
Michael Gilday	Speed Skating	Yellowknife
Jill Gilday	Speed Skating	Yellowknife
Andrew Matthews	Snowboarding	Yellowknife

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Thompson D'Hont	Cross Country Skiing	Yellowknife
Denise Ramsden	Cycling	Yellowknife
Stefanie Miklosovic	Rowing	Yellowknife
Chelsea Comeau	Basketball	Yellowknife
James Williams	Hockey	Yellowknife
Kathleen O'Brien	Hockey	Yellowknife
Stephen Giovanetto	Swimming	Yellowknife
Matthew Whiteford	Baseball	Yellowknife

Through its investment in the High Performance Athlete Grant program, the Government of the Northwest Territories is working to build our future by promoting healthy, 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*.

More information on the High Performance Athlete Grant program can be found on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' website: www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

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R (16)550

Campaign Targets Elder Abuse Awareness in NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (December 1, 2010) – Financial abuse has been identified as the most common form of elder abuse in the NWT and the rest of Canada.

The Department of Health and Social Services, in partnership with the NWT Seniors' Society and the YWCA, has launched a new campaign, "Together We Can Stop Elder Abuse," to raise awareness and provide information on elder abuse – particularly financial abuse – in the NWT.

"Elders and seniors should always be treated with the utmost respect and dignity," said the Minister of Health and Social Services, Sandy Lee. "No one should feel powerless or alone. There is support and services available to anyone who needs help."

Seniors and Elders are among the fastest growing segment of the NWT population and are valued for the wisdom and service they provide by volunteering and remaining active within their communities.

One of the goals and priorities of the Department of Health and Social Services Action Plan, "*A Foundation for Change*," include increasing supports and services for people who experience family violence.

For more information on elder abuse and family violence, visit the Department of Health and Social Services website: www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)551

NWT Residents Urged to Be Visible, Be Safe

YELLOWKNIFE (December 2, 2010) – With shorter days upon us, residents of the Northwest Territories are reminded to be safe when walking on our streets, roads, and highways.

In 2009, two fatalities occurred when drivers collided with pedestrians during hours of darkness. In each case, the drivers did not see the victim until it was too late.

Transportation Minister Michael McLeod says it is important that every pedestrian wear reflective clothing or lights to ensure they are visible to the approaching motorist.

“This simple precaution can save lives,” he said. He pointed out that it is not just pedestrians who need to be visible – those out sledding must also wear reflective clothing. “It is important for everyone to be visible while walking outdoors or while out on the land.”

Drive Alive, the travel safety information program of the Government of the Northwest Territories, is making a limited number of retro-reflective armbands available for NWT residents to help them increase their visibility. The armbands are available at the constituency offices’ of every Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Remember, there is more we can all do to increase the safety of ourselves and our loved ones while on the roads and trails of the Northwest Territories.

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R(16)552

Active After School Funding Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (December 2, 2010) – Across the Northwest Territories, new opportunities after school for youth to be active have been created thanks to Active After School funding.

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Robert C. McLeod, says active programs after school are important because it is a period when youth tend to be less active.

“These new fun activities encourage healthy and active lifestyle choices from an early age,” said Minister McLeod. “Our partnership with the NWT Sport and Recreation Council and community leaders to deliver the programs is creating stronger and healthier residents and communities.”

The Active After School funding supports schools, and community organizations that work with schools, to create or expand on programs that get school-aged children and youth physically active.

“One of the goals for this fund was to be open to creative and innovative ideas,” stated chairperson of the NWT Sport and Recreation Council, Bridget Larocque. “Looking through the recipients and their projects, it is exciting to see the quality that exists, both in the projects themselves and the leaders who will implement them. These actions at the community level definitely assist the NWT Sport and Recreation Council in making physical activity an integral part of the lives of northern children and youth.”

Part of the Healthy Choices Framework, the new Active After School funding is fulfilling the 16th Legislative Assembly’s strategic commitment of *Building Our Future* by supporting communities and schools in their efforts to promote healthy and active lifestyle choices.

A list of 2010-2011 funding recipients is attached.

