

Northwest Territories Government Press Releases | 2011

R(16)-564	Jan. 12th	Call for 2011 Outstanding Volunteer Award Nominations
R(16)-565	Jan. 13 th	NWT Releases 2010 Student Assessment Results
R(16)-566	Jan. 13 th	Comment Deadline for New Safety Regulations Extended
R(16)-567	Jan. 14 th	Chief T'Selehye Celebrates Grand Opening
R(16)-568	Jan. 17	Aboriginal Student Achievement Forums Continue in 2011
R(16)-569	Jan. 18	2011 Year of Road Safety
R(16)-570	Jan. 25	Territorial Sport Organization Support Program
R(16)-571	Jan. 26	Family Literacy Day
R(16)-573	Jan. 28	New Traditional Games Tour
R(16)-574	Feb. 1	Phase 2 of the Single Use Retail Bag Fee Implemented
R(16)-575	Feb. 2	Mike Holmes Joins Minister Lafferty in Recognizing North Slave Apprentices
R(16)-576	Feb. 2	AiP Important for the Future – Premier
R(16)-577	Feb. 3	Budget Highlights Achievements and Lays out Sustainable Fiscal Path
R(16)-578	Feb. 7	Team NWT off to the Canada Winter Games
R(16)-579	Feb. 7	Partnerships the Focus of AOC Week
R(16)-581	Feb. 10	Integration of Mental Health Services Announced
R(16)-582	Feb. 15	Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optics Link Feasibility Study
R(16)-583	Feb. 15	New Partnership to Develop Common Mine Safety Training Standards
R(16)-584	Feb. 15	Get Financially Fit and Win Big
R(16)-585	Feb. 16	His Royal Highness Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton Will Visit the NWT
R(16)-586	Feb. 17	NWT Celebrates Heritage Week
R(16)-587	Feb. 17	ECE Launches Minister's Cultural Circle
R(16)-588	Feb. 18	Minister Lafferty Urges Federal Government to Continue ASEP
R(16)-589	Feb. 18	NWT Suicide Prevention Training Program in Inuvik
R(16)-590	Feb. 21	ECE Celebrates Education Week
R(16)-591	Feb. 22	Minister Advances Mackenzie Valley Highway with Minister Strahl
R(16)-592	Feb. 22	Tourism 2015: New Directions for a Spectacular Future

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R(16)-593	Feb. 24	Nominations open for the 2011 Education Hall of Fame
R(16)-594	March 1	GNWT Enters Third Year of Waste Paper Products Initiative
R(16)-595	March 1	Health and Social Services Department Accepts OAG Report
R(16)-596	March 1	Auditor General's Report on the Deh Cho Bridge
R(16)-597	March 2	Aboriginal Languages Month
R(16)-598	March 4	GNWT Optimistic about Territorial Economic Outlook in 2011
R(16)-599	March 7	Settlement Reached With DCBC's Former Project Developer and Project Engineer
R(16)-600	March 9	French Weeks' Rendez-vous de la Francophonie
R(16)-601	March 10	Mackenzie Gas Project: Nation-Building Project
R(16)-602	March 15	Funding Flows in Support of New Initiatives Across the Northwest Territories
R(16)-	March 15	Funding Flows in Support of New Initiatives Across the Northwest Territories
R(16)-603	March 16	NWT Youth Ambassadors Showcase Northern Culture at the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> Travel & Adventure Show
R(16)-604	March 17	Premier Signs Cancun Statement Promoting Energy Efficiency
R(16)-605	March 17	Arctic Ambassadors Third Anniversary
R(16)-606	March 18	GNWT Offers Aid to Japan
R(16)-607	March 18	Governments Celebrate Official Opening of Ulukhaktok Community Centre
R(16)-608	March 24	World Tuberculosis Day – March 24, 2011
R(16)-609	March 23	Premier Congratulates Newly Elected Tlicho Grand Chief
R(16)-610	March 23	Canada Makes Funding Commitment to NWT Priority
R(16)-611	March 24	Possible Late Opening for Merv Hardie Ferry
R(16)-612	March 24	GNWT and College of Rockies Sign Transfer Agreement
R(16)-613	March 28	Minister of Health and Social Services Resigns
R(16)-614	March 29	GNWT Honours 100 th Anniversary of 'The Lost Patrol'
R(16)-616	March 30	NWT Furs Command High Prices at Seattle Auction
R(16)-617	March 31	Workshop Explores Opportunities to Grow NWT Film Industry

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R(16)-618	April 4	Aboriginal Student Achievement Forum in South Slave Region
R(16)-619	April 4	\$5,000 Aviation Career Development Program Scholarships Available
R(16)-620	April 8	Aboriginal Language and Culture Instructor Program Diploma
R(16)-621	April 8	Fort Smith Signs Up for Not Us! Anti-Drug Program
R(16)-622	April 7	NWT Residents Encouraged to Buckle Up
R(16)-623	April 11	New NWT Arts Council Members Announced
R(16)-624	April 11	Winter Road and Ice Crossing Season in Southern NWT Ending
R(16)-625	April 11	National Victims of Crime Awareness Week: April 10-16, 2011
R(16)-627	Apr. 15	Realizing NWT Potential Requires Agreement on Devolution – Premier
R(16)-628	Apr. 18	Students Compete at 2011 Skills Canada NWT
R(16)-629	Apr. 20	Ministers Say Economic Potential High – Devolution Critical
R(16)-630	Apr. 26	Immunization Awareness Week: April 23 – 30, 2011
R(16)-631	Apr. 26	Grand Opening of the Hay River Territorial Supported Living Campus Day Program
R(16)-632	Apr. 28	South Slave Minister's Regional Forum on Aboriginal Student Achievement Focuses on Revitalizing Language and Culture
R(16)-633	Apr. 27	Premier Releases Responses on Key Election Issues
R(16)-635	May 2	Fred Henne Park Awarded Readers Choice Award from RV West Magazine
R(16)-636	May 3	Strong Relationship with Federal Government Bodes Well for NWT
R(16)-638	May 9	"Nursing – The Health of Our Nation" – celebrating National Nursing Week May 9 – 15, 2011
R(16)-639	May 9	New Sign Welcomes Visitors to the 60 th Parallel
R(16)-640	May 11	Midwifery Services in Yellowknife
R(16)-641	May 12	Call for Applications 2011-2012 Youth Ambassador Program
R(16)-642	May 16	Appointment of Chief Public Health Officer
R(16)-643	May 17	NWT Educators Honoured at Hall of Fame Ceremony
R(16)-645	May 18	Premier's Awards Honour Dedicated GNWT Employees and Their Partners
R(16)-646	May 19	Release of the Northwest Territories Energy Report

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R(16)-647	May 20	Release of CD-ROM Dene Kede: Trails to Becoming
R(16)-648	May 24	ECE hosts Labour Force Development Symposium
R(16)-649	May 26	New Devolution Chief Negotiator Appointed
R(16)-650	May 27	Aboriginal Government and Education Leaders Support Education Partnership Declaration
R(16)-651	May 31	Using Appropriate Child Occupant Restraints – Another Healthy Choice
R(16)-652	June 3	Yellowknife Student Wins Apple iPad for Financial Fitness
R(16)-652	June 3	60 th Parallel Visitors Centre Grand Opening
R(16)-653	June 6	Tourism Week is June 6 th to 12 th
R(16)-654	June 6	2011 Outstanding Volunteers Honoured
R(16)-655	June 7	BizPal Speeds up Processes for Businesses in Fort Simpson
R(16)-658	June 8	Federal Commitment to Mackenzie Valley Highway to Tuktoyaktuk Project is Welcome
R(16)-659	June 9	New Training Facility to Improve Emergency Crew Training in NWT
R(16)-660	June 13	NWT Youth Centres Receive Funding
R(16)-661	June 14	Together We Can Stop Elder Abuse – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15 th , 2011.
R(16)-662	June 14	Children and Young People Wearing Helmets Supplied by BHP Billiton
R(16)-663	June 16	Fort Smith Hosts Aboriginal Student Achievement Youth Forum
R(16)-665	June 20	Another Step Forward for the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project
R(16)-666	June 21	Western Premiers celebrate National Aboriginal Day
R(16)-667	June 21	NWT Details of the 2011 Royal Tour Announced
R(16)-668	June 22	NWT Youth Participate in Fort Smith Dance Flash Mob
R(16)-669	June 23	GNWT Looking to Revamp Housing Programs
R(16)-670	June 23	Environment Ministers to meet in Yellowknife
R(16)-671	June 27	Celebrating Home Support Workers – June 28, 2011
R(16)-672	June 27	ECE Calls for Minister's Cultural Circle Nominations
R(16)-673	June 30	Territories sign Memorandum of Understanding to further explore university models

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R(16)-675	June 27	National Strategy on Inuit Education Released
R(16)-676	June 30	Aviation Career Development Program Expands to Nunavut
R(16)-677	June 29	NWT Youth Ambassadors to Share Culture and Games with Royals
R(16)-679	July 4	Royal Welcome to Represent and Showcase all of NWT
R(16)-680	July 5	Premier Presents Northwest Territories Diamonds to Their Royal Highnesses
R(16)-681	July 12	GNWT Responds to Independent Leishman Review
R(16)-682	July 11	Premier meets with Youth to Discuss Future
R(16)-683	July 12	Aboriginal Languages Institute Returns to NWT
R(16)-684	July 18	GNWT Provides More Support to the NWT Film Industry
R(16)-685	July 20	Council of the Federation Literacy Award Winner Announced
R(16)-686	July 20	Historic Signing at Dene Assembly
R(16)-688	July 25	Raising the Profile of Northern Issues at PNWER Annual Summit
R(16)-689	July 27	Aboriginal Tourism Champions Advisory Council Formed
R(16)-690	July 28	Yellowknife Health and Social Services – Same Day Services
R(16)-691	July 25	Health and Social Services Introduces YouTube Channel
R(16)-692	Aug. 2	Update on Elective Surgeries – Stanton Territorial Hospital
R(16)-693	Aug. 12	GNWT Encourages Smokers to Live a Smoke Free Life
R(16)-694	Aug. 10	Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services Resigns
R(16)-695	Aug. 16	PNWER to Meet in NWT for the First Time
R(16)-696	Aug. 15	GNWT co-hosts 2011 Arctic Ungulate Conference in Yellowknife
R(16)-697	Aug. 15	NWT and Government of Canada Work Together to Increase Emergency Preparedness Capacity.
R(16)-699	Aug. 22	GNWT and Canadian Zinc Sign Socio-Economic Agreement
R(16)-700	Aug. 22	Health Status Report
R(16)-701	Aug. 22	NWT Residents Honoured at Minister's Cultural Circle Awards
R(16)-702	Aug. 22	GNWT Expresses Condolences for the Tragedy in Resolute Bay
R(16)-704	Aug. 24	Atlantic Residents Invited to Come Make their Mark in the NWT
R(16)-705	Aug. 25	Territorial Premiers Welcome Extension of Territorial Health

		System Sustainability Initiative (THSSI)
R(16)-706	Aug. 26	GNWT Opens new Data Centre
R(16)-707	Aug. 29	Fast Actions Demonstrate Commitment to Independent NWT – Premier Says
R(16)-708	Aug. 30	PhD Student Awarded with Prestigious Award for Northern Research
R(16)-709	Sept. 2	Minister Jackson Lafferty Honours Life of Beaufort Delta Elder
R(16)-710	Sept. 6	Northern Mining Workforce Initiative Partners Conclude Successful Meeting
R(16)-711	Sept. 15	Community Health Representatives are ‘Lifelines to a Healthy Lifestyle’
R(16)-712	Sept. 19	Get Active NWT Grants Offer Another Healthy Choice
R(16)-713	Sept. 26	Geological Resource DVD Released to Schools
R(16)-714	Sept. 23	Celebrating Arts Week in the NWT
R(16)-715	Sept. 23	Premier Roland Expresses Condolences for Arctic Sunwest Tragedy
R(16)-716	Sept. 27	Northwest Territories Recipients Honoured During Literacy Week
R(16)-717	Sept. 27	NWT Housing Corporation President to Retire
R(16)-718	Sept. 30	World Breastfeeding Week October 1 to 7, 2011
R(16)-719	Oct. 5	Premier Expresses Condolences on Air Tindi Crash
R(16)-720	Oct. 17	Time to Celebrate Small Businesses in the NWT
R(16)-721	Oct. 24	Justice ADM Appointed to NWT Supreme Court
R(17)-002	Nov. 1	Vince Sharpe Receives Congratulations from GNWT
R(17)-003	Nov. 2	Premier McLeod Announces Ministerial Portfolios
R(17)-004	Nov. 3	New ITI Minister Supports Tourism
R(17)-005	Nov. 7	Two Reid Lake Employees Honoured for their Excellent Service
R(17)-006	Nov. 7	NWT Premier and Cabinet Ready to Get to Work
R(17)-007	Nov. 14	78 Get Active NWT Grants Awarded
R(17)-008	Nov. 7	Project Management Conference
R(17)-009	Nov. 16	Premier meets with Sahtu leadership
R(17)-010	Nov. 21	New Youth Ambassadors to Participate in the 2012 Arctic Winter Games
R(17)-011	Nov. 21	Premier appears at Tlicho Assembly

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R(17)-012	Nov. 22	Grubstake Program to Provide More Support to Trappers
R(17)-013	Nov. 22	National Day of Remembrance
R(17)-014	Nov. 29	NWT Trappers Honoured
R(17)-015	Nov. 25	Minister Ramsay Elected Vice President of PNWER
R(17)-016	Nov. 25	Corrections Northern Recruit Training Program Graduation
R(17)-017	Nov. 28	Minister Beaulieu meets with Health Ministers
R(17)-018	Nov. 30	GNWT receives the Project Description Report for the Tulita District Portion of the Planned Mackenzie Valley Highway
R(17)-019	Dec. 5	2011 NWT Fire Service Merit Award Recipients
R(17)-020	Dec. 6	Minister Ramsay Appointed Chair of Committee on Internal Trade
R(17)-021	Dec. 8	Governor General of Canada to Open New Exhibit at Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
R(17)-022	Dec. 9	High Performance Athlete Grants Awarded
R(17)-023	Dec. 15	Active After School Funding Announced
R(17)-024	Dec. 16	Joe Handley Appointed as Stanton Public Administrator
R(17)-025	Dec. 21	NTPC to Restrict Natural Gas Use in Inuvik, NT
R(17)-026	Dec. 21	Collective Bargaining Begins Between GNWT and UNW
R(17)-028	Dec. 21	Stanton Territorial Health Authority Implements Tobacco-Free Policy



R(16)565

NWT Releases 2010 Student Assessment Results

YELLOWKNIFE (January 13, 2011) – The NWT’s results for the 2010 Alberta Achievement Tests (AAT) and Functional Grade Level (FGL) were released today. Although there is little difference between this year’s results and previous years, the GNWT is already taking steps to address areas of concern.

“The results are important indicators that help us track student performance and the success of the education system in the Northwest Territories,” says the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty. “With the results, we are able to spot areas of concern and work to address them.”

Attendance is one area that needs improvement. The average attendance rate in the NWT is 86.1%, which translates into a student missing an average of one and a half days of school every two weeks. Early childhood is another area that needs immediate attention. Presently, one fifth of students are entering grade one and are not ready to do grade one work.

This school year, to help address these issues, the GNWT is funding attendance projects across the NWT, as part of the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative and Minister Lafferty is also hosting Regional Forums to engage community participation and support in developing a territorial education plan to improve student achievement.

Furthermore, 2011 marks the year that the Early Childhood Framework, supported by both ECE and the Department of Health and Social Services, undergoes an extensive review. This process includes extensive consultation with stakeholders and is already underway.

To review the 2010 AAT and FGL results, see the attached backgrounder.

For more information, contact:

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NWT Releases 2010 Student Assessment Results

The Northwest Territories' (NWT) 2010 results for the Alberta Achievement Tests (AAT) and Functional Grade Levels (FGL) were released today.

This is the sixth year students have written the AATs, the FGLs have been tracked and the results for both assessments released for the NWT. Reporting FGL and AAT results provide us with an indication of NWT student performance.

AATs are based on the NWT curriculum in the areas of Language Arts and Mathematics. Students in grades 3, 6 and 9 wrote the tests in May and June, 2010. The AATs provide a picture of a student's performance on one particular day, while FGLs show aspects of student performance over the full year.

The FGL is the curriculum level at which a student is working, 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. FGL reporting was initiated in steps in the NWT, starting with grades 1-3 in 2004-2005, and expanding to grade 9 in 2006-2007. This is the fourth year of full reporting.

The 2010 AAT results for Mathematics are not available, as a new curricula for Mathematics was implemented. The 2009/10 school year was the pilot year for Grades 3, 6 and 9 Mathematics Achievement Tests that reflect the new 2007 Program of Studies. Standards will be set for the 2010 AATs after the June 2011 administration, and the 2010 Mathematics AAT results will then be available.

The summary of 2010 results for the NWT is attached.