For more information, contact:

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NWT Sport and Recreation Council
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2010-2011 Active After School Funding Recipients

Beaufort Delta Region

Moose Kerr School	Aklavik
Fort McPherson Basketball Club	Fort McPherson
Tetlit Gwich'in Council	Fort McPherson
Samuel Hearne Secondary School	Inuvik
Sir Alexander Mackenzie School	Inuvik
Angik School	Paulatuk
Inualthuyak School	Sachs Harbour
Chief Paul Niditchie School	Tsiigehtchic
Tsiigehtchic Charter Community	Tsiigehtchic
Mangilaluk School	Tukttoyaktuk
Helen Kalvak Elihakvik	Ulukhaktok

Sahtu Region

Colville Lake School	Colville Lake
?Ehsteo Ayha School	Deline
Chief T'Selehye School	Fort Good Hope
Town of Norman Wells	Norman Wells
Chief Albert Wright School	Tulita

North Slave Region

Chief Jimmy Bruneau Regional High School	Behchokò
Rae-Edzo Friendship Centre	Behchokò
Kaw Tay Whee School	Dettah
Community Government of Gameti	Gameti
Lutsel K'e Dene School	Lutsel K'e
Yellowknives Dene First Nation	Dettah/N'dilo
Alexis Arrowmaker School	Wekweeti
Mezi Community School	Whati
École Allain St-Cyr	Yellowknife
École J.H. Sissons School	Yellowknife

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NJ Macpherson School	Yellowknife
Mildred Hall School	Yellowknife
École St. Joseph School	Yellowknife
École St. Patrick High School	Yellowknife
École William McDonald Middle School	Yellowknife
Sir John Franklin High School	Yellowknife
Weledeh Catholic School	Yellowknife
Side Door Youth Ministries	Yellowknife

Dehcho Region

Echo Dene School	Fort Liard
Bompass Elementary	Fort Simpson
Thomas Simpson Secondary	Fort Simpson
Louie Norwegian School	Jean Marie River
Charles Yohin	Nahanni Butte
Sambaa Ke Dene Band	Trout Lake
Chief Julian Yendo School	Wrigley

South Slave Region

Deh Gah Elementary	Fort Providence
Deninu School	Fort Resolution
Joseph Burr Tyrell Elementary School	Fort Smith
Town of Fort Smith	Fort Smith
École Boréale	Hay River
Diamond Jenness Secondary School	Hay River
Princess Alexandra School	Hay River
Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre	Hay River
Hay River Curling	Hay River
Growing Together	Hay River
Chief Sunrise Education Centre	K'atlodeeche First Nation

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R(16)553

Community Futures Organizations Crucial to Economic Development

YELLOWKNIFE (December 2, 2010) – Community Futures organizations, such as the Akaitcho Business Development Corporation (Akaitcho BDC), continue to enhance economic development in the Northwest Territories says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), Bob McLeod.

Speaking at the Akaitcho BDC annual general meeting and awards banquet in Yellowknife, Minister McLeod says the seven Community Futures organizations in the territory provide the support that enable small and medium-sized businesses to succeed.

“They are a crucial component of ITI’s economic development program in all regions of the Northwest Territories, which is why our government is investing \$1.6 million in the Community Futures program in 2010-2011,” says Minister McLeod.

Since the Corporation’s inception in 1998, it has been a prime example of the impact Community Futures organizations can have by supporting up to \$27 million in projects, which has resulted in the creation of over 420 full-time and 320 part-time jobs in the territory.

“The Akaitcho Business Development Corporation is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when we work together for the benefit of northern businesses,” Minister McLeod says. “The result is a more vital, diverse and sustainable business community.”

Through its support of Community Futures organizations and small business development, the Government of the Northwest Territories continues to work towards diversifying the economy and providing all communities and regions with opportunities and choices as envisioned in the 16th Legislative Assembly’s *Northerners Working Together* plan.

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R(16)554

New Chair of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation

YELLOWKNIFE (December 3, 2010) – Minister Floyd K. Roland has announced today the appointment of Mr. Brendan Bell as Chair of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation for a three year term.

The former GNWT Minister Responsible for Energy brings key northern political experience to the Corporation's leadership, along with a valuable understanding of the NWT's energy potential and marketplace.