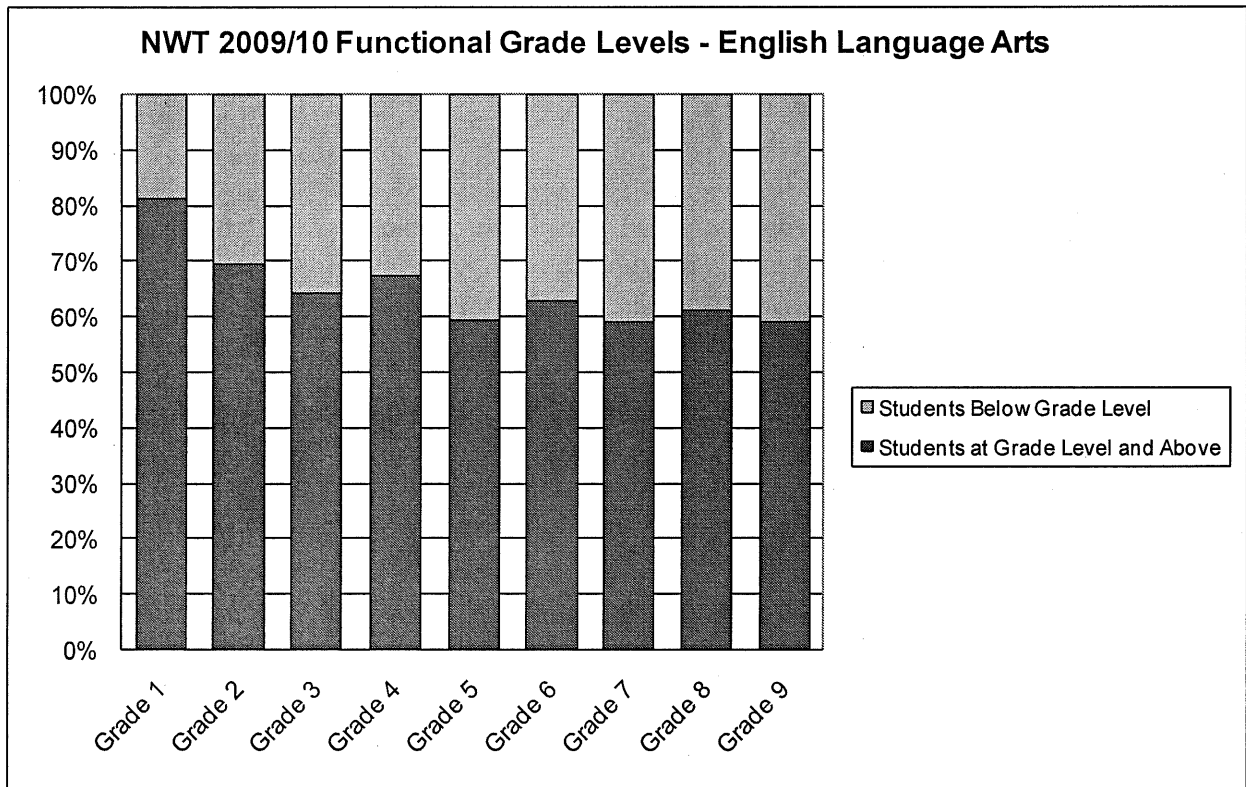
Also released, for the third year, is information regarding student attendance. Regular attendance is a critical factor in a student's successful education. Only if students are regularly present in the classroom, will they have the real ability to learn and provide themselves with a good future.

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Functional Grade Level

A Functional Grade Level is the grade level of the curricular outcomes a student worked on for the majority of the school year. A student's FGL indicates that the student has mastered or achieved the curricular outcomes for the preceding grade level. Mastery means that the student has accomplished the curricular outcomes to a level where the student has a strong enough foundation to be successful in subsequent grade levels. In grade one, approximately 81% of students are able to work on grade one curriculum. Overall, an average of about 64% of students are working at the appropriate grade level for their age in English Language Arts. Results are slightly higher, in Mathematics where approximately 82% of grade one students are able to work on grade one curriculum in Mathematics and approximately 67% of students are working at the appropriate grade level of curriculum for their age.



English Language Arts 2009/10

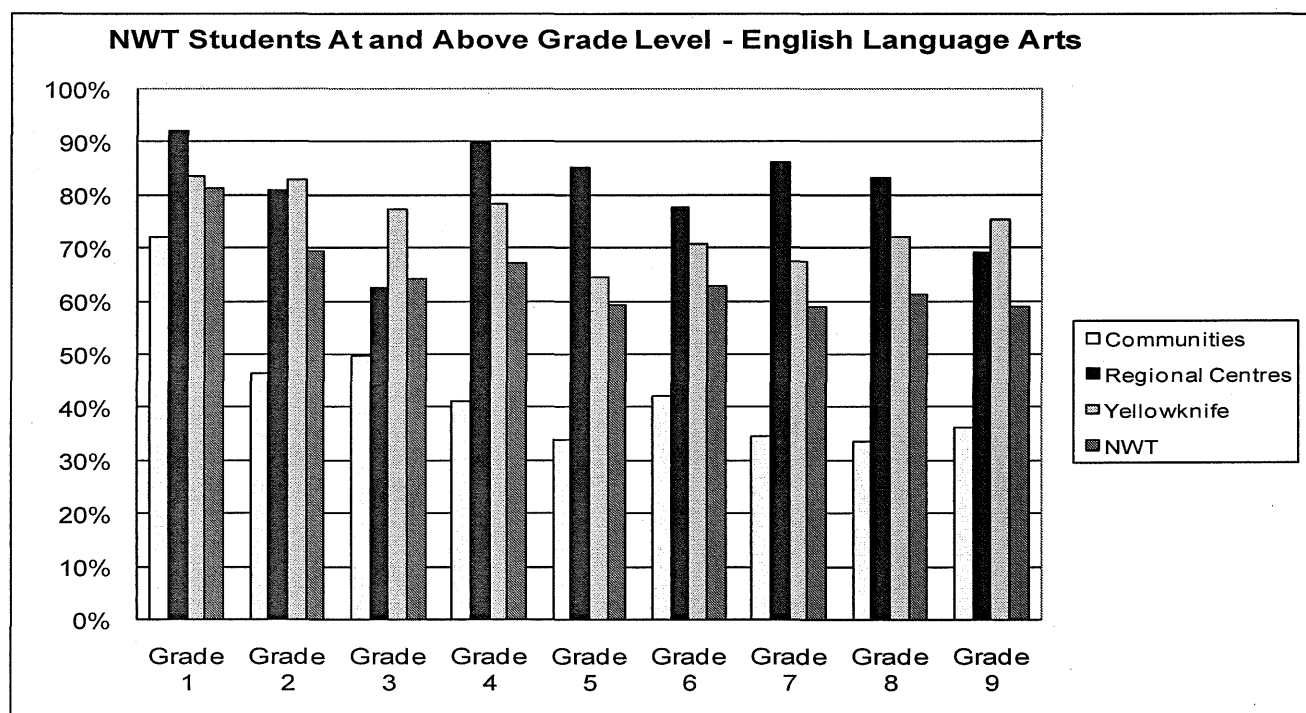
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Students at Grade Level and Above Grade level	81%	69%	64%	67%	59%	63%	59%	61%	59%
Students Below Grade Level	19%	31%	36%	33%	41%	37%	41%	39%	41%

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Proportion of NWT Students At and Above Grade Level in English Language Arts 2009/10

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Communities	72%	46%	50%	41%	34%	42%	35%	33%	36%
Regional Centres	92%	81%	63%	90%	85%	78%	86%	83%	69%
Yellowknife	83%	83%	77%	78%	65%	71%	67%	72%	75%
NWT	81%	69%	64%	67%	59%	63%	59%	61%	59%

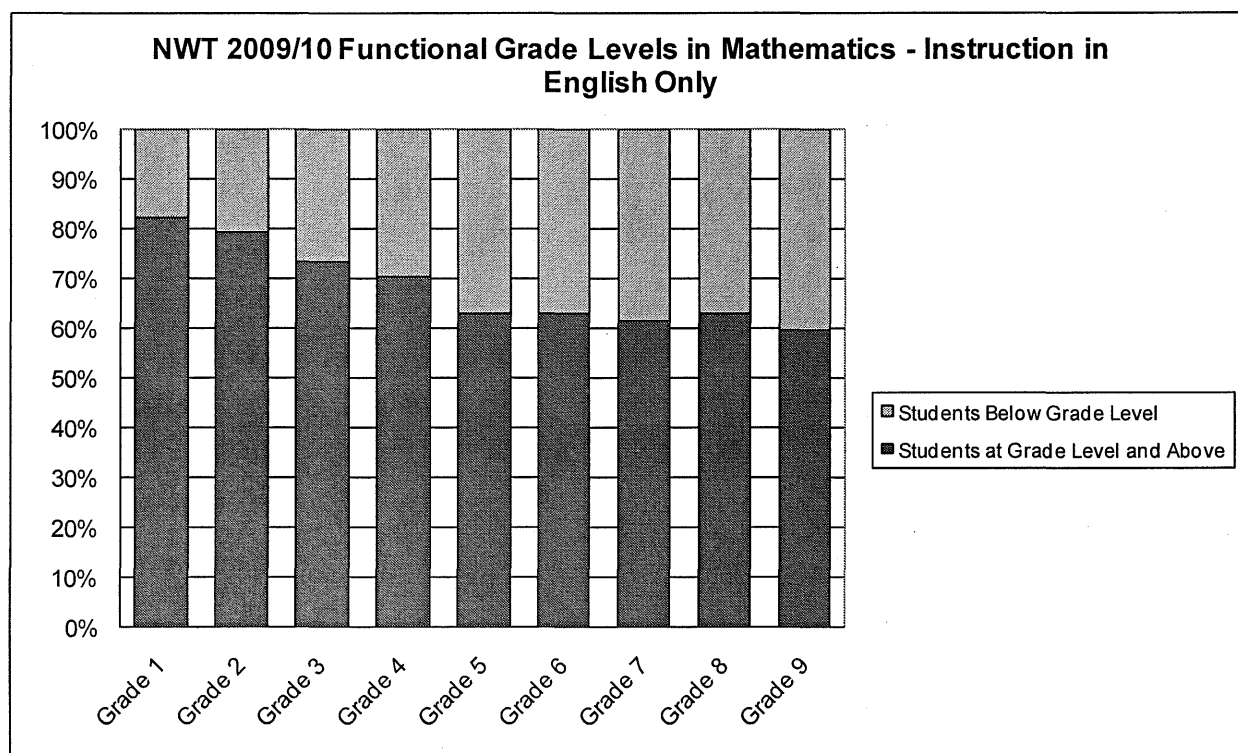


Historical FGL Information – Proportion of NWT Students At and Above Grade Level in English Language Arts

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
2006/07	79%	65%	65%	58%	60%	61%	58%	62%	58%
2007/08	79%	68%	57%	58%	56%	57%	62%	59%	61%
2008/09	83%	68%	65%	58%	58%	60%	60%	64%	62%
2009/10	81%	69%	64%	67%	59%	63%	59%	61%	59%

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Proportion of NWT Students At and Above Grade Level in Mathematics 2009/10

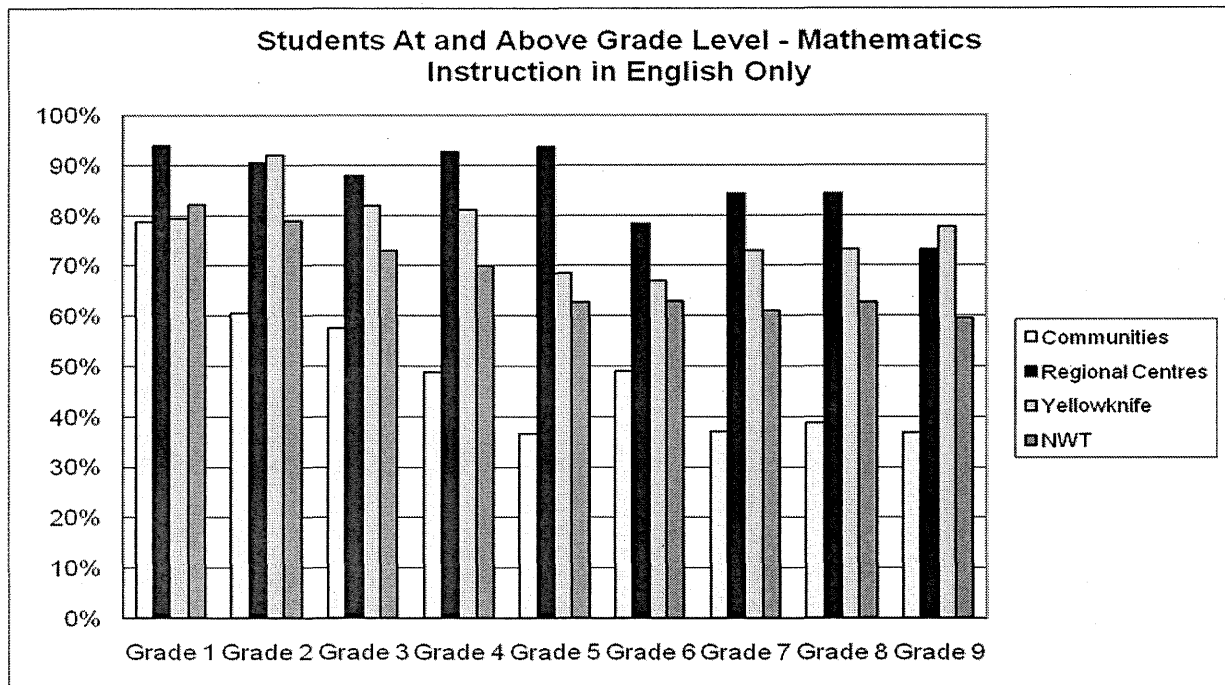
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Students at Grade Level and Above	82%	79%	73%	70%	63%	63%	61%	63%	60%
Students Below Grade Level	18%	21%	27%	30%	37%	37%	39%	37%	40%

Proportion of NWT Students At and Above Grade Level in Mathematics 2009/10

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Communities	79%	61%	58%	49%	37%	49%	37%	39%	37%
Regional Centres	94%	91%	88%	93%	94%	78%	84%	84%	73%
Yellowknife	79%	92%	82%	81%	68%	67%	73%	73%	78%
NWT	82%	79%	73%	70%	63%	63%	61%	63%	60%

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**Historical FGL Information – Proportion of NWT Students At and Above Grade Level in
Mathematics**

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
2006/07	86%	78%	76%	67%	65%	65%	68%	69%	57%
2007/08	85%	79%	67%	67%	66%	62%	65%	60%	56%
2008/09	90%	80%	76%	65%	63%	69%	67%	64%	62%
2009/10	82%	79%	73%	70%	63%	63%	61%	63%	60%

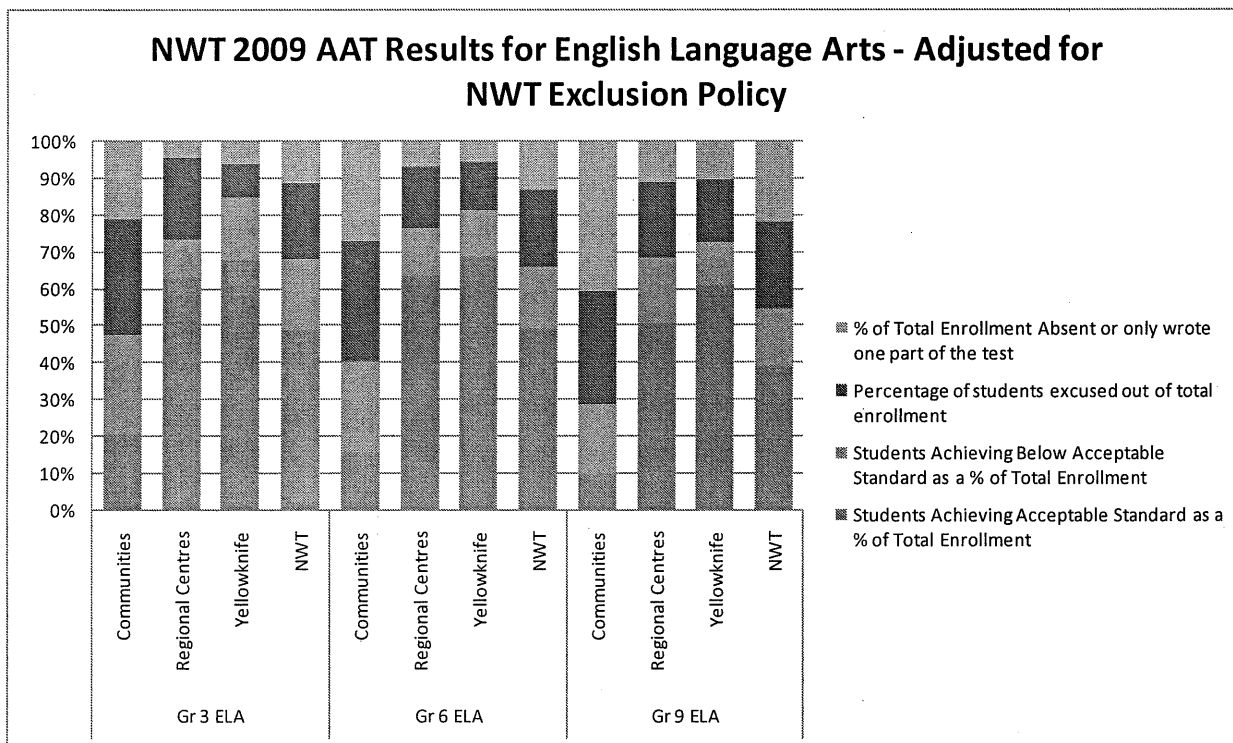
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Alberta Achievement Test Results

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.

The 2010 AAT results for Math are not available due to the implementation of new curricula for Math. The 2009/10 school year was the pilot year for of Grades 3, 6 and 9 Mathematics Achievement Tests that reflect the new 2007 Program of Studies. Standards will not be set for the 2010 AATs until after the June 2011 administration. After this is done, 2010 Math AAT results will be available.



- Available Test Results: results for students writing all parts of the test.

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- Reportable Results: results for students with Individual Education Plans and students with Modified Education Plans and a Functional Grade Level 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.