"Mr. Bell's unique qualifications and experience are well suited for the important next steps that this Government and NTPC will take in the coming months to meet the challenges and demands of our changing northern energy environment," Mr. Roland noted.

A former Member of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Mr. Bell served two terms before retiring from territorial politics in 2007 and running as a candidate for the Western Arctic riding in the 2008 federal election.

He also served as a member of the Alberta Provincial Energy Strategy Advisory Committee, which advised the Alberta Government on its new energy strategy, and as the external Chair of the NWT Association of Municipalities Electricity Working Group.

Mr. Bell will lead the Board in providing guidance and direction to NTPC, NT Hydro and its subsidiaries.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)555

Changes to the NWT Electricity System

YELLOWKNIFE (December 6, 2010) – The recent Public Utilities Board (PUB) decision to re-balance the Northwest Territories Power Corporation electricity rates and implement other changes to the electricity system reflects the findings and recommendations of the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) Electricity Review.

“These changes to the NWT electricity system reflect the essential nature of electricity services in all NWT communities,” says Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister Bob McLeod, who is also chair of the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee. “The NWT requires a territorial electricity system that provides all communities with a comparable level of access to electricity services, and therefore, a comparable opportunity to succeed.”

Among the changes that will be made as a result of the PUB's decision is reducing the number of electricity rate zones in the territory from 33 to seven. Establishing rate zones and direct GNWT support for the electricity system has resulted in substantially lower electricity rates in NWT communities served by thermal generation. The changes came into effect on December 1, 2010.

Minister McLeod, who is also the Minister Responsible for the PUB, recognized the valuable contribution the board has made in this process by issuing its decision. “The PUB did an excellent job in not only implementing GNWT policy direction, but it also made a number of recommendations aimed at improving the Rate Policy Guidelines the GNWT issued to the board in July 2010,” says Minister McLeod. “The public process and the added value provided by the PUB highlight the importance of maintaining a public board to regulate the NWT electricity system.”

In May 2010, the GNWT released a comprehensive review of the NWT electricity system titled: *Efficient, Affordable and Equitable: Creating a Brighter Future for the Northwest Territories Electricity System*. This review included 19 action items designed to make the electricity system more efficient and power more affordable throughout the territory. Over the long term, the system-wide improvements the GNWT is making will help stabilize costs for all NWT communities and protect against unexpected price increases.

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Through actions such as its response to the Electricity Review, the GNWT is taking action to reduce the cost of living in the territory, which is one of five strategic initiatives of the 16th Legislative Assembly.

A full version of the GNWT's Electricity Review can be found at www.nwtenergy.ca and a copy of the PUB decision can be found at www.nwtpublicutilitiesboard.ca.

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Electricity Review

In May 2010, in response to its extensive review of *Electricity Regulation, Rates and Subsidy Programs in the Northwest Territories*, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) released: *Efficient, Affordable and Equitable: Creating a Brighter Future for the Northwest Territories' Electricity System*.

This document identified 19 actions that the GNWT would take to address the future of electricity in the NWT. Some of those actions included:

- Establishing seven electricity rate zones down from 33 rate zones.
- Reducing the return earned by Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC) in thermal communities.
- Consolidating electricity rate riders to establish territory-wide fuel and low water riders.
- Maintaining electricity rates for government customers to facilitate the transition to a new rate structure.
- Developing an approach to the Northland Utility (NUL) companies and electricity rates in consultation with NUL.
- Paying down rate stabilization funds, as transitional support, to ensure there are no negative impacts to electricity rates as a result of the new system.
- Forgoing the annual NTPC dividend for 2010/11 and 2011/12, as transitional support, to ensure electricity base rates remain unchanged until at least 2012/13.
- Directing the Public Utilities Board (PUB) to work with the GNWT and electricity utilities to simplify electricity bills to enhance public understanding of their total costs and usage.
- Increasing the Territorial Power Subsidy Program residential usage thresholds to 1,000 kWh per month between September and March, and decreasing the thresholds to 600 kWh per month between April and August.
- Developing a proposal to update the *Public Utilities Act* that will clarify the authority of the GNWT to issue policy direction to the PUB and provide for standardized reporting requirements of the PUB.

In July 2010, consistent with the Electricity Review, the GNWT issued Electricity Rate Policy Guidelines to the PUB, outlining a new approach to the establishment of electricity rates and initiating the Electricity Review implementation process.

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The PUB accepted the guidelines as directives from the GNWT and directed NTPC to file an application to implement the guidelines.

In November, the PUB formally approved revised electricity rates on an interim basis for implementation on December 1, 2010.

In approving electricity rates on an interim basis for December 1, 2010, the PUB directed NTPC to submit a more detailed rate filing in January 2011, with the goal of finalizing the new electricity rates effective April 1, 2011.

Equalization of Northland Utilities (NUL) Thermal Community Electricity Rates

The Electricity Review is premised on a territory-wide electricity system that provides all communities with a comparable opportunity to succeed, in recognition of the essential nature of electricity services across the NWT.

A major component to complete the implementation process of the Electricity Review is to equalize electricity rates in NUL thermal communities with electricity rates in NTPC thermal communities. NUL thermal communities are Fort Providence, Trout Lake, Wekweètì and Kakisa. A solution for these communities is being developed collaboratively between the GNWT and NUL and is expected to be in place by January 1, 2011. These changes will be retroactive to December 1, 2010, ensuring equitable treatment for NUL thermal communities.

Public Utilities Board Process to Finalize Rates by April 1, 2011

The process to finalize the new electricity rates by April 1, 2011 will reflect revised GNWT Rate Policy Guidelines. These guidelines will be developed in consultation with the PUB and all Members of the Legislative Assembly. As requested by the GNWT, the PUB has made recommendations to the GNWT regarding proposed changes to the Electricity Rate Policy Guidelines, including:

- Government electricity rate classes should have flat rates across the zones.
- Distribution related head office and general operational costs should not be included in the wholesale rates charged to NUL communities (i.e. Yellowknife, Hay River).
- Ensuring revenue-to-cost ratios for each of the electricity rate zones are as equal as possible.

Once the PUB recommendations are addressed and reflected in the revised GNWT Rate Policy Guidelines, the NTPC will file a revised rate balancing application with the PUB as required.

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R(16)556

New Diamond Policy Framework Comes Into Effect

YELLOWKNIFE (December 7, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories has a new Diamond Policy Framework – one that will support and encourage the growth of the diamond manufacturing industry in the Northwest Territories.

“This is a major accomplishment for our government and it required consultation with a broad range of stakeholders including other GNWT departments, operators in the Northwest Territories diamond manufacturing industry, the NWT diamond mines and the City of Yellowknife,” says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod. “The new Diamond Policy Framework will enhance our efforts to build a sustainable diamond manufacturing industry, diversify our economy and maximize benefits for NWT residents from the development of our non-renewable resources.”

The Diamond Policy Framework was first put in place in 1999 to facilitate the establishment of a diamond manufacturing industry in the NWT.

Through initiatives such as revising the Diamond Policy Framework, the Government of the Northwest Territories is taking action to diversify the economy and provide all communities and regions with opportunities and choices, as envisioned in the 16th Legislative Assembly’s *Northerners Working Together* plan.

For a copy of the policy, please visit: <http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/about-iti/policies.shtml>

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R(16)557

Aboriginal Equity Partnerships Key to NWT Economic Success

YELLOWKNIFE (December 7, 2010) – Speaking at the 9th Annual Aboriginal Oil and Gas Forum today in Edmonton, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod, says the many partnerships and joint ventures Aboriginal people have struck, particularly in resource development, are creating economic growth in the NWT.

“Mining, together with ongoing petroleum resource exploration and development, has provided an opportunity for Aboriginal partnerships and joint ventures to meet the needs of our many partners in resource development,” said Minister McLeod. “It has changed the way we do business – the majority of southern participation in the northern economy is now through joint ventures.”

Citing examples such as the Aboriginal Pipeline Group, Dezé Energy Corporation and Discovery Air, Minister McLeod highlighted the benefits these Aboriginal equity business partnerships are providing, and will provide in the future. He also noted that these partnerships are enhancing Aboriginal self-sufficiency in the territory.