Alberta Achievement Test	Board	% 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 Standard of Excellence as a % of Available Test Results	Students Achieving Standard of Excellence as a % of Total Enrolment
Grade 3 ELA*	Communities	47.4%	20.9%	31.6%	43.0%	20.4%	0.0%	0.0%
	Regional Centres	73.7%	4.4%	21.9%	85.7%	63.2%	10.7%	7.9%
	Yellowknife	84.8%	5.9%	9.3%	79.8%	67.6%	10.4%	8.8%
	NWT	68.1%	11.3%	20.6%	71.4%	48.6%	7.7%	5.3%
Grade 6 ELA*	Communities	40.3%	26.7%	33.0%	39.0%	15.7%	0.0%	0.0%
	Regional Centres	76.5%	6.8%	16.7%	83.2%	63.6%	10.9%	8.3%
	Yellowknife	81.4%	5.6%	13.0%	84.6%	68.8%	9.0%	7.4%
	NWT	66.1%	13.2%	20.8%	74.6%	49.3%	13.7%	9.0%
Grade 9 ELA*	Communities	27.3%	39.1%	29.8%	34.2%	9.3%	6.3%	1.7%
	Regional Centres	68.4%	11.0%	20.6%	73.6%	50.3%	9.4%	6.5%
	Yellowknife	72.8%	10.0%	17.2%	83.9%	61.0%	11.8%	8.6%
	NWT	54.0%	21.7%	22.9%	71.2%	38.4%	10.1%	5.4%

Note: 2010 AAT results for Math will not be available until the 2011 assessments are written

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Historical Alberta Achievement Test Information

NWT Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Total Enrolment - AFTER Adjustments for NWT Exclusion Policy				
	2007	2008	2009	2010
Grade 3 ELA	53.5%	47.6%	46.0%	48.6%
Grade 6 ELA	48.1%	44.5%	46.5%	49.3%
Grade 9 ELA	36.4%	35.5%	36.5%	38.4%
Grade 3 Math	56.8%	48.4%	49.1%	
Grade 6 Math	38.4%	36.0%	40.9%	
Grade 9 Math	28.9%	25.7%	23.0%	

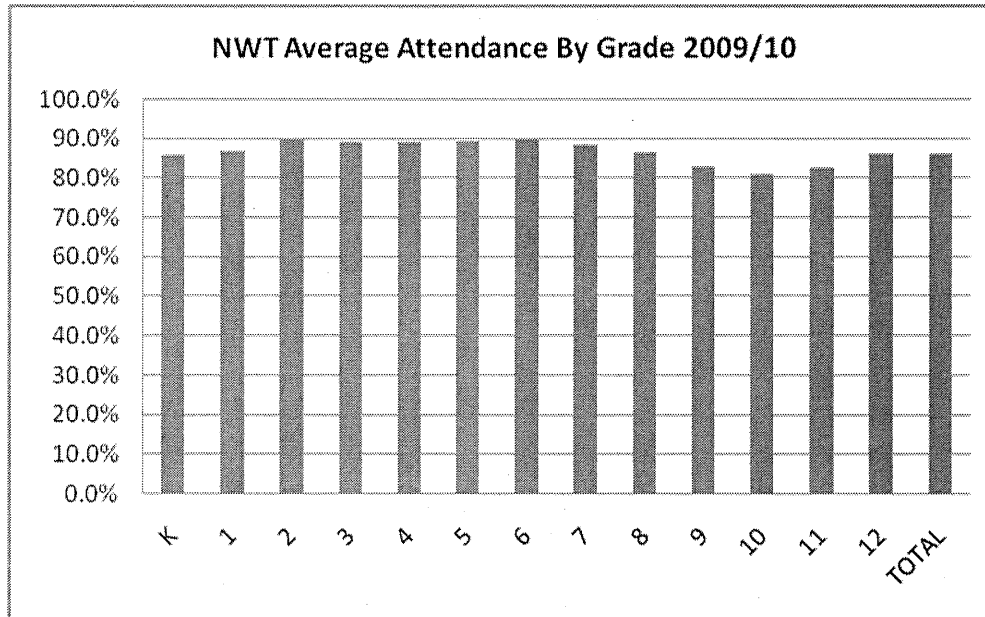
2010 AAT Results for French Immersion

	Grade 3 French Language Arts	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	100.0%	83.7%	68.2%	81.6%	68.2%	89.5%
Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Total Enrolment	85.7%	73.5%	63.8%	80.0%	63.8%	89.5%

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Attendance 2009/10



	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Communities	79.2%	79.3%	83.8%	82.9%	82.2%	84.1%	84.2%	84.0%	78.6%	75.9%	77.7%	81.0%	81.7%	80.7%
Regional Centres	89.0%	89.3%	91.2%	91.9%	92.5%	91.2%	92.6%	90.2%	91.1%	84.7%	84.0%	85.2%	90.9%	88.7%
Yellowknife	90.3%	91.8%	93.5%	93.1%	93.2%	92.8%	92.3%	91.6%	91.0%	88.7%	81.5%	81.9%	85.6%	89.0%
NWT	85.8%	86.8%	89.5%	89.0%	88.8%	89.4%	89.7%	88.3%	86.5%	82.8%	80.9%	82.6%	86.1%	86.1%

For the 2009/10 school year, the average attendance for students enrolled in the NWT was 86.1%. This average is equivalent to students missing one and a half days of school every two weeks. The 2009/10 average is slightly above the average for the 2008/2009 school year which was 85.5%.

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R(16)564

Call for 2011 Outstanding Volunteer Award Nominations

YELLOWKNIFE (January 12, 2011) – The Government of the Northwest Territories wants to recognize the Territory's most outstanding volunteers.

Every year, through its Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, the GNWT pays tribute to individuals and organizations who have improved the quality of life for NWT residents through significant voluntary commitment by presenting them with Outstanding Volunteer Awards.

“The NWT is home to thousands of volunteers who make our communities strong and vibrant places to live,” said Minister Robert C. McLeod. “We have exceptional individuals and groups 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 25, 2011.

Volunteer Awards have been presented, since 1991, 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.

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.

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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, Sport Recreation and Youth Division

Municipal and Community Affairs

Government of the Northwest Territories

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R(16)566

Comment Deadline for New Safety Regulations Extended

YELLOWKNIFE (January 13, 2011) – The comment deadline for the new NWT/Nunavut Safety Regulations will be extended to March 31, 2011.

“Many members of the NWT Construction Association and the NWT Chamber of Commerce have requested more time to examine the potential effect that the proposed changes to the Safety Regulations will have in the NWT,” said Minister McLeod. “With the extension, stakeholders will have time to examine the proposed regulations in a coordinated manner and provide meaningful feedback to the Safety Regulation Review Committee.”

After meeting with Minister McLeod, Bob Doherty, President of the NWT Construction Association, was pleased with the extension.

“I am also pleased that the Minister will be appointing Mr. Jack Rowe, of Rowe’s Construction and one our Directors at the NWT Construction Association, to the Safety Regulation Review Committee effective immediately,” said Mr. Doherty.

Both Minister McLeod and Mr. Doherty believe that Mr. Rowe’s long experience as a contractor and businessman in the NWT will provide an informed perspective that will benefit the final recommendations of the Safety Regulation Review Committee.

“As a former general contractor and small business owner, I am aware of the challenges of operating in a cold weather climate and the need for safety regulations that recognize and allow for our northern operating realities,” added Minister McLeod. “I will not be signing off on any Safety Regulations that do not balance northern operating realities with best safety practices and worker safety.”

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R(16)568

Aboriginal Student Achievement Forums Continue in 2011

YELLOWKNIFE (January 17, 2011) – Strengthening ties between communities and education boards, as well as supporting students in getting a good education while retaining their Aboriginal language and culture, was the focus of the recent Dehcho Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA) Regional Forum in Fort Simpson.

“We are looking at the education system in a different way,” said the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty. “During these Forums, we keep hearing about the importance of integrating Aboriginal language and culture, and the communities need to have an active role in this alternative approach to education in the NWT. If we work together, we can rebuild the foundation that is the voice of the NWT.”

“The passion and suggestions from participants to increase Aboriginal graduation rates in our schools was phenomenal,” said Mr. Kevin Menicoche, Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Nahendeh, who joined Minister Lafferty at the Forum. “I look forward to us working together for an educated North.”

During the Forum, Dehcho First Nations Grand Chief, Sam Gargan, spoke to the importance of cultural balance saying that knowing your culture, language and traditional skills fully can make an individual “strong like two people.”

Dehcho Divisional Education Council Chair, Martina Norwegian feels involving students in identifying learning needs and planning school programs is an important aspect of education. “This Dehcho ASA Forum is just one of the initiatives that can make this possible. With the participation and partnerships of the leaders, we can only succeed as we move forward.”

Jim Antoine, Liidlii First Nations Chief, mirrored Ms. Norwegian’s sentiments. “It is good to hear the voices of our youth asking for more involvement from our adults. The forum was a gathering of positive ideas for our future. Elders, Chiefs, education board members, teachers, and youth shared their feelings, ideas and experiences of current education realities of Dehcho communities. From the forum, we have renewed hope and a desire to get things done.”

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The next Regional Minister's Forum is for the Yellowknife, Dettah and N'dilo schools, and will take place in Dettah, January 18 – 20. Discussions will focus on the ASA priorities of early childhood education, family and student supports; Aboriginal language and culture; and literacy. Feedback collected at the Forums will be incorporated in the development of territorial, as well as community specific, education plans.

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R(16)567

Chief T'Selehye School Celebrates Grand Opening

YELLOWKNIFE (January 14, 2011) – Fort Good Hope is celebrating the official grand opening of the new Chief T'Selehye School today with a community feast, drum dance and jig dance following the opening ceremony.

“The new school was a priority for the community, and from the very start students, teachers and community members were consulted in the planning process,” says the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty. “New features, more storage space, open areas, and a sound structure allow students to learn in an uninhibited atmosphere. This new structure helps reach our territory-wide goal for better student achievement.”

The new school offers classes from Kindergarten to grade 12, and boasts several new features including an enhanced office area, a well lit and viewable gymnasium with separate community and school use storage areas, and a beautiful kitchen and breakfast room. With its wide open space, the break out areas at each end of the school offer areas for students to lounge in. The school also features a Slavey classroom and beautiful library for use by the whole community.

The Chief T'Selehye School project was a joint venture involving the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment, and Public Works and Services.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)569

2011 Year of Road Safety

YELLOWKNIFE (January 18, 2011) – The year 2011 has been designated the National Year of Road Safety in Canada. In the Northwest Territories, the Department of Transportation's (DoT) Drive Alive program will continue initiatives to improve driver, passenger, cyclist, and pedestrian safety throughout the year.

Michael McLeod, the Minister of Transportation, says there are encouraging signs that drivers and passengers are taking road safety seriously, with traffic collision statistics from 2009 showing a continuation of a 20 year downward trend in the number of collisions. Minister McLeod remains concerned, however, with the high number of avoidable injuries and fatalities.

“Drivers are still driving when their judgment is impaired by fatigue, alcohol, and drugs, and that is costly in terms of injuries and fatalities that could have been avoided,” he said. “By avoiding distractions, driving only when well-rested and sober, and wearing properly fitting occupant restraints, we can reduce the number of collisions further, and that will save lives.”

During 2011, the Drive Alive program will focus on the following public awareness initiatives:

1. A pledge campaign to reduce the number of people who use their cell phone while driving;
2. An information campaign to increase the number of drivers and passengers using properly fitting seat belts and child restraints;
3. An awareness campaign to challenge residents to avoid driving when their judgment is impaired by fatigue, alcohol, and drugs;
4. A multi-media campaign on the need to drive at a speed appropriate for road and weather conditions, particularly in bison country.

The 2009 Traffic Collision Report, providing details of motor vehicle collisions, injuries, and fatalities in the NWT, is now available on DoT's website: www.dot.gov.nt.ca. The Report indicates that the number of NWT collisions declined 20%, the number of persons injured declined 14%, and there were five traffic fatalities, including two pedestrians.

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Drive Alive, the travel safety information program of the Government of Northwest Territories, reminds residents there is more we can all do to reduce the number of collisions, injuries, and fatalities on the roads, trails, and waterways of the NWT.

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R(16)570

Territorial Sport Organization Support Program

YELLOWKNIFE (January 25, 2011) – Sport organizations in the Northwest Territories are receiving a boost from the Government of the Northwest Territories’ Territorial Sport Organization (TSO) Support Program. TSOs will be able to expand their programs and services with the funding provided through this program, and ultimately help increase sport participation rates across the territory.

“Through this program, sport programs and services are growing,” said the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), Robert C. McLeod. “Instead of getting wrapped up in administrative duties, volunteers and other sport leaders can focus their energy on increasing the number of sport participants and improving their programs.”

Launched in 2008, the TSO Support Program is co-funded by MACA and Sport Canada through the Canada – NWT Sport Bilateral Agreement. The program provides TSOs with funding to hire full or part-time administrative and technical staff so they can stabilize and expand sport programs. This year, 19 TSOs will benefit from having full or part-time sport staff to assist with program development and delivery, sport specific training, technical assistance, coach training and other activities.

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 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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R(16)571

Family Literacy Day

YELLOWKNIFE (January 26, 2011) – *Play for Literacy* is this year's theme for Family Literacy Day on Thursday, January 27. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Jackson Lafferty, encourages families in the Northwest Territories to take time tomorrow to remember that literacy includes more than just reading and writing.

“Literacy can involve things like watching and listening, observing, problem solving, and using technology like computers and iPods. Playing board games and card games are fun ways to improve reading, writing, math and comprehension skills,” said Minister Lafferty. “Strong literacy skills are important to help you grow, succeed, and fully participate in your community and wider society.”

Family Literacy Day is an annual national event celebrated for the past 13 years. The goal is to increase public awareness on the importance of adults and children regularly spending time together to enjoy learning activities.

To learn more about Family Literacy Day and see a list of events in your region, visit www.nwt.literacy.ca or www.abclifeliteracy.ca

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R(16)573

New Traditional Games Tour

YELLOWKNIFE (January 28, 2011) – This winter, elementary school students from across the Northwest Territories will have the opportunity to try traditional games such as the one-foot high kick and the stick pull.

“We are introducing these games to children at a younger age,” said the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), Robert C. McLeod. “We hope to create a passion for the cultural and physically active aspects of the games that will remain with them for life.”

Staff from MACA, along with a group of youth ambassadors, will be delivering the traditional games workshops as part of MACA’s Traditional Games Strategy, which aims to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles in cultural pursuits and to encourage youth leadership.

Workshops are scheduled for:

- Beaufort-Delta Region (*Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk*): January 17 to January 20, 2011
- North Slave Region (*Whati and Gameti*): January 24 to January 28, 2011
- Deh Cho Region (*Fort Simpson and Fort Liard*): February 7 to February 11, 2011
- Sahtu Region (*Fort Good Hope and Norman Wells*): February 14 to February 18, 2011
- South Slave Region (*Fort Smith and Hay River*): March 7 to March 11, 2011

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 wellbeing 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)574

Phase 2 of the Single Use Retail Bag Fee Implemented

YELLOWKNIFE (February 1, 2011) – Beginning today, all paper, plastic and biodegradable bags will cost 25 cents in all Northwest Territories (NWT) stores.

“When we think about the three R’s – reduce, reuse, and recycle – it is the first R (reduce) that is the most important,” said the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), J. Michael Miltenberger. “This program is a great example of a waste reduction program: the fewer bags that we use mean the fewer natural resources we consume and the less waste we produce.”

Phase 2 of the Single Use Retail Bag Program is 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. The 25-cent environmental fee does not apply to bags used inside stores for unpackaged bulk items such as produce, bakery items, candy and small hardware items. It also does not apply to bags used for dry cleaning, prescriptions or primary packaging of prepared food.

Fees for single-use retail bags have consistently worked to reduce consumption, with higher fees linked to fewer bags purchased. Fees collected from Phase 2 of the program continue to go into the GNWT’s Environment Fund to help pay for future waste reduction and recycling programs.

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)575

**Mike Holmes Joins Minister Lafferty
in Recognizing North Slave Apprentices**

YELLOWKNIFE (February 2, 2011) – The academic accomplishments of apprentices in the North Slave region are being celebrated at lunch tomorrow in the Yellowknife Fieldhouse. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty, and Canadian celebrity and professional contractor, Mike Holmes, will present awards to apprentices who have achieved the highest mark in their respective levels of technical training in 2009-2010.

“These individuals are role models and represent the future of the Northwest Territories,” says Minister Lafferty. “Developing and supporting opportunities for apprentices and trainees is key to meeting the needs of all industries in our territory.”

There are over 400 registered apprentices across the NWT. Of these students, 41 achieved Top Mark status and 68 made the Honour Roll. Honour roll recipients are apprentices who achieve a minimum mark of 80% in their technical training course.

The North Slave High Mark Awards Ceremony is part of the Construction North of 60 Conference and Tradeshow, hosted by the NWT Construction Association, taking place in Yellowknife February 2-3. Two special awards, the Karl Meyer Memorial Award and the Top Graduating Apprentice Award, will also be awarded. The ceremony is one of several taking place throughout the territory to recognize the success of our apprentices.

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R(16)576

AiP Important for the Future - Premier

YELLOWKNIFE (February 2, 2011) – Premier Floyd K. Roland says he's committed to keeping the devolution process moving forward and hopes a shared vision for a better future will encourage Aboriginal leaders to join and be part of the process whenever they are ready.

“In this Assembly, at the Northern Leaders table, and in our communities, we have sought and found unity when we have focussed on the future,” the Premier said today in his Sessional statement to Members of the 16th Legislative Assembly.

The Premier says he will be inviting Aboriginal leaders from across the NWT to engage with the GNWT in coming weeks, to determine their interest in finding a way forward together.

“To these leaders I say - come and be a partner in building our future together,” the Premier said. “Help us realize true self determination.”

Under a Final Devolution Agreement, residents of the NWT will gain the authority to decide how public lands and resources will be developed and used, to ensure the environment will sustain present and future generations. Devolution will also give the GNWT additional financial resources which could be used to help fund economic development programs, infrastructure investments, or invest in capacity building and education programs to ensure residents are trained and qualified to participate in – and benefit from – the economic activity going on around them.

Premier Roland says the signing of the Devolution AiP marks a significant step forward in meeting goals and priorities set out by Members of the Assembly.

“While we may continue to have differences, we cannot let those differences distract us from the goal we can all agree upon – that we make decisions today with future generations in mind.”

For the Premier's full statement, visit: www.gov.nt.ca

For more information, contact:

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R(16)577

Budget Highlights Achievements and Lays out Sustainable Fiscal Path

YELLOWKNIFE (February 3, 2011) – Today, Finance Minister J. Michael Miltenberger presented the territorial Government's 2011-12 Budget.

The Budget, the last to be presented to the 16th Legislative Assembly, focuses on consolidating the investments and achievements made over the past three years. Since 2008-09, the Government of the NWT has invested close to \$200 million in its strategic and energy initiatives. The 2011-12 Budget includes over \$85 million to continue work already underway and proposes an additional \$16.9 million in new investments toward realizing the 16th Assembly's vision for the NWT.

“Over the long term, the investments we have made will improve the lives of NWT residents, foster economic development, and unlock the tremendous opportunities our territory holds,” said Minister Miltenberger. “Now, in the final year of our mandate, this Budget looks to consolidate the gains we have made, and finish and deliver what we have begun.”

The aggressive policy of capital investment, adopted by the GNWT two years ago in response to the global economic downturn, will result in a record \$1.1 billion investment in roads, bridges, schools, health centres, housing, and other critical infrastructure by the end of 2011-12.

“Not only have we managed our way through the most serious economic downturn since the Great Depression, we have made investments and initiated policy changes in key areas that will benefit the NWT for years to come,” the Finance Minister stated.

The Budget projects 2011-12 revenues of \$1.36 billion and operating expenditures of \$1.34 billion, an increase of 3.4 per cent from the current year. An operating surplus of \$17 million is forecast for 2011-12. The GNWT expects to borrow \$155 million at the end of 2011-12 to cover short term cash shortfalls. This debt will be paid off early in the following fiscal year. The Budget is in line with the plan laid out by Minister Miltenberger last year which will put the GNWT on a sustainable fiscal path.