“Our Aboriginal residents, businesses and corporations are now looking beyond jobs and contracts that follow the boom and bust of construction seasons and exploration cycles,” says Minister McLeod. “Instead, they are finding ways to take a direct role in our region’s economic growth – as business owners, operators and investors.”

Through its support of Aboriginal equity partnerships such as the Aboriginal Pipeline Group and Dezé Energy Corporation, the Government of Northwest Territories is taking action to maximize opportunities for NWT residents, which is a strategic initiative of the 16th Legislative Assembly.

For the Minister’s full speech, visit: <http://www.exec.gov.nt.ca/currentnews/minSpeech.asp>

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R(16)558

Inuvik Young Offender Facility to Close

YELLOWKNIFE (December 9, 2010) – The Department of Justice has developed a comprehensive plan for providing appropriate custody and programs for female offenders, following three years of program and facility reviews, research, and consultations. As part of this plan, the Arctic Tern Young Offender Facility in Inuvik will close on March 31, 2011.

The Arctic Tern facility has been underused since the federal *Youth Criminal Justice Act* came into effect in 2003. So far in 2010/11, the average number of female youth in custody each day is less than 1. Through its Minister, the Department has worked with MLAs and the Standing Committee on Social Programs to create a “therapeutic community” of adult and youth female offenders, who will share staff and program spaces.

“It does not make sense to spend millions of public dollars each year to keep an empty facility open,” said the Minister of Justice, Jackson Lafferty. “This decision was very difficult, but was necessary. We have to spend public money appropriately, and we have to provide programs and services in the best possible way.”

Employees in Inuvik have received official notices and will begin the process of closing the facility:

- Six full-time positions will move to Yellowknife and then to Fort Smith.
- Three full-time positions will be eliminated. Efforts are underway to find other positions for these employees.
- A half-time position, which is currently vacant, will be eliminated.
- Seven relief positions will move to Yellowknife and then to Fort Smith. These employees are not generally scheduled for shifts, but are called in to work when needed.
- Five term relief positions will end on March 31, 2011.
- One term manager position will end on March 31, 2011.

The GNWT’s staff retention policy applies to the employees who are being laid off. A period of staffing priority is also provided to those employees whose positions are being transferred to another community and who choose not to move with their positions. By providing all affected employees with staffing priority within the Department of Justice and across the GNWT, the government can continue to benefit from their valuable experience. The GNWT is also providing

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support to staff whose positions are ending on March 31, 2011 and wish to apply for other positions.

“We hope that all of our staff will choose to stay with the Corrections Service,” said Minister Lafferty. “Nobody in the NWT knows as much about female young offenders as our staff. They will continue to develop and use their skills, and will deliver high-quality programs to youth.”

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Arctic Tern Young Offender Facility

The Arctic Tern Young Offender Facility opened in May 2002. The construction costs were \$6.2 million.

In 2003, the federal *Youth Criminal Justice Act* came into effect, and youth counts dropped dramatically. In response, the Department of Justice eventually closed open-custody group homes, including the Turning Point group home in Inuvik; re-profiled the River Ridge Young Offender Facility as a jail for adult men with special needs; and closed the Dene K'onia Young Offender Facility. In 2008, the Arctic Tern Young Offender Facility moved to a reduced staffing model.

Correctional facilities operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and at Arctic Tern, at least two people must always be working. Arctic Tern costs \$5,500 per day to operate, whether there are any inmates in custody or not. Since October 23, the last time a female youth was in custody, the facility has cost over \$200,000 to keep open. In the last 12 months alone, there have been two other extended periods when there have been no female youth in custody: a 17-day period in February 2010 and most of the month of March 2010.

	Average daily counts (female youth)	Operating cost
2010/11	Less than 1 (as of Dec 9, 2010)	\$1,946,000 (budgeted)
2009/10	3	\$2,065,000
2008/09	3	\$2,141,000
2007/08	4	\$2,511,000
2006/07	5	\$2,555,465

With the low number of female youth in custody, it is difficult to maintain the critical mass required for the development and delivery of group programming. To date, the facility has admitted approximately 100 female young offenders since opening its doors. Arctic Tern has never been at full capacity, and reached its peak count of 9 in March of 2006. There are no dedicated program staff except the teacher, who is employed by the Beaufort-Delta Education Council.