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“Two years ago, economic conditions required fiscal policies that supported businesses and created employment in the NWT, but these policies are not sustainable over the long-term. While we were, and are, prepared to incur some debt to address the downturn, we do not want to mortgage our future. This means keeping spending growth under control,” added Minister Miltenberger.

He emphasized that achieving this will require significant effort in the years ahead. “It will mean setting clear priorities, focussing on finding efficiencies and putting our dollars where they will be most effective. It will mean continuing to seek creative new ways of doing things, being open to new ideas and being willing to challenge the status quo.”

The Finance Minister forecasts growth in the NWT economy in 2011, noting positive trends in employment, population, and resource activity. The recently signed devolution agreement-in-principle, according to Minister Miltenberger, brings the people of the NWT one step closer to being in charge of how resources are developed and providing a share of the revenues from that development.

2011-12 represents the third year of the Government’s four-year \$60 million Energy Priorities Investment Plan. The Budget includes \$17.5 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. However, effective April 1, 2011, property tax rates, tobacco tax rates, liquor mark-ups and a number of fees will be adjusted to reflect inflation.

Highlights of specific initiatives of the 2011-12 Budget are included in the attached Budget Highlights document. The 2011-12 Budget Address and Main Estimates can be found on the Department of Finance website at www.fin.gov.nt.ca

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Budget 2011-12 Highlights

- The final Budget of the 16th Legislative Assembly highlights the strategic investments made in priority areas over the past three years and outlines the fiscal approach taken by the GNWT to allow it to make the investments while maintaining fiscal sustainability.
- The NWT economy is showing signs of recovery from the global downturn but there are still risks to that recovery. The NWT economy is forecast to grow by 1.2 per cent in 2011-12.
- The 2011-12 Budget proposes operating expenditures of \$1.34 billion. This represents an operating expenditure increase of \$44 million, or 3.4 per cent from the 2010-11 Budget. Excluding compensation increases, spending growth is budgeted at 2 per cent.
- Total revenues are forecast to increase 2.9 per cent from a projected \$1.32 billion in 2010-11 to \$1.36 billion in 2011-12.
- The Government plans to invest \$171 million in 2011-12 in public infrastructure and housing. This investment will be financed through the \$17 million operating surplus budgeted in 2011-12, short-term debt, and non-cash items such as depreciation.
- The GNWT expects to borrow \$64 million at the end of 2010-11 and \$155 million at the end of 2011-12 to cover the short-term cash shortfalls needed to finance the Government's investments in infrastructure. This short-term debt will be paid off early in the following fiscal year.
- Total GNWT debt is forecast to reach a high of \$515 million at March 31, 2012, but will decrease thereafter as the fiscal strategy is implemented. Fully \$344 million, or 67 per cent, of the projected debt at the end of the 2011-12 fiscal year will largely be self-financing – that is the costs of servicing the debt are financed by a dedicated stream of revenues from tolls and customers, and not by other government revenues.

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2011-12 Expenditure Initiatives

The 2011-12 Budget proposes to invest \$16.9 million in new initiatives.

- ***Supporting our Economy*** – From 2008-09 to 2010-11, the GNWT has invested a total of \$47 million in economic initiatives that supported economic diversification, gave NWT residents opportunities for training and skill development, and promoted the NWT as a great place to visit and live. This Budget includes \$15.3 million to continue initiatives started in the past three years and proposes \$3.2 million in additional investments including:
 - \$350,000 in additional funding for the Support to Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) Program to support the development of sustainable local economies.
 - \$1 million in annual support to extend the Tourism 2010 program (expires 2010-11) to 2015. The extended program, Tourism 2015, will continue ongoing programs from Tourism 2010 and will support outfitters as they adapt the tourism products and services they offer to new types of tourists.
 - \$145,000 to build on work in progress under the NWT Growth Strategy to stimulate growth in the NWT population.
 - \$925,000 to create the Small Community Employment Program to support short-term job creation projects and skill development in communities where incomes are among the lowest and labour markets conditions are the weakest.
- ***Reducing the Cost of Living*** – Over the past three years, the GNWT has invested \$39 million in initiatives to reduce the cost of living, especially for those in the smallest and most remote communities. In addition to the \$17 million in the 2011-12 Budget to continue funding initiatives from prior years, there is \$2 million in additional funding including:
 - \$475,000 to expand the Community Harvesters Assistance Program for a total investment of \$1 million in 2011-12.
 - \$100,000 in investments to support a cost-effective and efficient food processing sector for the commercial harvesting, processing and marketing of fish and meat in the NWT.
 - \$50,000 to support the development of agriculture infrastructure in NWT communities in order to increase the availability of locally produced food.

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- \$490,000 in additional funding to build ice crossings faster on the Mackenzie Valley winter road, to extend the ferry operating season on the Dempster Highway and to operate airport runways that have been extended in some communities.
- \$300,000 to perform a full review of the GNWT's policies for the provision of adequate, suitable and affordable housing in the NWT.
- \$150,000 in one-time funding to review the NWT Student Financial Assistance Benefits program.
- ***Investments in People*** – From 2008-09 to 2010-11, the GNWT invested \$29 million in initiatives designed to enhance programs directed at education, health care, housing and policing services. Almost two-thirds of the GNWT's total operating budget funds programs in these areas. In addition to \$17 million to continue previous initiatives, the 2011-12 Budget provides \$2.5 million in new funds including:
 - \$300,000 to increase access to Aurora College School of Education programs in communities by directing more funds to Community Based Teacher Education programs. Programs funded under this initiative will allow the College to train more Aboriginal teachers and language and cultural instructors.
 - \$500,000 to implement further measures under the Aboriginal Student Achievement programs.
 - \$150,000 to implement a permanent Youth Ambassador program. This builds on the success of six pilot Youth Ambassador programs that recruited, trained and provided youths from most NWT communities with significant volunteer leadership development opportunities.
 - \$500,000 to further implement the *Healthy Choices Framework*, an investment to improve the health and wellness of NWT residents.
 - \$650,000 of ongoing funding to increase the availability of home care for seniors and other patients needing home care, which will allow these NWT residents to stay in their homes as long as possible and alleviate the higher costs associated with facility living and care.
 - \$75,000 for a pilot program to expand respite services and enhance caregiver support and training for families of children and youth with special needs outside of Yellowknife.

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- \$150,000 to establish an Office of the Children's lawyer to provide legal services and representation for children in matters where a judge determines that a child needs independent legal representation.
- \$118,000 to fund a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Consultant position to support effective strategies and program modifications for individuals affected by FASD and other cognitive disabilities who come into contact with the justice system.
- ***Supporting Sustainable Communities*** – The GNWT remains committed to the goal of achieving sustainable, vibrant and safe communities. By the end of 2011-12, the GNWT will have invested \$30 million in strategic new initiatives to increase safety and security, strengthen government program service delivery in NWT communities and improve small community employment opportunities. In addition to these territory-wide initiatives, by the end of the 2011-12 fiscal year the GNWT will have provided \$247 million in operating contributions to community governments and \$192 million for community infrastructure - funding that provides communities with reliable financial resources enabling them to make their own choices. The 2011-12 Budget proposes \$2.3 million in new investments, including:
 - \$300,000 of ongoing funding to increase fire protection and public safety by providing all community governments with fire fighter and emergency management training.
 - \$100,000 to develop and implement a *Community Safety Strategy* that will identify community safety issues and the options available to communities to complement police work and help make communities safer.
 - \$150,000 to help community governments implement their Integrated Community Sustainability Plans that were developed as part of the Federal/NWT Gas Tax Agreement.
- ***Protecting our Environment*** – Over the past three years, the GNWT has made \$26 million in new direct investments in protecting the environment and is committing \$12 million in this Budget for 2011-12 to continue these initiatives. The Budget proposes \$4.7 million in new initiatives including:
 - \$343,000 to implement the *NWT Water Stewardship Strategy*.
 - \$100,000 to develop and implement the new *Wildlife Act* to better protect and manage wildlife in the NWT.

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- \$1 million to carry out management action plans under the *Caribou Management Strategy*.
 - \$350,000 to establish an Aboriginal Consultation Unit to provide policy advice and legal support to ensure that GNWT consultation practices remain effective and current.
 - \$200,000 to establish critical wildlife protected areas under the *Protected Areas Strategy*.
 - \$2.7 million to continue energy initiatives designed to replace diesel-generated electrical power.
- ***Affordable Government*** – The GNWT seeks to deliver programs and services in the most efficient way. Work is ongoing to improve the way the GNWT plans and delivers infrastructure, improve human resource management, ensure effective service delivery in smaller NWT communities, and stabilize the GNWT's relationship with non-government organizations. New initiatives proposed in 2011-12 to improve the way the GNWT does business include:
 - \$1 million to implement strategies to attract and retain employees under the NWT Public Service Strategic Plan.
 - \$300,000 for implementation of the Financial Shared Services Model, which will consolidate government financial processing activities.
 - \$1.15 million to improve Government communications and service delivery to the public in French.
 - \$300,000 to expand the number of courses in the Aboriginal Language Summer Institute to allow more participants in the program.

Revenue Initiatives

Budget 2011-12 contains no new taxes; however, effective April 1, 2011 property tax rates, tobacco tax rates, liquor mark-ups and some fees will be increased by the rate of inflation since their last increase.

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Looking Forward

The 2011-12 Budget looks to consolidate the gains made, and to finish and deliver initiatives started in the 16th Legislative Assembly. Priorities going forward include:

- Working towards a final devolution agreement with the Government of Canada and NWT Aboriginal governments.
- Beginning a discussion about the choices that lie ahead to ensure the GNWT can continue to deliver quality programs and services, including health care, to the residents of the NWT.
- Continuing to address the NWT's significant infrastructure deficit by supporting critical transportation and energy projects.

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R(16)578

Team NWT off to the Canada Winter Games

YELLOWKNIFE (February 7, 2011) – From February 11-27 more than 120 athletes, coaches, mission staff and cultural performers will represent Team NWT at the upcoming Jeux de Canada Winter Games being held in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), Robert C. McLeod, says the Canada Winter Games is an important event that encourages youth to live healthy, active lifestyles.

“The dedicated athletes, artists, coaches and volunteers should be applauded for the countless hours they have spent preparing for this important national celebration of sport and Canadian culture,” said Minister McLeod. “They are shining examples of NWT residents leading healthy lifestyles and building strong communities.”

Team NWT is competing in 11 sports and participating in the arts programs at the Games.

By investing in multisport games, like the Canada Winter Games, 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 wellbeing 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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R(16)579

Partnerships the Focus of AOC Week

YELLOWKNIFE (February 7, 2011) – The partnerships between the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), industry members, Aurora College, Skills Canada NWT, and the Mine Training Society, to promote and build apprenticeship and occupational certification in the NWT, are being celebrated during Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification (AOC) Week, February 7– 11.

“Developing opportunities for apprentices and trainees to learn from certified and experienced workers is key to meeting the needs of all industries in our territory,” says the Minister of ECE, Jackson Lafferty. “Without the strong partnerships that we have developed across the NWT, we cannot accomplish our goals of a diversified economy and healthy, educated people.”

During AOC Week, ECE, along with its partners, is launching a fort building contest to raise public awareness around the trades. Employers, employees, students and residents of the NWT are being challenged to build a fort made entirely out of wood pallets. Photo submissions are being accepted at ECEpublicaffairs@gov.nt.ca until April 11. The winner will be chosen and announced at the 13th Annual Territorial Skills Competition in Yellowknife on April 19.

Support for apprentices is a key part of the Government of the Northwest Territories plan to maximize opportunities for NWT residents and contributes to achieving the Assembly’s goals of healthy, educated people and a diversified economy.

For more information on the contest or AOC Week events taking place in your community, please visit your regional ECE Service Centre or contact:

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R(16)580

NWT Métis Nation Sign AiP to Ensure Participation in Devolution Negotiations

YELLOWKNIFE (February 9, 2011) – The President of the Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Betty Villebrun, today signed the agreement-in-principle (AiP) on devolution formalizing their intent to be a part of negotiations towards a final agreement.

The AiP was previously signed by Northwest Territories Premier Floyd K. Roland, Chair of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation Ms. Nellie Cournoyea, and Canadian Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians Mr. John Duncan.

“In signing the agreement-in-principle, we are in a position to influence the final agreement in the best interest of our citizens,” Ms. Villebrun noted. “Our future is in our hands and will be determined by our ability to move forward together, working cooperatively towards a final agreement from which all NWT residents will benefit from NWT decision making and resource development.”

“This agreement-in-principle represents an important step towards placing more decision making in the hands of the people and governments of the Northwest Territories,” said Minister Duncan. “I am very glad that President Betty Villebrun, on behalf of the Northwest Territory Métis Nation, has signed on to this AiP. It is my sincere hope that other aboriginal groups will also join us in the near future. It is important that all of our organizations work together to help this process move ahead.”

“The AiP represents the possibilities that can be realized for our Territory,” Premier Roland said. “Signing the AiP will allow us to move forward – to take our rightful place as decision makers in the NWT, capitalize on the rich potential of our resources and fully realize the opportunities and choices that the future holds for our people.”

Premier Roland also reiterates his hope that other Aboriginal governments will join in the next phase of the devolution negotiations process whenever they are ready.

“As leaders, we have always sought and found unity when we have focussed on our future,” the Premier noted. “There is a place at the table waiting for each of our territory’s regional Aboriginal leaders.”

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For more information, contact:

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R(16)581

Integration of Mental Health Services Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (February 10, 2011) – Mental health services and programs delivered through the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority (YHSSA) and the Stanton Territorial Health Authority (STHA) have now been integrated. The integration will improve visibility, access and care coordination for clients from across the Northwest Territories (NWT).

“Our goal as a government is to find ways of improving care for our residents,” said Minister of Health and Social Services, Sandy Lee. “Integrating staff from the YHSSA social programs and the STHA mental health clinic into one community-based mental health team will improve care and ensure that our system runs efficiently and affordably.”

Community-based adult services, case management, psychological services and psychiatric nursing have been relocated to the former Gibson Medical Clinic space, and renamed “Community Mental Health and Adult Services.” Earlier this month, YHSSA began delivering services from this site and the Stanton Mental Health Clinic formally closed.

Community-based psychiatric services will be co-located with other counselling services currently located at the Yellowknife Primary Care Centre. Counselling services will also continue to be provided at the Frame Lake Community Health Clinic.

The integration is a priority in the Department of Health and Social Services’ *A Foundation for Change*, and the Government of the Northwest Territories’ efforts to realize the 16th Legislative Assembly’s goal of healthy, educated Northerners.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)582

Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optics Link Feasibility Study

YELLOWKNIFE (February 15, 2011) – The feasibility of running a fibre optics cable from the south of the Northwest Territories to Inuvik, and eventually to Tuktoyaktuk, is being studied by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The Minister of Finance, J. Michael Miltenberger, says the fibre link is important in improving data communications for both the public and private sector in the communities along the route.

“The fibre link could greatly enhance program and service delivery in areas such as tele-health, on-line learning, and e-commerce, and help diversify the economy in the communities of the Beaufort-Delta and along the Mackenzie Valley,” said Minister Miltenberger. “It is the first step in advancing the communications infrastructure needed for future economic development and modern program and service delivery.”

A fibre optics cable to Inuvik would also encourage future development of the Inuvik Satellite Station Facility which has been identified as a world class location for receiving data from polar orbiting satellites pending a fibre optics connection.

The feasibility study will explore the potential fibre optics users; amount of use; technical feasibility of constructing the link; environmental, regulatory and permitting; governance and operational considerations for a fibre optics link; and costs and potential funding sources to install the fibre optics cable down the Mackenzie Valley.

Through the feasibility study, the Government of the Northwest Territories is continuing to take action to diversify and maximize the economic opportunities as envisioned in the *Northerners Working Together* plan.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)583

New Partnership to Develop Common Mine Safety Training Standards

YELLOWKNIFE (February 15, 2011) – New common standards for mine safety training are being developed by the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Northern Safety Association (NSA), and the three diamond mines in the NWT (BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto and De Beers Canada). The safety standards will be recognized by all three mining companies, and will provide NWT residents with mine safety training to improve their employment opportunities.

“Improving training opportunities to develop healthy, educated residents is a key priority for our Government,” said the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty. “With NSA’s dedication in delivering safety programs to reduce workplace accidents, and the mines commitment in hiring residents of the NWT, our partnership will help us meet our goal.”

In 2008, the GNWT and the three diamond mines signed a Memorandum of Understanding, to collaborate on the NWT Mining Workforce Initiative which develops programs that help NWT residents obtain the education and skills they need to work at the diamond mines, and finds ways to attract mine workers and their families to live and work in the NWT.

“Developing common standards for mine safety training in the NWT demonstrates the success of this MOU,” said the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod. “Initiatives based on partnerships help us retain a healthy mining industry in the NWT and provide continuing opportunities for our residents.”

The Government of the Northwest Territories is investing in education and training programs to ensure residents, businesses and communities are able to take advantage of the opportunities that the development of our resources provides, as envisioned in the *Northerners Working Together* plan.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)584

Get Financially Fit and Win Big

YELLOWKNIFE (February 15, 2011) – NWT youth are encouraged to participate in the Canadian Securities Administrators ‘Financial Fitness Challenge’, an online contest that uses videos, Facebook and Twitter tips to help youth increase their financial literacy and offers them the chance to win an iPad or a grand prize of \$2,000.

“Last year, for the third year in a row, the NWT had the highest per-capita participation rate in Canada – nearly five times the Canadian average,” said the Minister of Justice, Jackson Lafferty. “We encourage parents and teachers to continue to develop financial literacy skills in youth by using the Challenge as a fun and informative learning tool.”

The Financial Fitness Challenge runs from February 15 to April 15, 2011, and is open to Canadians ages 15 to 21. It uses interactive tools and scenarios to raise awareness of important financial concepts, such as balancing needs versus wants, budgeting, saving, and investing. This year, visitors to the site will see four new entertaining and informative videos on budgeting, credit cards, investing, and investment fraud. Classroom materials including lesson plans are also available to download from the Teacher and Parent Resource Centre.

For more information, please visit www.financialfitnesschallenge.ca or contact:

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R(16)585

His Royal Highness Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton Will Visit the NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (February 16, 2011) – Premier Floyd K. Roland is pleased to announce that His Royal Highness Prince William and Miss. Catherine Middleton will visit the Northwest Territories this July during their Royal Visit to Canada.

“I am very pleased to have the opportunity to welcome Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton on their first official visit to the NWT,” Premier Roland said. “This will be an excellent opportunity to showcase the wonderful hospitality of NWT residents and some of the best of what the NWT has to offer to visitors.”

The Royal Tour by Prince William and Miss Middleton will include the NWT, Alberta, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Ottawa during June 30 to July 8, 2011.

Premier Roland said plans for the visit to the NWT are currently in the works and the Department of Canadian Heritage will publish a more detailed itinerary of the entire Canadian visit at a later date.

Their visit to the NWT and Canada will be exciting and very special as the Government of the Northwest Territories begins the planning to mark the 60th anniversary of the reign of Her Majesty The Queen as Queen of Canada in 2012 for the NWT.

The last Royal Visit to the NWT was in 1994 when Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh visited Yellowknife, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit (then part of the NWT).

For more information, contact:

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R(16)586

NWT Celebrates Heritage Week

YELLOWKNIFE (February 17, 2011) – February 21-27 is Heritage Week, and northern cultural and heritage organizations are celebrating by hosting several events and programs across the territory. To kick off the Week, the 2011 Pan-Territorial Heritage Fair is being held February 17 and 18 at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

“Awareness, appreciation and promotion of our northern heritage is important in strengthening our cultural identity as individuals, families and communities,” says the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty. “I applaud the efforts of all cultural and heritage organizations and individuals across the territory who work diligently throughout the year to promote and preserve our unique northern heritage.”

At the 2011 Pan-Territorial Heritage Fair, for the first time, 30 students representing all regions of the Northwest Territories will come together to share in learning and showcasing their winning heritage projects. Joining them are ten students from Nunavut and ten from the Yukon.

The public is invited to meet the students and view their projects at the Heritage Centre in Yellowknife on Friday, February 18 from 2pm to 4pm.

The Heritage Fair aligns with the 16th Legislative Assembly’s goal to strengthen awareness of our northern identity and uniqueness by promoting our successes, our culture, our arts, and our languages with a proud and unified voice.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)587

ECE Launches Minister's Cultural Circle

YELLOWKNIFE (February 17, 2011) – Today during Session, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty, launched the Minister's Cultural Circle to recognize those who contribute to preserving and promoting cultures and heritage in the NWT.

“The Cultural Circle helps build awareness among all residents of the NWT about the importance of promoting, protecting, preserving and celebrating our unique culture, heritage and ways of life,” said the Minister. “Culture continues to play a role in our day-to-day lives: hunting and trapping, traditional artwork and craftsmanship, alongside traditional values and languages, are all part of who we are as individuals and as a territory.”

The Circle recognizes contributors at the local, regional, or territorial level. There are three categories of recognition:

- Elders respected for their contributions of practice, promotion, guidance, teaching, leadership, vision, and hands-on participation in the areas of culture, heritage and language;
- Any organization, corporation, institution, organizing committee or social club that plays a lead role in developing and supporting community-based events that celebrate, promote or preserve culture and heritage; and
- Youth, under 25 years of age, who demonstrate a strong commitment to engaging in cultural learning and practice.

Successful candidates will be welcomed into the Minister's Cultural Circle annually.

The Cultural Circle aligns with the 16th Legislative Assembly's goal to strengthen awareness of our northern identity and uniqueness by promoting our successes, our culture, our arts, and our languages with a proud and unified voice.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)588

Minister Lafferty Urges Federal Government to Continue ASEP

YELLOWKNIFE (February 18, 2011) – In the Legislative Assembly today, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Jackson Lafferty, joined Members of the Legislative Assembly in calling on the Government of Canada to announce a successor strategy to the highly successful Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) program.

The objective of the ASEP program is to provide sustainable employment for Aboriginal people in major economic industries, leading to lasting benefits for Aboriginal communities, families, and individuals. The federal ASEP program ends on March 31, 2012. ASEP partnerships across the NWT have led to over 900 individuals gaining skills and employment.

Using this program, ECE works with Aboriginal governments, industry partners, regional training committees, Aurora College and other stakeholders to plan, invest and deliver training that leads to increased Northern participation in the labour market of the Northwest Territories. ECE has been a partner in four ASEP projects since the program was introduced in 2003 and has contributed over \$3 million in funding and in-kind resources to the success of these projects.

“ASEP has been a catalyst in bringing partners to the table to address training and employment needs,” said Minister Lafferty. “It is working well and we need to find a way to convince the federal government to continue with this success.”

Minister Lafferty met with Minister Diane Finlay, federal Minister Responsible for Human Resources and Skills Development, to urge the Government of the Canada to continue with its commitment to Aboriginal skills development.

“There is an ongoing need for Aboriginal training and partnership funding in the Northwest Territories to ensure continued labour force growth and development for all communities,” said Minister Lafferty. “We will continue to press the federal government to invest in this important area.”

ECE continues to support the three ASEP partnerships in the NWT and also delivers a variety of training and employment supports to ensure Northerners have the skills and ability to obtain meaningful employment.

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R(16)589

NWT Suicide Prevention Training Program in Inuvik

YELLOWKNIFE (February 18, 2011) – The recently revised NWT Suicide Prevention Training Program is being offered to residents in the Beaufort Delta who are interested in learning suicide prevention and intervention skills to help others.

The Department of Health and Social Services, in partnership with the NWT Suicide Prevention Steering Committee, will be offering the training program at the Gwich'in Wellness Camp outside of Inuvik from March 19 to 28, 2011.

The revised one-week curriculum will use Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, and will consist of three phases that are culturally-relevant and community-based. The first phase will be grieving and healing work, the second phase will be community asset mapping, and the third phase will be planning to help communities address the issue of suicide.

“Anyone with intervention skills can intervene and save a life, which is why the program is open to all residents – and not just mental health professionals,” said Minister of Health and Social Services, Sandy Lee. “With this new training program, community members will have the skills to help fellow community members.”

Through the NWT Suicide Prevention Training Program, healthy living and wellness is being promoted which is a key priority in the Department of Health and Social Services' *A Foundation for Change* and the Government of the Northwest Territories' goal of healthy, educated residents.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)590

ECE Celebrates Education Week

YELLOWKNIFE (February 21, 2011) – During the Aboriginal Student Achievement Minister’s Regional Forums, attendance has been identified as a concern, and to highlight the connection between attendance and student development and growth, the theme for this year’s Education Week, February 21-25, is: “*Good Attendance. Good Education. Good Job.*”

Alongside attendance, many youth attending the Forums feel that family and community members must take part in a student’s education. In response to the feedback, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) developed the *Thumbs Up Contest*.

During Education Week, ECE is challenging residents to take part in the *Thumbs Up Contest* and identify ways they can help support the education system. The contest encourages families to discuss ways they can work together, and set goals to improve their learning journey. Participating families will have a chance to win one of ten Kobo e-Readers.

“Learning doesn’t start, nor stop when you walk into or out of a school,” said Minister of ECE, Jackson Lafferty. “Learning is a lifelong journey that includes the family and the community. Education is a shared responsibility and by working together, we can help our students receive the well-rounded education they deserve.”

This year also marks the 14th year of the Northwest Territories Teachers’ Association’s (NWTTA) *Thank You for Making a Difference* campaign. Each year the NWTTA receives nominations from students who want to recognize their teachers for the difference they have made in their lives.

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R(16)591

Minister Advances Mackenzie Valley Highway with Minister Strahl

YELLOWKNIFE (February 22, 2011) – Putting forward the business case for federal investment in the Mackenzie Valley Highway was the primary focus when Transportation Minister Michael McLeod met with federal Transport Minister Chuck Strahl on Friday. The two Ministers were participating in the Western Transportation Advisory Council (WESTAC) meeting in Richmond, B.C.

Minister McLeod was following up on his November 2010 meeting with Minister Strahl on the Mackenzie Valley Highway, and the two Ministers had a productive discussion.

“It was good to have the opportunity again to convey to Minister Strahl the importance this Government and the Members of the 16th Assembly have placed on building an all-weather highway from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk,” Minister McLeod said. “I emphasized the value and benefit to all Canadians, and why the Government of Canada should provide the resources required to build this Highway.”

The Ministers also discussed Green Infrastructure and Knowledge Infrastructure funding, the Build Canada Plan program, and extensions to the stimulus program.

Minister McLeod’s visit with Minister Strahl supports the priority of the 16th Legislative Assembly to build sustainable, vibrant, safe communities by improving transportation infrastructure to connect communities and to pursue initiatives that will reduce the cost of living.

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R(16)592

Tourism 2015: New Directions for a Spectacular Future

YELLOWKNIFE (February 22, 2011) – A new plan – *Tourism 2015: New Directions for a Spectacular Future* – was released today and will guide GNWT investments in the tourism industry over the next five years, and will encourage additional investments by the Federal government, industry, and other partners.

The Plan's overall goal is to increase the value of the industry to \$130 million over the next five years by focusing on six key program areas: marketing, infrastructure, skills development, research, community and industry engagement, and Aboriginal tourism.

“New challenges and new opportunities for growth exist in the NWT tourism industry,” said the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod. “Tourism 2015 is an investment in people, communities and businesses and includes initiatives in Aboriginal cultural tourism, business mentorship, and youth training, and offers new opportunities for our tourism industry to create sustainable local economies.”

Developed in close consultation with the tourism industry and NWT Tourism, *Tourism 2015* is the successor to the previous five year plan which sunsets on March 31, 2011.

“This is an exciting time for tourism and the plan will leverage our iconic attractions such as the aurora, our parks and campgrounds, and vast wilderness to grow the industry,” said Ms. Jenni Bruce, Chair of NWT Tourism. “We will be able to capitalize on the interest generated in the north from the Olympics and Northern House to draw visitors to the territory.”

Through its support of the tourism sector and investments of over \$19 million in the industry in the last four years, 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.

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R(16)593

Nominations Open for the 2011 Education Hall of Fame

YELLOWKNIFE (February 24, 2011) – Nominations for the 2011 Education Hall of Fame are now being accepted. This year, one inductee from each region in the territory and a Minister's Choice Award will be awarded, for a total of seven inductees.

“The Education Hall of Fame is a great opportunity to recognize residents who support education, from teachers to coaches, custodians, volunteers, community businesses or sponsors,” says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Jackson Lafferty. “With so many dedicated individuals across the territory, we are now honouring one inductee per region.”

The Department is accepting nominations until Thursday, March 31, 2011. Electronic nomination forms are available on ECE's website at www.ece.gov.nt.ca and at regional ECE Service Centres and District Education Council offices.

A Selection Committee will review the nominations and select the inductees. The Committee is comprised of three representatives from ECE, a representative from Aurora College and a representative from the Superintendent's Association. ECE's Deputy Minister will chair the Committee.

Successful nominees will be announced in April. The Induction Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

Through initiatives such as the Education Hall of Fame, the Government of the Northwest Territories is taking action to enhance education and develop healthy, educated residents, as envisioned in the 16th Legislative Assembly's *Northerners Working Together* plan.

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R(16)594

GNWT Enters Third Year of Waste Paper Products Initiative

YELLOWKNIFE (March 1, 2011) – Applications are now being accepted for the third 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,” said Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) J. Michael Miltenberger. “If we can reduce the amount of waste we produce, and reuse these products to create useful materials, we can extend the life of our landfills, reduce the greenhouses gas emissions associated with shipping these materials south and have new products that we can use in everyday life.”

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

“This initiative is in its third and final year,” said Minister Miltenberger. “As it comes to a close, I am looking forward to seeing the final creative proposals.”

The deadline to apply for the Waste Paper Products Recycling Initiative is April 30, 2011. For more information, visit www.icarenwt.ca.

The 16th Legislative Assembly has committed to supporting initiatives and investments that will promote a sustainable environment for present and future generations. This initiative builds on that commitment and results in the improved environmental planning, protection, monitoring and management as envisioned in the *Northerners Working Together* plan.

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R(16)595

Health and Social Services Department Accepts OAG Report

YELLOWKNIFE (March 1, 2011) – The Department of Health and Social Services has accepted all recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General of Canada.

The final report, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly today, indicates the Department, through *A Foundation for Change*, has set clear direction, priorities and actions.

“I am pleased that the report supports the direction outlined in *A Foundation for Change* to implement changes to improve the NWT health and social services system,” said the Minister of Health and Social Services, Sandy Lee. “We will continue to take every opportunity to improve and work together with people, communities, governments and agencies to address health and wellness challenges and to ensure that our system is aligned with the needs of our residents and communities.”

The report also notes that the Northwest Territories, like the rest of Canada, is facing capacity challenges to monitor, evaluate and manage a complex system.

In 2010, the Office of the Auditor General completed a review of Northwest Territories health programs and services. The review concludes that the Department of Health and Social Services is adequately managing health programs and services provided to residents of the NWT. The review did not include Social Services.

For more information on the Office of the Auditor General’s report, visit the Department of Health and Social Services website: www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca.

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R(16)596

Auditor General's Report on the Deh Cho Bridge

YELLOWKNIFE (March 1, 2011) – Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod says the issues raised in a mid-project performance audit report of the Deh Cho Bridge project, released today by the Auditor General of Canada, have been previously identified and dealt with by the world class team brought in to manage the project.

The Auditor General's report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly today, and identified partnership risks in Phase 1 of the project that led to project delays and cost increases. The Auditor General also expressed concerns about some risk management measures, noting that risks related to the project's schedule, cost, and scope remain.

“Our team takes the need to appropriately manage project risks seriously, and all appropriate steps have been taken to mitigate identified risks,” Minister McLeod noted. “Our focus remains on producing a quality and safe structure that will effectively serve the people of the Northwest Territories.”

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has accepted the three recommendations made by the Auditor General pertaining to improvements in the way large capital projects are managed in the Northwest Territories in the future.

The Deh Cho Bridge, when completed, will provide a reliable all-weather connection with the national highway system, and aligns with the 16th Assembly's priority of sustainable, vibrant, safe communities by improving transportation infrastructure to connect communities.

The GNWT's Deh Cho Bridge project team will hold a technical briefing on the project on Thursday, March 3 at 10:00 am in the second floor boardroom of the Lahm Ridge Tower. Out-of-town reporters can request to attend the briefing by teleconference.

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R(16)597

Aboriginal Languages Month

YELLOWKNIFE (March 2, 2011) – During Aboriginal Languages Month, residents across the Northwest Territories are encouraged to celebrate our Aboriginal languages and culture by spending time with elders and participating in community events.

“Languages are about identity – who we are and how we understand and interact with each other,” says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Jackson Lafferty. “Promoting Aboriginal languages encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, and family and cultural values.”

In 1993, the Assembly of First Nations declared the month of March as “*Aboriginal Languages Month*.” Since then, March is a time when Northwest Territories’ residents celebrate and reflect on the importance of language and culture in their lives.

In addition to celebrating Aboriginal Languages in March, ECE is developing a full implementation plan for the Aboriginal Languages Strategy. The Strategy, “*Northwest Territories Aboriginal Languages Plan – A Shared Responsibility*,” outlines a strategy 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 implementation plan will outline timeframes and give more detail to the actions and outcomes proposed in the Strategy.

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R(16)598

GNWT Optimistic about Territorial Economic Outlook in 2011

YELLOWKNIFE (March 4, 2011) – The Northwest Territories Economic Review and Outlook for 2010/2011 shows the territorial economy is in a position to strengthen and grow.

The report provides a general overview of the economy, including a focused review of 12 major industries in the Northwest Territories such as construction, arts and crafts, mining, oil and gas, manufacturing, and tourism. A snapshot of potential investment opportunities in the mining sector and in the Mackenzie Gas Project is also included in the report.

“Our goal in 2011 is to continue to take advantage of the economic potential the NWT has to offer,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod. “By focusing on economic diversification, the GNWT will provide more jobs and opportunities in all 33 NWT communities.”

In 2011, the GNWT’s key priorities include:

- attracting more tourists to the NWT;
- preparing residents to take full advantage of the jobs and business opportunities from the Mackenzie Gas Project;
- promoting employment and lifestyle opportunities in the NWT to southern Canada;
- promoting the territory’s mining potential to encourage an increase to the \$99 million spent on mining exploration in the territory in 2010; and
- continuing to provide support to develop the diamond mine sector.

By providing support for NWT businesses, promoting job growth throughout the NWT and reducing the cost of living in our communities, the GNWT 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.

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R(16)599

Settlement Reached with DCBC's Former Project Developer and Project Engineer

YELLOWKNIFE (March 7, 2011) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the former project developer and project engineer on the Deh Cho Bridge project have agreed through mediation to settlement of all claims for money owed under the claimants' contracts with the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation Ltd. (DCBC). The GNWT assumed responsibility for DCBC's defence of those claims under the Letter Agreement of June, 2010.

"The settlements are fair and reasonable and in accordance with the terms of the claimants' contracts," said Transportation Minister Michael McLeod. "Our focus now needs to be on the completion of the Deh Cho Bridge project and the benefits this all-weather connection will provide to the residents of the Northwest Territories."

The terms of the settlements are confidential. The agreement settles claims for unpaid work and return of equity contributions and holdback. All court actions have been withdrawn by the claimants.

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R(16)600

French Weeks' Rendez-vous de la Francophonie

YELLOWKNIFE (March 9, 2011) – During the Rendez-vous de la francophonie (French Language Weeks), from March 4 to 20, 2011, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) encourages Northwest Territories residents to celebrate French language and culture.

“In the Northwest Territories we are very fortunate to be a land of many cultures and languages,” says the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty. “French is important not only to NWT residents but to all Canadians and we look forward to coming together with our French residents to celebrate the diversity and richness the French language brings to our territory.”

An important part of strengthening, promoting and protecting our official languages is translation services. Translators provide important services to both the government and the public. As well, translators play a large role in preventing the loss of languages by allowing others to speak their mother tongue. Each year, the GNWT translates over 1 million words into French.

ECE is hosting a French Translator workshop during Rendez-vous de la Francophonie at École Allain St-Cyr in Yellowknife. High school students can ask questions about French translation and learn what it takes to become a translator. Two French translators from ECE are hosting the workshop.

To find out more about events happening in your region, contact the Fédération du franco-ténoise at www.federation-franco-tenoise.com or the Conseil de développement économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (CDETNO) at www.cdetno.com.

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R(16)600

Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie

YELLOWKNIFE (le 9 mars 2011) – Tout au long des Rendez-vous de la francophonie, du 4 au 20 mars 2011, le ministère de l'Éducation, de la Culture et de la Formation (MÉCF) encourage les habitants des Territoires du Nord-Ouest à célébrer la culture et la langue française.

« Aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest, nous sommes privilégiés d'avoir autant de cultures et de langues différentes, affirme le ministre de l'Éducation, de la Culture et de la Formation, Jackson Lafferty. La langue française n'est pas seulement importante pour les habitants des TNO, mais pour tous les canadiens. Rassemblons-nous et célébrons la diversité et la richesse qu'apporte la langue française à notre territoire. »

Les services de traduction constituent un élément majeur qui permet de renforcer, de promouvoir et de protéger les langues officielles des TNO. Les traducteurs fournissent des services importants non seulement pour le gouvernement, mais pour le public également. Les traducteurs jouent un rôle considérable dans la préservation des langues, en permettant à chacun de se servir de sa langue maternelle. Chaque année, le GTNO traduit plus d'un million de mots vers le français.

Au cours des Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, le MÉCF présente un atelier de traduction à l'École Allain St-Cyr de Yellowknife. Les élèves ont ainsi l'occasion de poser des questions sur la profession de traducteur et de découvrir les compétences nécessaires pour travailler dans ce domaine. Deux traducteurs du MÉCF présentent cet atelier.

Pour en savoir plus sur ce qui se passe dans votre région, veuillez contacter la Fédération franco-ténoise au www.federation-franco-tenoise.com ou le Conseil de développement économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (CDÉTNO) au www.cdetno.com.

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R(16)601

Mackenzie Gas Project: Nation-Building Project

YELLOWKNIFE (March 10, 2011) – Premier Floyd K. Roland says he hopes today’s endorsement of the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) by the Government of Canada is a sign of even greater support to come.

“The federal government’s decision is another significant milestone for this nation-building project and ensures that this project is advanced in the interest of all Canadians,” said the Premier. “The MGP will benefit the entire country by strengthening Canada’s reputation as an energy superpower, and creating thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic activity across Canada.”

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 also help to displace fuels that produce significant greenhouse gas emissions.

The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod, emphasizes that the MGP is about more than just the pipeline. It is a basin opening project and is about expanding services, transportation infrastructure, and resource exploration in the NWT, as well as fostering business, employment, and training opportunities for residents of the NWT and Canada.

“The potential returns on this initiative far exceed the cost of construction,” said Minister McLeod. “We encourage industry and the federal government to work together to advance a fiscal framework, similar to when today’s energy powerhouse provinces – Newfoundland, Alberta and Saskatchewan – were first developing their immense resource wealth.”

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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News Release

FUNDING FLOWS IN SUPPORT OF NEW INITIATIVES ACROSS THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Federal and territorial governments invest in key infrastructure under the Provincial-Territorial Base Fund

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, March 15, 2011 – The Governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories today announced an investment of over \$40 million toward important infrastructure initiatives across the Northwest Territories, as part of the 2010-11 Annual Capital Plan. The Honourable Rob Merrifield, Minister of State (Transport), and the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, were in Yellowknife today to highlight these initiatives. They also recognized progress on the Yellowknife Airport Combined Services Building, which is scheduled to open this spring.

“Developing Canada’s northern infrastructure remains a strategic priority for our government,” said Minister Merrifield. “These important initiatives along with the new Yellowknife Airport Combined Services Building will have a positive impact on the quality of life and economic opportunities of the territory as a whole.”

“Investment in infrastructure that supports the delivery of essential services at the territorial and local levels of government will continue to increase the quality of life and reduce the cost of living for all residents,” said Minister Robert C. McLeod. “Continuing to invest in territorial and community infrastructure remains a top priority in developing a strong, healthy, vibrant North.”

“The infrastructure initiatives across the NWT will strengthen the connections to our communities, and support economic development,” noted the GNWT’s Minister of Transportation and lead Minister Responsible for Infrastructure, Michael McLeod. “In this way, we are supporting our Government’s priorities of sustainable, vibrant, safe communities and a diversified economy providing opportunities to our communities.”

The funding announced today supports construction, upgrades and improvements for infrastructure initiatives identified in the Northwest Territories 2010-11 Capital Plan under the federal government’s Provincial-Territorial Base Fund. Included among these initiatives are roadwork in Fort Smith, the replacement of a firehall in Hay River, the construction of bridges on the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road, as well as new

construction or improvements to water and wastewater infrastructure in Paulatuk, Fort Liard, and Nahanni Butte. The full list can be found in the backgrounder attached.

The Yellowknife Airport Combined Services Building was identified in the Northwest Territories 2007-08 Annual Capital Plan. The Governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories invested \$20.7 million towards this initiative through the Provincial-Territorial Base Fund. This new multi-use facility, which is nearing completion, will house a firehall, maintenance facilities for airports and highway equipment, as well as administrative space and offices.

Under the Provincial-Territorial Base Funding agreement of the Building Canada plan, Northwest Territories will receive a total of \$185.8 million from the Government of Canada for core infrastructure priorities such as water, wastewater, green energy, as well as safe roads. Funding is being made available to address territorial, local, and First Nation priorities and objectives. Northwest Territories and other partners will also contribute at least 25 per cent of total eligible costs under the initiative.

Across Canada, Infrastructure Canada has now committed over \$10.75 billion dollars toward more than 6,300 infrastructure projects as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan. When combined with the contributions of our funding partners, there is approximately \$31 billion dollars committed to infrastructure projects across the country.

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For more information about infrastructure projects in the Northwest Territories, visit www.creatingjobs.gc.ca.

To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

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Background

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Canada and the Northwest Territories are working together to support key infrastructure under Building Canada, the Government of Canada's infrastructure plan. As part of this plan, the Provincial-Territorial (PT) Base Funding Agreement provides the Northwest Territories with \$185.8 million to support core infrastructure priorities.

This funding continues to help address core infrastructure priorities identified at both the territorial and community levels, including priorities such as water, wastewater, green energy, regional and community airports, as well as safe roads.

Today's announcement identifies infrastructure initiatives that are being jointly funded by the governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories, as well as other funding partners under the PT Base Fund as part of the Northwest Territories 2010-11 Annual Capital Plan. The total combined eligible costs of these initiatives are \$40.1 million.

2010-2011 Annual Capital Plan – Initiative List

Mackenzie Valley Winter Road Bridges	Additional bridges for the winter road.
Paulatuk Water Treatment Plant Upgrade	Scope will consist of a new water treatment plant to meet the new Canadian drinking water guidelines.
Fort Smith Paving Program	The existing roadways within the community of Fort Smith require major improvements and repairs. Depending on tender results the community is anticipating resurfacing some 10KM of roadway that were unable to be completed due to funding restrictions.
Whati Community Gym/Fitness Centre	To promote active living and lifestyles in the community. Build a community gym/fitness centre for the benefit of all residents.
Hay River Fire Hall Replacement	The town has commissioned a pre-design study for a new fire hall that will include needs analysis and population projections, and take into account response time and location, equipment requirements including ambulance and emergency response, site planning, scheduling and cost estimate.

Wekweeti Road to Recreation Camp	Construction of road to provide easier access to the current recreational camp which promotes healthy living, tradition and culture of the community. The project will consist of clearing, digging ditches, placing culverts, embankments, drainage work, as well as the construction of a 35 meters (approx) single lane bridge crossing a small creek.
Fort McPherson 4 Bay Parking Garage	Dismantling existing structure which was built in 1985 and replacing with a new 4 Bay garage that will serve as a proper storage/maintenance facility for new and existing equipment necessary for the community water, sewer and garbage collection services.
Tsiigehtchic Community Office	Existing community office building has reached its anticipated life span and requires substantial upgrades to meet national building code requirements for health and safety.
Fort Good Hope Community Complex	The existing community office was failing to meet the growing needs of community residents. The new office includes 10 offices, a photocopy room, a radio room attached to the new hall which can accommodate up to 300 residents, Council Chambers, mechanical and janitor's room, kitchen and increased storage space.
Deline Sewage Lagoon	The project will involve a retrofit of the existing lagoon by removing sludges from its current two cells as well as building a proper berm around the two. The project will also consist of the construction of a new cell and 5km access road to reach the cell.
Norman Wells Lagoon and Lift Station Upgrade	The project will include two priorities within its scope of work. The first priority is the sewage force main replacement near the lagoon, discharge replacement (valves and piping) and berm rehabilitation around force main replacement. The second priority includes instrumentation and controls upgrading for the sewage lift station and associated piping improvements.
Tulita Multi Sport Field	The people of Tulita have sought a multi sport field ever since the old sport field was lost due to the construction of the new Chief Albert Wright School. Work will include clearing and leveling approximately 30,000 cubic meters for a baseball field with dugouts at one end and a soccer field with goal posts at the other.
Tuktoyaktuk New Solid Waste Site/Decommissioning of Existing Site	Project will include a planning study to confirm the remaining life of the existing site and determine a new site. Perform an engineering design of new facility, construction of new site (including a new cell and access road) and the decommissioning of the old site.

Fort Liard Water Treatment Plant Retrofit	The Hamlet of Fort Liard is looking to complete a retrofit to their existing water treatment plant, ultimately extending the life of the plant by 10 to 15 years. Work will include two Manganese Greensand Filter Skids, replacement of internal mechanical, electrical and instrumentation components.
Nahanni Butte Sewage Lagoon/Solid Waste Site Relocation	The solid waste site in Nahanni has reached its full capacity and the community has begun to investigate a new location. Work on the project will include determining a site, decommissioning the old site, haul in fill material, clearing of new site, and digging a trench.
Total Eligible Cost of Initiatives:	\$40.1 million

Communiqué

VERSEMENT D'UN FINANCEMENT POUR APPUYER DE NOUVELLES INITIATIVES DANS LES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST

*Les gouvernements fédéral et territorial investissent dans d'importantes infrastructures
aux termes du Financement de base pour les provinces et les territoires*

Yellowknife (Territoires du Nord-Ouest), le 15 mars 2011 – Les gouvernements du Canada et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest ont annoncé aujourd'hui un investissement de plus de 40 millions de dollars pour financer d'importantes initiatives d'infrastructure dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest, dans le cadre du plan d'immobilisations annuel de 2010-2011. L'honorable Rob Merrifield, ministre d'État (Transports), et l'honorable Robert C. McLeod, ministre responsable des Affaires municipales et communautaires, étaient à Yellowknife aujourd'hui pour souligner ces initiatives. Ils ont également fait état des progrès accomplis dans le cadre de l'initiative du bâtiment des services combinés de l'aéroport de Yellowknife, qui devrait ouvrir ses portes ce printemps.

« Le développement de l'infrastructure du Nord du Canada demeure une priorité stratégique de notre gouvernement, a indiqué le ministre Merrifield. Ces initiatives importantes, tout comme le bâtiment des services combinés de l'aéroport de Yellowknife, auront un impact positif sur la qualité de vie et les débouchés économiques dans l'ensemble du territoire. »

« Les investissements dans l'infrastructure qui appuient la prestation des services essentiels, à l'échelle territoriale et locale, continueront d'améliorer la qualité de vie et de réduire les coûts de la vie pour tous les résidents, a souligné le ministre Robert C. McLeod. Les investissements continus dans les infrastructures territoriales et communautaires demeurent l'une des principales priorités en vue de renforcer, d'améliorer et de dynamiser les collectivités du Nord. »

« Les initiatives d'infrastructure exécutées dans l'ensemble des Territoires du Nord-Ouest permettront de renforcer les liens entre nos collectivités et de favoriser le développement économique, a ajouté Michael McLeod, ministre des Transports des Territoires du Nord-Ouest et principal ministre responsable de l'Infrastructure. De cette façon, nous appuyons l'atteinte des objectifs prioritaires de notre gouvernement, qui visent la durabilité, le dynamisme et la sécurité des collectivités, ainsi que la diversification de l'économie pour accroître les débouchés dans nos collectivités.

Le financement annoncé aujourd'hui appuie la construction, la modernisation et l'amélioration des initiatives d'infrastructure décrites dans le plan d'immobilisations des Territoires du Nord-Ouest pour 2010-2011 aux termes du Financement de base pour les provinces et les territoires. Ces initiatives comprennent des travaux routiers à Fort Smith, le remplacement d'une caserne de pompiers à Hay River, la construction de ponts sur la route hivernale de la vallée du Mackenzie, ainsi que la construction ou l'amélioration d'infrastructures liées à l'eau et aux eaux usées à Paulatuk, à Fort Liard, et à Nahanni Butte. La liste complète des projets est présentée dans le document d'information ci-joint.

Le projet du bâtiment des services combinés de l'aéroport de Yellowknife a été présenté dans le plan d'immobilisations annuel de 2007-2008 des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Les gouvernements du Canada et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest ont investi 20,7 millions de dollars dans le cadre de l'initiative aux termes du Financement de base pour les provinces et les territoires. Cette nouvelle installation polyvalente, qui est presque terminée, comprendra une caserne de pompiers, des installations d'entretien pour les aéroports et l'équipement routier, ainsi que des locaux d'administration et des bureaux.

Aux termes de l'entente du Financement de base pour les provinces et les territoires du plan Chantiers Canada, les Territoires du Nord-Ouest recevront un total de 185,8 millions de dollars du gouvernement du Canada pour répondre aux principales priorités en matière d'infrastructure telles que l'eau, les eaux usées, l'énergie verte et la sécurité routière. Le financement est offert pour répondre aux besoins prioritaires du territoire, des collectivités et des Premières nations. De plus, les Territoires du Nord-Ouest et d'autres partenaires couvriront au moins 25 p. 100 des coûts admissibles totaux dans le cadre de cette initiative.

Partout au Canada, Infrastructure Canada s'est engagé à verser plus de 10,75 milliards de dollars dans le cadre de plus de 6 300 projets d'infrastructure aux termes du Plan d'action économique du Canada. En ajoutant les contributions de nos partenaires financiers, on parle d'un engagement de quelque 31 milliards de dollars pour les projets d'infrastructure dans l'ensemble du pays.

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Pour obtenir plus de renseignements sur les projets d'infrastructure dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest, rendez-vous à www.creerdesemplois.gc.ca.

Pour en savoir plus sur le Plan d'action économique du Canada, visitez le site www.plandaction.gc.ca.

Renseignements additionnels :

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Analyste principal des politiques
Ministère des Affaires municipales et communautaires
Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest
867-873-7300

Robert Lynch

Cabinet de l'honorable Rob Merrifield
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613-991-0700

Infrastructure Canada

613-948-1148
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R(16)603

**NWT Youth Ambassadors Showcase Northern Culture at the
Los Angeles Times Travel & Adventure Show**

YELLOWKNIFE (March 16, 2011) – NWT youth will demonstrate a sampling of Inuit and Dene games to an international audience at the *Los Angeles Times* Travel & Adventure Show on March 19 and 20, 2011.

Based on the success of the Inuit and Dene games presentations at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, the GNWT, in partnership with NWT Tourism, is sending four Aboriginal Youth Ambassadors to the Travel and Adventure Show. The Show draws over 20,000 international spectators and travel companies, and the traditional games performances will present them with a taste of the cultural experience awaiting them in the NWT.

“The Youth Ambassadors promoted our northern culture with pride and passion at the Olympics, and I know they will do the same at this Show,” said Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Robert C. McLeod. “Through the Youth Ambassadors program and our partnership with NWT Tourism, we have created another opportunity to build our future and maximize opportunities for both our youth and our territory.”

“We are pleased to be working with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to showcase Aboriginal culture and sport on the world stage in California,” said Ms. Jenni Bruce, Chairperson of NWT Tourism. “NWT Tourism not only strives to entice visitors to the NWT, but also to expose them to the spectacular culture and renowned friendliness of our territory and its people.”

Partnering with NWT Tourism to promote northern culture on the world stage is one way the Government of the Northwest Territories is maximizing opportunities and strengthening awareness of our northern identity and uniqueness by promoting our culture with a proud and unified voice.

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R(16)604

Premier Signs Cancun Statement Promoting Energy Efficiency

YELLOWKNIFE (March 17, 2011) – Premier Floyd K. Roland has signed the Cancun Statement of Federated States and Regional Governments today on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

The Cancun Statement was developed at the Climate Leaders Summit 2010 held in Cancun, Mexico on December 6-8, 2010. The Statement recognizes that an estimated 50 to 80 percent of the actions necessary to keep global mean temperature increases below 2 degrees Celsius will need to be implemented by sub-national governments. It pledges the signatories to continue and enhance efforts to promote energy efficiency, to support the transition to a low carbon transport system and to encourage renewable energy generation.

“Through our Greenhouse Gas Strategy and our Energy Plan, the GNWT is already taking action to decrease energy use, promote energy efficiency, encourage the use of renewable energy technologies and support sustainable transportation,” said Premier Roland. “We will continue to support the 16th Legislative Assembly goal of an environment that will sustain present and future generations.”

During the next year, the GNWT will be revising the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy and the NWT Energy Plan. NWT communities, businesses and residents are encouraged to participate in the upcoming discussions to ensure actions appropriate to the NWT are identified in the revised documents.

A copy of the Cancun Statement is attached.