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Planning is underway for a new female facility to open in Fort Smith in 2014. The new building will have adult and youth wings, with some shared program spaces and staff. Adult and youth inmates will always be kept apart. Planning is in the early stages, and reliable estimates of construction costs are not yet available.

The North Slave Young Offender Facility will receive minor upgrades to address the needs of male and female youth.

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News Release

GOVERNMENTS CELEBRATE OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Enterprise, Northwest Territories, December 11, 2010 — A ribbon cutting ceremony was held today to celebrate the completion of the Enterprise Community Centre. The new centre will meet the growing needs of the area, providing much-needed community and municipal office space.

“This new community centre will bring many benefits to the residents of Enterprise,” said the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health and Regional Minister for the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. “The Government of Canada is proud to be making strategic infrastructure investments across the North that support a growing economy, a clean environment and strong and prosperous communities.”

“Over the past few years, the Hamlet of Enterprise has evolved significantly and the new municipal office space is a much needed piece of community infrastructure,” said Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. “Investing in community infrastructure will help build a stronger, sustainable, vibrant community, which is a key priority of our Government.”

“This is a great day for our community with the opening of this new community centre and the activities it will bring to Enterprise. We could not have completed this project without the support of the Government of Canada through the Building Canada Fund and the Government of the Northwest Territories for their ongoing assistance. We sincerely appreciate everyone’s contribution to this project,” said Rhonda Flamand, Mayor of Enterprise.

Federal funding for the initiative comes from the Provincial-Territorial Base Fund which is part of the Building Canada Plan. It is designed to help provinces and territories invest in core infrastructure priorities.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is working closely with the Government of Canada to ensure that infrastructure funds are spent on priorities throughout the territory. The Northwest Territories’ total federal allocation for initiatives under the Provincial-Territorial Base Fund agreement is \$185.8 million, and has been fully committed towards 63 priority infrastructure initiatives worth over \$310 million.

Canada and the Northwest Territories are working together to create jobs and boost the economy while making significant investments that will help communities improve their infrastructure. Both governments have agreed to work together with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities to ensure that these infrastructure funds are delivered quickly and efficiently for priority initiatives

throughout the territory. For more information about infrastructure projects in the Northwest Territories, please visit www.creatingjobs.gc.ca.

Since the launch of the Economic Action Plan on January 27, 2009, \$10.7 billion has been committed through Infrastructure Canada's programs toward approximately 6,200 projects. Along with contributions from other partners such as provinces, territories and municipalities, this represents a total investment of over \$30 billion.

To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca

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Communiqué

LES GOUVERNEMENTS SOULIGNENT L'OUVERTURE OFFICIELLE D'UN NOUVEAU CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE À ENTERPRISE

Enterprise (Territoires du Nord-Ouest), le 11 décembre 2010 — Une cérémonie d'inauguration officielle a eu lieu aujourd'hui pour souligner l'achèvement du centre communautaire d'Enterprise. Le nouveau centre répondra aux besoins croissants de la région en offrant un espace communautaire et des locaux pour les bureaux municipaux.

« Le nouveau centre communautaire apportera de nombreux avantages aux résidents d'Enterprise, a souligné l'honorable Leona Aqlukkaq, ministre de la Santé et ministre responsable du Yukon. Le gouvernement du Canada est fier de ses investissements stratégiques en infrastructure dans le Nord, lesquels permettent d'appuyer l'économie croissante, l'assainissement de l'environnement et la prospérité des collectivités. »

« Au cours des dernières années, le hameau d'Enterprise a connu une évolution considérable, et les nouveaux bureaux municipaux répondent à un important besoin sur le plan de l'infrastructure communautaire, a ajouté Robert C. McLeod, ministre des Affaires municipales et communautaires. En investissant dans les infrastructures communautaires, nous contribuons à rendre notre communauté plus forte, plus durable et plus dynamique, ce qui constitue l'une des principales priorités du gouvernement. »

« Il s'agit d'un grand jour pour notre collectivité, qui ouvre les portes du nouveau centre communautaire en offrant de nombreuses activités aux gens d'Enterprise. Nous n'aurions pas pu mener ce projet à terme sans le soutien du gouvernement du Canada, par l'entremise du Fonds Chantiers Canada, ainsi que du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, qui ont fourni une aide constante. Nous sommes sincèrement reconnaissants de la contribution de tous les participants au projet », a souligné Rhonda Flamand, maire d'Enterprise.

Le financement fédéral versé dans le cadre de l'initiative provient du Financement de base pour les provinces et les territoires, qui fait partie du plan Chantiers Canada. Ce fonds est conçu pour aider les provinces et les territoires à investir dans l'infrastructure pour répondre aux besoins prioritaires.

Le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest travaille en étroite collaboration avec le gouvernement du Canada pour s'assurer que les fonds d'infrastructure sont consacrés aux priorités dans le territoire. L'affectation fédérale totale versée aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest pour les initiatives aux termes du Financement de base pour les provinces et les territoires est de 185,8 millions de dollars. Cette affectation a été entièrement réservée à 63 initiatives prioritaires en matière d'infrastructure, d'une valeur de plus de 310 millions de dollars.

Le Canada et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest travaillent ensemble en vue de créer des emplois et de renforcer l'économie, tout en faisant d'importants investissements qui aideront les collectivités à

améliorer leurs infrastructures. Les deux gouvernements ont accepté de travailler avec l'Association des collectivités des Territoires du Nord-Ouest pour s'assurer que les fonds d'infrastructure sont versés rapidement et efficacement pour permettre d'exécuter les initiatives prioritaires dans l'ensemble du territoire. Pour en savoir plus sur les projets d'infrastructure dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest, visitez le site www.creerdesemplois.gc.ca.

Depuis le lancement du Plan d'action économique le 27 janvier 2009, on s'est engagé à verser 10,7 millions de dollars dans le cadre des programmes d'Infrastructure Canada pour l'exécution de quelque 6 200 projets. Avec les contributions des autres partenaires comme les provinces, les territoires et les municipalités, ceci représente un investissement total de plus de 30 milliards de dollars.

Pour en savoir plus sur le Plan d'action économique du Canada, visitez le site www.plandaction.gc.ca.

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R(16)560

Tłıchq̓ Aboriginal Student Achievement Forum Successful

YELLOWKNIFE (December 15, 2010) – The recent Tłıchq̓ Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA) Regional Forum in Behchok̓ was a great opportunity for community leaders and youth to get together and share their ideas on how to improve academic performance among Aboriginal students in school.

“In order for us to succeed, we need to listen to the needs and concerns of the youth,” says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty. “With their input and enthusiasm, we will build a stronger education system and better future. I look forward to hearing from more students and leaders in the remaining regions.”

During the meeting, Tłıchq̓ Grand Chief Alphonse Apples emphasized that education and culture are equally important in the school system. “Education must have a focus on teaching both the Tłıchq̓ and English languages, if students are to be strong like two people. I look forward to working closely with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to ensure that Tłıchq̓ youth are educated in both languages,” he says.

“The ASA Meeting in Behchok̓ identified the supports needed and outlined a support network to close the gap,” says Mr. Ted Blondin, Chair of the Tłıchq̓ Community Services Agency Board. “We now need to work with other jurisdictions to close the gap; these initiatives cost money and partnerships are needed.”

The forum also featured two presentations. Mr. Jim Martin, CEO of the Tłıchq̓ Community Services Agency, spoke on the unique history and structure of education and health governance in the Tłıchq̓, and the Community Action Research Team showed the community development approach to health and educational issues in the region.

The next regional meeting is scheduled for January 5-7, 2011 in the Dehcho region. Aboriginal, community, and educational leaders will gather in Fort Simpson to address the education issues in their communities, and to discuss the four ASA Priorities.

Through initiatives such as the Aboriginal Student Achievement Regional Forums, the Government of the Northwest Territories is taking action to enhance education and develop

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healthy, educated residents, as envisioned in the 16th Legislative Assembly's *Northerners Working Together* plan.

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R(16)561

2010 Revenue Options Consultation Report Released

YELLOWKNIFE (December 17, 2010) – The 2010 Revenue Options consultation report was released today.