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CANCUN STATEMENT OF FEDERATED STATES & REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS ON LOW CARBON & CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing that a 'clean revolution' with a surge in the rate of deployment of energy efficient and alternative energy technology is now necessary to accelerate the transition to a global low carbon economy;

Confident in the fundamental scientific understanding of climate change and the urgent need for action that it demands;

Motivated by the enormous benefits a clean revolution will create, including long-term sustainable economic growth, enhanced energy security, increased competitiveness and new, green jobs;

Mindful of the fundamental role of federated states and regional governments ('states and regions') as incubators of this clean revolution and of the fact that sub-national governments have responsibility for implementing an estimated 50 to 80% of the actions necessary to keep global mean temperature increase below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels;

Mindful of the fundamental role of states and regions in developing sufficient responses to adapt to the most dangerous consequences of climate change;

Reaffirming the commitments already made by states and regions in 2005 (*Montreal Declaration*), 2008 (*Poznan Statement of Action*) and 2009 (*Copenhagen Statement of Federal States and Regional Governments*). Noting that these commitments have led to the development of a range of policies to encourage a low carbon economy within the jurisdictions of members of The Climate Group's States and Regions Alliance;

Recalling the *Paris Statement of European Regions* made to European Union leaders (March 2010) to warn that more ambitious climate and energy policies will be essential to powering future competitiveness, growth and jobs; the *Bonn Declaration of State and Regional Governments* (June 2010); and numerous other initiatives by states and regions in 2010 to strengthen cooperation between sub-national governments globally in combating climate change and accelerating the shift towards a low carbon economy;

CLIMATE LEADERS SUMMIT 2010

Recalling the *Copenhagen Statement* in particular and the signatories' commitment to report back in 2010 on progress made, including progress against specific commitments made in the 'Billion Trees Endowment' in Annex of this Statement;

Recognizing that despite the groundbreaking efforts of states and regions to date, there remains an urgent need to accelerate the pace and scale of low carbon development and clean technology deployment;

Acknowledging that such change will require innovative public-private partnerships between governments and business to mobilize policies, technologies and financial mechanisms and create comprehensive low carbon solutions;

Conscious of the importance of sustainable land use practices in promoting low carbon development;

Convinced that practical action at the state and regional level can play a catalytic role in building confidence and trust for comprehensive and ambitious climate action at the national and international level;

Emphasizing the important role of states and regions to strengthen international solidarity and achieve concrete actions on adaptation and mitigation in the developing regions;

Mindful of the above, and as the world's most influential coalition of states and regions that committed in Copenhagen to taking practical action to expand low carbon technologies (such as building energy efficiency, energy efficient lighting, electric vehicles, renewable energy technologies); we further commit to:

Developing specific policies and/or financial mechanisms within our remit in the following areas to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, stimulate green jobs and promote energy security:

Decreasing energy use

- We will encourage reduced GHG emissions resulting from overall energy consumption across areas of urban planning and land use management; and
- We will encourage behaviour change to save energy (local consumption, heating and cooling, electric appliance management etc.).

Promoting energy efficiency

- We will encourage and support energy efficiency solutions, for example in lighting systems, by enacting appropriate measures (legislation, regulations, programs and financial mechanisms within our jurisdictions;

CLIMATE LEADERS SUMMIT 2010

- *We will encourage reduced GHG emissions from energy consumption in urban environments through, for example, 'smart' services¹; and*
- *We will undertake ambitious programs on building refurbishment.*

Supporting the transition to a sustainable transport system

- *We will adopt appropriate measures within our jurisdictions to encourage the transition to a more sustainable transport system by inter alia:*
 - *Accelerating the uptake and promoting the use of more efficient internal combustion engine (ICE), alternative fuel and electric vehicles;*
 - *Developing rail for freight and passenger transport; and*
 - *Promoting sustainable public transport (i.e. car-sharing, centers of mobility and bicycle ranks in rail stations).*

Encouraging renewable energy generation

- *We will commit to stronger targets in light of declining prices for land- and marine-based renewable energy.*
- *We will encourage the transfer of skills and data from our experience with renewable energy.*

Exploring more detailed sectoral agreements between states and regions (and potentially businesses) on renewable energy, energy efficiency and alternative fuel and electric vehicles from now to the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) in South Africa.

Continuing to expand this network of states and regions and increase our cooperation with national governments, cities, financial institutions, business and civil society.

Further expanding our engagement with an active mentoring states and regions in developing economies, recognizing the need to share our knowledge and resources with those most vulnerable and least able to respond to climate change (commit mentoring support to at least one other region, province or state in a developing nation).

Engaging the business sector in delivering on the commitments laid out herein.

¹ 'Smart services' refers to ICT enabled climate solutions such as smart grid, smart buildings, smart transport, smart meters etc.

CLIMATE LEADERS SUMMIT 2010

Remaining committed to delivering existing ambitious climate policies within our jurisdictions.²

Reporting back at COP 17 in South Africa on commitments and progress made with preparatory reporting conferences in the different world regions.³

Emphasizing the ongoing necessity to reach an internationally binding agreement, we call on the Parties to the UNFCCC gathered in Cancun, to:

- Adopt a balanced package of substantive decisions on the core elements of mitigation, adaptation, technology, financing and capacity building in order to lay the basis for agreeing to a new global climate agreement by COP17; and in particular to:
 - *Formalize and build upon the mitigation pledges already made since current mitigation offers are not sufficient to meet the 2°C threshold;*
 - *Launch the first stage of a REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) mechanism;*
 - *Get climate finance flowing to support adaptation, mitigation, technology and capacity building actions; and*
 - *Set ambitious targets in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy.*
- Recognize that there needs to be a shared commitment between the parties and the states and regional governments and that without this agreement the actions of states and regions and their communities will not be enough to meet the challenges of climate change or reap the rewards of moving to a low carbon economy.
- Formally recognize and acknowledge the important role of federated states and regional governments in the UNFCCC agreement for reaching these objectives.

²A proposition to suspend California's Global Warming Solutions Act, AB32, was recently rejected.

³A preparatory European meeting will be hosted in Lyon, in October 2011, during the Conference of Regions on Climate.

R(16)605

Arctic Ambassadors Third Anniversary

YELLOWKNIFE (March 17, 2011) – A special group of volunteers today celebrated their third anniversary of service to travellers arriving at the Yellowknife Airport. The Arctic Ambassadors, who are sponsored by the NWT Seniors Society, greet travellers at the airport offering information, advice, and a helping hand.

“The Arctic Ambassadors represent the very best in northern hospitality,” said Michael McLeod, Minister of Transportation. “Many travellers have benefitted from the service of these community-minded people, and I want to acknowledge them and thank them for their service.”

The Program Coordinator for the NWT Seniors Society, Ms. Yvonne Quick, says the program gives the Ambassadors an opportunity to greet old friends and make new ones. “We have some excellent people involved who are committed to this program,” she said. “They love to do it because they know it makes a difference.”

The Ambassadors were honoured for their service at a noon luncheon held today at the Baker Centre. There are currently nineteen active Ambassadors. True to their dedication to service, two Ambassadors were back at the airport after their luncheon, ready to greet the afternoon flights.

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R(16)606

GNWT Offers Aid to Japan

YELLOWKNIFE (March 18, 2011) – The Government of the Northwest Territories is joining the Government of Canada and other provinces in responding to last week's tragic earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

“Our prayers and thoughts are with the people of Japan, and with those NWT residents who have loved ones in the area,” said Premier Floyd K. Roland.

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

“For years, the NWT has been a popular destination for Japanese residents and political officials,” the Premier noted. “Many personal and economic ties exist between the NWT and Japan. This tragedy has impacted many of our residents.”

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News Release

GOVERNMENTS CELEBRATE OFFICIAL OPENING OF ULUKHAKTOK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Ulukhaktok, Northwest Territories, March 18, 2011 — A ribbon cutting ceremony was held today to celebrate the completion of the Ulukhaktok Simon Kataoyak Community Centre. The new centre will provide a gathering place for the people of Ulukhaktok that includes a youth centre and community hall for residents and visitors alike.

“This new facility will be an important gathering place for residents and visitors to the region,” said the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health and Regional Minister for the North, on behalf of the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. “Modern public infrastructure will contribute to a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and safer and more prosperous communities in the North. As part of its Northern Strategy, Canada is working closely with territorial governments to respond to local needs of northern communities.”

“The new community centre is a much needed piece of infrastructure that will provide new opportunities and bring the people of Ulukhaktok together in a space they can share,” said Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. “Investing in this type of community infrastructure supports the building of stronger, sustainable, vibrant communities, which is a key priority of our Government.”

Joint federal-territorial funding of up to \$3.6 million toward this 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. The Government of the Northwest Territories is working 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.

Across all of its funds, Infrastructure Canada has now committed over \$10.75 billion dollars toward more than 6,300 infrastructure projects as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan. When combined with the contributions of our funding partners, there is approximately \$31 billion dollars committed to infrastructure projects across the country.

To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca

-30-

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TTY (Telecommunications device for the hearing impaired)
This news release is available online at: www.actionplan.gc.ca.

R(16)608

World Tuberculosis Day – March 24, 2011

YELLOWKNIFE (March 23, 2011) – World Tuberculosis Day, March 24, increases public awareness that tuberculosis remains an epidemic in much of the world.

The rate of TB in the NWT is four to five times the national average – with about 30 per cent of NWT residents who have latent TB infections in their bodies which usually remains inactive and not a risk to the public. TB rates are highest among the Aboriginal population.

“TB is a curable disease if caught in time,” said Minister of Health and Social Services, Sandy Lee. “Ongoing education and awareness about TB in the NWT are critical components for early diagnosis, and taking opportunities to treat the infection rather than the disease will eliminate future spread of this disease.”

The Department of Health and Social Services continues to be proactive in its territory-wide TB campaign, “Think TB”. The campaign targets both health care providers and the public to be vigilant in getting TB testing and treatment. The Department also ensures that all NWT health centres have the most current information about TB and how to prevent its spread.

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)609

Premier Congratulates Newly Elected Tłıchǫ Grand Chief

YELLOWKNIFE (March 23, 2011) – Premier Floyd K. Roland offers congratulations to Mr. Eddie Erasmus, who was elected Tłıchǫ Grand Chief yesterday.

“I look forward to working with Mr. Erasmus bilaterally and as part of the regional leaders table,” said Premier Roland. “I hope to meet with Grand Chief-elect Erasmus in the coming weeks to discuss matters of mutual interest.”

The Tłıchǫ Government, created in 2005 by the Tłıchǫ Agreement, is the NWT’s first Aboriginal self-government.

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R(16)610

Canada Makes Funding Commitment to NWT Priority

OTTAWA (March 23, 2011) – Premier Floyd K. Roland says Canada’s commitment to construct an all-season road between Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk demonstrates that NWT priorities are being heard and recognized in Ottawa. The road is an important first step for the Mackenzie Valley Highway project.

The Premier says the commitment reflects federal recognition that investment in northern infrastructure needs can promote financial recovery and nation building.

“The Prime Minister and his Government have worked with us to make significant advances on Devolution and the Mackenzie Gas Project. This commitment in Budget 2011 is a further demonstration of their ongoing commitment to the North and the NWT,” the Premier said. “The construction of the highway between Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk will support sovereignty, oil and gas development, and other economic opportunities for this region, the NWT and Canada,”

Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod also welcomed yesterday’s announcement while noting Canada’s recognition that the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk road should be built and that the federal government is responsible for new transportation infrastructure in the NWT.

“We have worked hard with communities and Aboriginal groups to engage the federal government in discussions on how to fund and construct an all season road from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk and a highway up the Mackenzie Valley,” Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod says. “Our partnered approach on the Project Description Reports for the Highway provides a solid foundation for moving forward into construction.”

Since 2007, the Government of the Northwest Territories has focussed significant effort on securing more and improved transportation infrastructure in the NWT and highlighting the benefits that northern development can bring for NWT residents and for Canada as a nation.

Members of the 16th Assembly unanimously endorsed the Mackenzie Valley Highway to Tuktoyaktuk as a priority of the Government of Northwest Territories, in 2009.

Once completed, the Mackenzie Valley Highway to Tuktoyaktuk will provide NWT residents with wide-ranging benefits including regional economic and employment opportunities through

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road construction and maintenance, improved community access and mobility, reduced cost of living, adaptation to climate change, and economic opportunities in the tourism sector. It will benefit all Canadians by providing an increased ability to assert sovereignty, earlier development of oil and gas resources, mining, and hydro projects, and improved economic sustainability for the territory.

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R(16)611

Possible Late Opening for Merv Hardie Ferry

YELLOWKNIFE (March 24, 2011) – Low water levels in Great Slave Lake and fluctuating water levels at the Mackenzie River raise the possibility that the break in service for the Fort Providence crossing of the Mackenzie River this spring may be longer than usual.

In the past 30 days, water levels at the Fort Providence crossing have fluctuated between 149.5 and 150.5 metres above sea level. Over the same period last year, water levels rose from 150.55 to 150.68, with only minor fluctuations. The ferry requires consistent water levels of at least 150 metres before it can operate.

As part of its commitment to improve transportation access to communities, the Department of Transportation is engaged in preparations for spring operations, and will begin ferry services when safety permits. In its preparations, the Department is considering the potential impacts of service disruptions and delays, and is encouraging travellers and those planning food, fuel, and freight shipments into the North Slave region to do so as well.

The Department of Transportation will post regular updates on water levels and conditions on its website from breakup until the Merv Hardie ferry commences operations. Prior to departure, all travellers should consult the website at www.dot.gov.nt.ca or the toll-free road bulletin line at 1-800-661-0750.

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R(16)612

GNWT and College of the Rockies Sign Transfer Agreement

YELLOWKNIFE (March 24, 2011) – Students of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs’ School of Community Government’s Community Recreation Leaders Certificate Program (CRLCP) now have more options for educational advancement with the signing of a transfer agreement with the College of the Rockies.

“Developing these kinds of agreements and partnerships helps provide opportunities for residents of the NWT to get valuable qualifications,” said Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. “Together the School of Community Government and the College of the Rockies are helping people in the NWT gain knowledge and build capacity in our communities.”

“As a leader in tourism and recreation programming in Canada, College of the Rockies recognizes the quality of programming offered by the School of Community Government,” said Doug McLachlan, Vice President of Education with the college. “This partnership is an excellent model demonstrating how students in rural and remote areas can access further post-secondary education to enhance their careers.”

The agreement ensures a transfer of credits for students in the CRLCP program and a stepping-stone to further education at the College of the Rockies. These credits will allow students to pursue a certificate or diploma in Tourism and Recreation Management at the College where they will develop functional, transferable skills that enable them to gain employment in a wide variety of careers.

By pursuing transfer agreements and partnerships, the Government of the Northwest Territories is helping NWT residents build skills and widening their opportunities, as envisioned in the 16th Assembly’s vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

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R(16)613

Minister of Health and Social Services Resigns

YELLOWKNIFE (March 28, 2011) – Minister of Health and Social Services Sandy Lee tendered her resignation to the Premier on Saturday.

Premier Floyd K. Roland thanks Ms. Lee for her hard work and strong leadership as a Member of the 16th Legislative Assembly's Executive Council.

"Sandy's energy and passion will be missed," he noted. "We wish her all the best in her future endeavours."

During her term as Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee was instrumental in advancing the Department's strategic plan "*A Foundation for Change*," and oversaw the introduction of an electronic health records system, and the opening of the Aven Cottages Territorial Dementia Facility.

Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger will assume responsibility for Ms. Lee's ministerial portfolios until further notice.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)614

GNWT Honours 100th Anniversary of *'The Lost Patrol'*

FORT MCPHERSON (March 29, 2011) – Representatives of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) joined residents of Fort McPherson yesterday for a full regimental funeral re-enacted to honour the 100th anniversary of *The Lost Patrol*.

From 1904 to 1921, members of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police made annual dog team patrols between Dawson City, Yukon and Fort McPherson, NT to deliver mail and dispatches. In 1910, Commissioner Aylesworth Bowen Perry ordered the patrol to change direction, beginning in Fort McPherson and ending in Dawson City. Lacking a knowledgeable guide, the ill-fated, four-man patrol never made it to their destination. The patrol became known as *The Lost Patrol*.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister of Justice, Jackson Lafferty, during yesterday's commemorative ceremony, Director of Community Justice and Community Policing Shirley Kemeys Jones said *The Lost Patrol* symbolizes the constant sacrifice and devotion to protect and serve the residents of the Northwest Territories.

"The ultimate sacrifice of their lives continues to serve as a symbol of commitment and dedication for the RCMP. Their experiences have contributed to a long-standing legacy of respect and to fulfill the promise to protect and serve. This is a legacy from which we all continue to benefit from. It is a truly humbling experience to attempt to convey an appropriate level of gratitude to the members of *The Lost Patrol* and other members of the RCMP who have given their lives in the line of duty. We may never be able to do this beyond expressing our deepest thanks to them, and also to their families," said Ms. Kemeys Jones.

"To this day, the members of the RCMP "G" Division continue to protect us, despite the constant threat of danger and the unknown," she said.

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R(16)616

NWT Furs Command High Prices at Seattle Auction

YELLOWKNIFE (March 30, 2011) – Final numbers are in and over \$815,000 worth of Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs (GMVF) were sold at a wild fur sale hosted by Fur Harvester's Auction Inc. in Seattle, Washington on March 13, 2011.

This year, there was an increase in demand for NWT furs, especially from buyers in Russia and China, and GMVF pelts for mink, marten, fisher, arctic fox and red fox achieved the top auction prices against all other pelts from across Canada and the Northern US.

“Fur from the NWT is now recognized as some of the finest wild fur in North America,” says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod. “With that success, our trappers and their communities will benefit.”

In total, an estimated \$942,000 worth of GMVF's have been sold at two wild fur sales in 2011, an increase of nearly \$300,000 from 2010. GMVF's will be sold at an auction again in Seattle on May 19, and the final sale of the season will take place on June 21, in North Bay, ON.

By actively supporting the harvesting and marketing of wild fur through the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs Program, the Government of the Northwest Territories is taking action to diversify the economy and provide all 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)617

Workshop Explores Opportunities to Grow NWT Film Industry

YELLOWKNIFE (March 31, 2011) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) recently held a workshop with representatives from the NWT film industry to discuss how the government can provide support to the industry.

A main focus of discussion was on the importance of creating a Film Industry Association, and steps are now being taken to coordinate the establishment of an Association. Attendees felt an Association would help ensure the film industry has a unified voice to advocate for the NWT film industry members and act as a liaison with the GNWT.

“NWT filmmakers make a positive economic and cultural impact on our territory,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), Bob McLeod. “By working with those closely involved in the NWT film industry, I am confident we will find the best ways to show our support.”

The workshop is part of an overall review of the NWT film industry. ITI is working with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to assess the economic prospects of the industry, investigate possible options for a Film Commission, and explore potential programs that would further support the film industry. The final report is expected to be published in May 2011.

For the 2011 fiscal year, the Government of the Northwest Territories is investing \$100,000 in programming for the NWT film industry to diversify the economy and provide all communities and regions with opportunities and choices, as envisioned in the *Northerners Working Together* strategy.

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R(16)618

Aboriginal Student Achievement Forum in South Slave Region

YELLOWKNIFE (April 4, 2011) – The South Slave Minister’s Regional Forum on Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA) begins April 5 in Hay River. Aboriginal government, community and youth representatives, alongside educators and school principals from each community within the South Slave, will talk with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Jackson Lafferty, about Aboriginal student achievement.

“Each time we meet with a new region, we’re building off the great work done at the previous forums while identifying the specific needs of each region and community,” says Minister Lafferty. “I’m excited to consult with the South Slave and solicit their valuable input on this important issue.”

The meeting is the fifth in a series of regional forums taking place throughout the 2010-11 school year with a goal of developing a coordinated and shared approach to improving academic performance among Aboriginal students. Key areas addressed at all forums are early childhood and child care, student and family support, literacy and Aboriginal language curriculum and resource development.