This year's discussion centered on two specific options: a carbon tax and a hotel tax. As in the previous roundtables, participants representing business, labour, non-profit, community and Aboriginal government organizations met to discuss the issues and made recommendations to the Minister of Finance, J. Michael Miltenberger.

While delegates expressed support for a municipal hotel tax, their opinion on the carbon option was mixed, acknowledging that its complexity would require more detailed work and further consultation with stakeholders.

“The 2010 discussion is not intended to drive changes for the upcoming 2011 Budget, but instead, it sets the stage for future direction and further research,” said Minister Miltenberger. He indicated that the Department of Finance would collaborate with other GNWT departments to continue work on a carbon tax and its implications.

The report on the 2010 Revenue Options consultation can be found on the Department of Finance website: www.fin.gov.nt.ca.

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R(16)562

NEB Decision Major Step for Nation-Building Mackenzie Gas Project

YELLOWKNIFE (December 17, 2010) – The Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP), constructed and operated in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, will be a key economic driver for the NWT and Canadian economies.

Responding to yesterday's announcement by the National Energy Board (NEB) that the Mackenzie Gas Project is in the public interest and can be built, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod says he hopes Canada will provide the appropriate level of support for this vital project.

“While the NEB's decision brings the country closer to the pipeline than ever before, there are still challenges to be met,” said Minister McLeod yesterday.

The GNWT is in the initial stages of a review of the NEB's decision which includes over 200 conditions. Three key elements of the decision stood out for the GNWT:

- 1. Sunset Clause:** The GNWT is pleased the NEB has included a short sunset clause in its Reasons for Decision. This will keep everyone focused on moving the project forward.
- 2. Soci-economic agreements (SEA):** The GNWT respects the NEB's decision in this matter, but it is unfortunate that the NEB has elected not to incorporate compliance with the SEA as a condition of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN). The GNWT still has its contractual arrangement with the proponents and it will continue to work with the proponents to implement the SEA even though it is not a condition of the CPCN.
- 3. Gas to Communities:** The GNWT believes that what the NEB has done will serve residents of the NWT well. It will reduce the cost of living in some of our communities and it is an example of the benefits from this project being maximized for NWT residents.

Yesterday's announcement concludes one of the main regulatory steps in the review of the Mackenzie Gas Project. The Reasons for Decision will now go to the federal government for approval. If approved, a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity would be issued to the

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project proponents to build the Mackenzie Gas Project. Once the Certificate is issued, the MGP proponents will ultimately decide on whether to build the project.

“A fiscal agreement between the federal government and the proponents is the next important piece in this process. It is now time for these two parties to come to terms on a fiscal agreement for the MGP,” said Minister McLeod.

It is estimated that the MGP could contribute \$67.5 billion to the NWT economy and over \$86 billion to the Canadian economy. Natural gas shipped to market through the MGP would help to displace fuels that produce significant greenhouse gas emissions.

The GNWT believes that sustainable and environmentally responsible resource development projects, like the Mackenzie Gas Project, will benefit NWT residents by diversifying the economy and empowering communities and regions with opportunities and choices as envisioned by the 16th Legislative Assembly in its *Northerners Working Together* plan.

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R(16)563

Get Active NWT Grants Awarded

YELLOWKNIFE (December 21, 2010) – Thanks to the 87 Get Active NWT grants, over 250 new and exciting physical activity events will be happening this winter.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and the NWT Recreation and Parks Association (NWTRPA) recently awarded 42 more Get Active NWT grants to community groups across the NWT, on top of the 45 grants distributed in November.

“I would like to thank all the community leaders for organizing such a great variety of physically active events,” said the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Robert C. McLeod. “Thanks to your efforts, there will be a record number of Get Active NWT events held this winter.”

Participants who attend events will have an opportunity to win flights for two, courtesy of long-time supporter First Air, as well as a variety of Get Active NWT promotional items.

“There are now so many creative events out there to engage people in physical activity,” said Mr. Geoff Ray, Executive Director of the NWTRPA. “Let’s all get out and move this winter!”

For a list of Get Active NWT events, visit www.getactivenwt.ca.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is working to build our future by promoting healthy and active living. Improving the physical and mental wellbeing of NWT residents will create healthy, educated Northerners as envisioned in the 16th Assembly’s vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

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