On April 7, immediately following the Minister’s forum, community members will meet to start developing education action plans specific to each community. Feedback and outcomes from the forums will help direct the development of ECE’s Aboriginal Student Achievement Education Plan.

The final Minister’s Regional Forum takes place in Inuvik for the Beaufort-Delta from May 3-5, 2011.

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R(16)619

\$5,000 Aviation Career Development Program Scholarships Available

YELLOWKNIFE (April 4, 2011) – Applications for eight \$5,000 scholarships under the Aviation Career Development Program (ACDP) are now being accepted.

This is the 11th year for the ACDP, which has given out more than \$400,000 over ten years to NWT residents pursuing careers in airport operations and the airline industry. The Department of Transportation funds six scholarships, while Adlair Aviation and Discovery Air each fund one.

“Aviation-related careers have always been critical in ensuring a strong transportation sector in the Northwest Territories,” said Transportation Minister, Michael McLeod. “Through the ACDP, we will be able to help fill the industry with skilled aviation employees from the NWT.”

“Adlair’s contribution to the ACDP is intended to encourage the same spirit of adventure shown by northern aviation pioneers such as my father, Willy Laserich,” said Adlair Aviation President, Paul Laserich. “We love to share our enthusiasm for this profession and to demonstrate our commitment to the people of the North.”

“We are pleased to contribute to a program that gives opportunities to those wanting to enter this important and vital profession,” said Executive Vice-President for Northern Services for Discovery Air, Chuck Parker. “Northern aviation helps drive economic opportunities that benefit everyone in Canada, and we’re proud of our participation in this important program.”

The GNWT’s support for the Aviation Career Development Program reflects the Government’s commitment to *Maximizing Opportunities* for NWT residents by developing skills in areas important to the territory’s economy. It also supports the priority of the 16th Assembly to build skills and human resource capacity in NWT communities.

For more information on the program, including an application form, please visit the Department of Transportation’s website: www.dot.gov.nt.ca

For more information, contact:

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Manager of Public Affairs and Communications

Department of Transportation

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R(16)620

Aboriginal Language and Culture Instructor Program Diploma

YELLOWKNIFE (April 8, 2011) – Beginning this fall, the South Slave region will offer the Aboriginal Language and Culture Instructor Program (ALCIP) on the K'átlodeeche First Nation Reserve.

“It is our goal, under the *Northwest Territories Strategy for Teacher Education*, to increase the number of Aboriginal language teachers in all regions of the NWT,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Jackson Lafferty. “Community-based programs require strong partnerships, and the support of Chief Roy Fabian and his Council, along with the South Slave Divisional Education Council and their staff, will ensure this program’s success.”

ECE is providing \$300,000 to Aurora College to cover community-based program expenses. The College plans to deliver the program in partnership with the K'átlodeeche First Nation and the South Slave Divisional Education Council.

Aboriginal Language Specialists are an important part of the continued revitalization of the Northwest Territories’ Aboriginal languages. Graduates of this program are eligible for certification to teach the South Slavey language and culture from kindergarten to grade 12 in NWT schools.

In 2007, the two-year ALCIP Diploma program emerged for the first time in Behchokò, with promising results. The development of an Inuvik-based program is also underway.

Increasing the number of skilled Aboriginal Language Specialists in NWT schools helps meet ECE’s goals for the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative, as well as the Department’s *Northwest Territories Aboriginal Language Plan – A Shared Responsibility*.

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R(16)621

Fort Smith Signs Up for Not Us! Anti-Drug Program

YELLOWKNIFE (April 8, 2011) – Fort Smith is the latest NWT community to join together and say “Not Us” to drugs and alcohol.

Not Us! is a program of the Government of the Northwest Territories’ (GNWT) Department of Justice. It provides funding and support for individual communities who envision drug-free, healthy communities. It is designed to empower and support communities to fight local substance addictions issues.

“With *Not Us!*, communities are taking a stand and telling drug dealers that they are not welcome, and teaching our kids that using drugs and alcohol is not acceptable,” said Minister of Justice, Jackson Lafferty. “Through strong partnerships, we are moving towards safer, healthier communities.”

Fort Smith’s *Not Us!* is supported by the following agencies: South Slave Divisional Education Council, Town of Fort Smith, RCMP, Public Health, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority, Salt River First Nation, Smiths Landing First Nation, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 239, Uncle Gabes Friendship Centre, Fort Smith Seniors Society and Slave River Journal/Cascade Graphics.

Launched in March 2010, *Not Us!* has funded campaigns in Hay River, Inuvik, Dettah, N’dilo, and now Fort Smith, with several other communities hoping to launch their own initiatives in the coming year.

Not Us! is part of the *Healthy Choices Framework*, a GNWT-wide approach that encourages and supports NWT residents to make healthy and safe choices, consistent with the 16th Legislative Assembly’s goal of fostering healthy, educated people.

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R(16)622

NWT Residents Encouraged to Buckle Up

YELLOWKNIFE (April 7, 2011) – The Northwest Territories has Canada’s lowest rate of seat belt use, and in the past five years, unbelted drivers and passengers were 13 times more likely to die as a result of a vehicle collision. This means that two to three deaths each year can be directly attributed to failure to wear a seat belt.

Buckle Up NWT, a new initiative under the GNWT’s Drive Alive program, aims to reduce the number of fatalities each year due to not wearing a seat belt to zero, and increase the NWT rate of seat belt use to the national average.

“Each time there is a fatal collision in the NWT, families, friends, and communities suffer a great loss,” said Transportation Minister, Michael McLeod. “We need to work together to ensure that the use of safety equipment, such as seat belts, becomes second nature for all drivers and passengers so that we can put an end to these preventable tragedies.”

The NWT Fire Chiefs Association is joining with Drive Alive to support Buckle Up NWT. Association President Gerda Groothuizen says their focus is on prevention by encouraging the use of occupant restraints by all residents. “No one wants to be the one who deals with an accident scene where a child or parent has been seriously injured or killed, particularly when we know that the use of seat belts could have prevented that injury or death,” she said. “We will be part of this effort to save lives and reduce the severity of collision-related injuries.”

Over the next two years, the Buckle Up NWT campaign will engage youth as well as experienced drivers with information on the importance of seat belt use, with a particular focus on communities where seat belt use by drivers and passengers is an alarming 38% compared to 92% in Yellowknife. During the campaign, a contest will be held to find the community outside Yellowknife with the highest rate of seat belt use. The fire department of the winning community will receive \$5,000 toward rescue equipment to assist them to respond to vehicle collisions.

Further details about the contest, as well as on additional partnerships to support Buckle Up NWT, will be provided in the coming weeks. For more information, please visit the Department of Transportation website at www.dot.gov.nt.ca.

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Drive Alive is the travel safety information program of the Government of the Northwest Territories, and supports the GNWT's *Building Our Future* strategic initiative by promoting safety on the roads and trails of the NWT.

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R(16)623

New NWT Arts Council Members Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (April 11, 2011) – Four highly qualified Northwest Territories (NWT) residents – Margaret Nazon of Inuvik, Vivian Edgi-Manuel of Fort Good Hope, Barb Tsetso of Fort Simpson, and Leela Gilday of Yellowknife – have been appointed to the NWT Arts Council by Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty.

“The impressive credentials and artistic talent of these individuals will help the NWT Arts Council to meet its mandate of promoting and supporting the abundance of artistic talent that exists in the Northwest Territories,” says Minister Lafferty.

Established in 1985, the Council exists to promote the arts in the NWT. It makes recommendations to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on financial contributions to NWT residents for creative artistic projects. Since its inception, the Council has supported over a 1,000 artists, arts organizations and festivals in the NWT as they pursue creative, artistic activities in all artistic disciplines.

Members are selected for their expertise and abilities in the arts from all five regions of the Northwest Territories – the South Slave, Beaufort-Delta, Dehcho, Sahtu and North Slave. The appointments are for 1 and 2 year terms ending in 2012 and 2013, respectively.

To review the appointed members, see the backgrounder below.

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Backgrounder

New NWT Arts Council Members Announced

Margaret Nazon, of Inuvik, is an established fibre artist. She also has extensive past administrative and teaching experience as the manager of Nor Art International Gallery in Yellowknife, traditional arts instructor at Aurora College in Inuvik, and a sewing instructor in Tsiigehtchic. Ms. Nazon's appointment brings experience in teaching and working with Beaufort-Delta regional artists.

Vivian Edgi-Manuel, of Fort Good Hope, is currently an economic development officer with the K'asho Got'ine Charter Community. In her current position, Ms. Edgi-Manuel assists traditional artists and craftspeople in her community to develop funding proposals and promote their artistic projects and activities. Her appointment brings experience in working with Sahtu regional groups and individuals.

Barb Tsetso is the adult educator at the Aurora College Learning Centre in Fort Simpson where she coordinates traditional arts training programs. Her appointment brings direct work experience in developing and promoting arts and learning activities with community groups and individual artists in the Dehcho region.

Award-winning northern singer/songwriter **Leela Gilday** of Yellowknife also joins the NWT Arts Council. Ms. Gilday works directly with the arts every day through her career as a professional musician. Her appointment brings cultural industry experience as a recording artist, community experience as a performer, and arts jury experience from the Alberta Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts.

Laurie Young, of Fort Smith, is the manager of the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre and continues her term as the Arts Council representative for the South Slave region. Ms. Young is a practicing visual artist and founding member of The Artists of the South Slave Society (TASSS). As Chairperson, she brings experience as a member of the Council and ensures continuity of Council functions.

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R(16)624

Winter Road and Ice Crossing Season in Southern NWT Ending

YELLOWKNIFE (April 11, 2011) – The Mackenzie River Ice Crossing near Fort Providence has closed to all traffic for the season. Surface water and conditions had earlier forced the closure of the Crossing to low clearance vehicles.

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

- Dettah Ice Crossing
- Mackenzie Winter Road system
- Tlicho Winter Road system, and
- Winter road to the community of Trout Lake

The Ice Crossings over the Liard River near Fort Simpson and the N'Dulee Crossing of the Mackenzie River on the road to Wrigley are expected to close to low clearance vehicles within days, with closure for the season expected shortly after. Ice crossings and ice roads in the Inuvik region remain open and are in good condition. Please check the DOT website at www.dot.gov.nt.ca for further updates on these roads and crossings.

The 2010-2011 winter road and ice crossing season has been a successful one. Resupply to the North Slave region and the communities served by the Tlicho and Mackenzie Valley Winter Road systems is substantively complete.

Transportation Minister Michael McLeod thanked the DOT staff and contractors who worked long hours to keep the system operating. “We owe a lot to these people whose experience and skill are called upon to maintain our ice crossings and winter road system,” he said. “They work in sometimes difficult conditions to ensure the communities we serve have the access they need.”

A number of challenges were encountered and dealt with during this winter road and ice crossing season. A major winter storm in March shut down a number of winter road and ice road operations across the NWT for more than a week. Crews in the Tlicho, Deh Cho, Sahtu, and Beaufort Delta worked around-the-clock to re-open the system, and the extra cost of clearing up to two metres of snow from this single storm was more than half a million dollars. Unseasonably warm weather caused a delay in the opening to commercial weight traffic of some ice crossings and an earlier-than-usual closure to a number of southern NWT roads and crossings. And low

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water levels in the Mackenzie River posed challenges in building the ice crossing, raising the possibility that the start of the ferry season at Fort Providence may be delayed due to low water levels.

The Department of Transportation is committed to continuous improvement to meet its responsibility to improve transportation access to communities, one of the actions identified under the Reducing the Cost of Living strategic initiative.

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R(16)625

National Victims of Crime Awareness Week: April 10-16, 2011

YELLOWKNIFE (April 11, 2011) – Victim service workers across the Northwest Territories (NWT) are commemorating National Victims of Crime Awareness Week, April 10-16.

The theme for this year is: *Many Voices, Many Paths*. It reflects the ability of victim service workers to assist victims in addressing the harm caused to them so they can move forward on the path to healing.

“Victims must be supported to speak out about what has happened to them,” said Justice Minister, Jackson Lafferty. “We must hold people who cause harm to others accountable for their actions and provide appropriate help for the victims of their crimes. Victim services workers provide the support victims need when they need it most.”

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

- Help to understand and prepare for the court process;
- Safety planning;
- Emotional support in person or by phone;
- Referrals to relevant community agencies to address issues;
- Help to complete a Victim Impact Statement;
- Information on the Victim Notification Program;
- Help for victims of serious violent crime to complete a Victims of Crime Emergency Fund application; and
- Information about the progress of the victim’s case.

The victim services program contributes to the 16th Legislative Assembly’s goal of ensuring communities are sustainable, vibrant and safe, and is one way the GNWT works with families and communities to improve the well-being of residents.

To find out about events in your community, contact your local Victim Services office, or go to <http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/VictimServices/VictimsofCrimeAwarenessWeek2011.shtml>

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R(16)626

Premier Asks Federal Candidates for Positions on Key Issues

YELLOWKNIFE (April XX) – Premier Floyd K. Roland has written to leaders of the federal political parties seeking their position on four key areas of importance to residents of the Northwest Territories (NWT).

He says Western Arctic voters need to know where their candidates and parties stand on questions regarding Governance, Economic Development, Fiscal priorities and the Environment.

In particular, the Premier wants to know what Western Arctic Candidates will do to advance the Agreement in Principle on Devolution. “Delaying or suspending the Devolution negotiations process now for the sake of a few votes is not in the interest our Territory or its residents,” the Premier cautioned.

The Premier’s letter was sent yesterday to the leaders of the Conservative Party, the Liberal Party, the New Democratic Party and the Green Party. It was copied to each of the candidates in the Western Arctic riding.

In addition to questions concerning Governance and Devolution, it asks Western Arctic Candidates to provide positions on the Mackenzie Valley Highway, Mackenzie Gas Project, Regulatory Improvement, and Infrastructure Investment Program Renewal; Fiscal priorities including Health Care, Housing and the NWT’s Borrowing Authority; Climate change and Water Management.

The Premier has asked for responses by April 25th, 2011. Responses to the Premier’s letter will be posted online for NWT residents to read.

For more information, contact: **Rebecca Alty**
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THE PREMIER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

APR 12 2011

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., MP
Prime Minister of Canada
Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada
1720 – 130 ALBERT STREET
OTTAWA ON K1P 5G4

The Honourable Michael Ignatieff, P.C., M.P.
Leader of the Official Opposition
Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada
81 METCALFE STREET SUITE 400
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The Honourable Jack Layton, P.C., M.P.
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada
300 – 279 LAURIER WEST
OTTAWA ON K1P 5J9

Ms. Elizabeth May
Leader of the Green Party of Canada
PO BOX 997, STATION B
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Dear Sirs/Madam:

The Northwest Territories has made significant progress since I last wrote to party leaders during the 2008 election campaign asking leaders to state, on the record, your party's positions on priority issues for the Northwest Territories.

After many years of hard work, we have recently signed an Agreement in Principle on Devolution and the National Energy Board has given the green light for the Mackenzie Gas Project. Canada's investment in the long term economic sustainability of the NWT is already producing tangible results with the Project Description Reports for the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk underway.

Understanding that the NWT has the potential to fuel nation building projects, and that the actions taken today will have profound impacts for future generations, territorial residents have a right to know where you and your party stands on issues of critical importance to our region. We look to you for leadership and firm answers to the questions that follow.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
YELLOWKNIFE, NT
CANADA X1A 2L9
Telephone (867) 669-2311
Facsimile (867) 873-0385

.../2

1) DEVOLUTION AND GOVERNANCE

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is pleased to have secured an Agreement in Principle with the Government of Canada and, at present, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Northwest Territory Métis Nation, earlier this year. Devolution of authority over public lands and water has long been a priority of the GNWT and is the next logical step in the political development of our territory. Concluding the final agreement and undertaking necessary implementation work are required to achieve this longstanding objective.

- **Will your party honour the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement in Principle and commit the necessary resources to conclude and implement a Final Agreement expeditiously?**
- **What commitment will you make that the NWT will have a say in land-related decisions, such as the creation of national parks, while a Final Agreement is negotiated?**

Concluding and implementing land, resource and self-government agreements is of critical importance to the GNWT, Aboriginal governments and the people of the NWT. Such agreements help clarify outstanding Aboriginal rights and provide certainty with respect to land ownership. The challenge ahead is to ensure the implementation of these agreements generates the promised, and expected, benefits.

- **Both the territorial and federal governments have important obligations under these agreements. How will your party ensure the federal government meets its obligations under existing land, resource and self-government agreements in the NWT?**
- **How will you ensure that communities with self-government agreements have the necessary resources to fully implement their settlements?**

2) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Legal authority over resources is only one part of the equation. Access to those resources, and unleashing their economic potential, is just as essential.

Mackenzie Valley Highway

The strategic value of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH) has been detailed repeatedly in documents including *Connecting Canada: Coast to Coast to Coast* and, most recently, *Northern Connections: A Multi-Modal Transportation Blueprint for the North*.

The construction of a north-south highway is vital to reach many of the NWT's deposits of oil and gas, minerals and metals, and lakes and rivers with hydroelectric power potential. Improved infrastructure will also increase connections among communities, reducing living costs for NWT residents, making territorial businesses more competitive, and creating meaningful opportunities to diversify the economy in many of our more remote communities. Not to be overlooked, investment in the NWT's transportation infrastructure is an effective demonstration of Canada's sovereignty.

Construction of the MVH would assist us in adapting to changing climatic conditions. An all-weather link through the Mackenzie Valley would alleviate the increasing problems associated with reduced winter road reliability and reduced periods of operation.

A recent economic analysis of the impacts of constructing the Mackenzie Valley Highway found there would be 14,000 jobs during construction, a 20% increase in tourism, \$15.7 million in additional disposable income annually, as well as savings of \$1.5 to \$2.2 billion (exploration and well development) for the oil and gas industry if the Mackenzie Gas Project also proceeds.

- **Recognizing that new transportation infrastructure remains a federal responsibility in the NWT, how would your party support the construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk?**
- **Funding of \$150 million over five years for the construction of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk segment of the MVH was identified in the recent federal budget. What is your position on this?**

Mackenzie Gas Project

The recent issuance of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity by the National Energy Board for the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline Project provides the necessary regulatory approval for this long sought initiative. Developed responsibly, this project will transform the economy of the NWT and provide southern markets with a reliable supply of clean energy for decades to come.

In addition to bolstering Canada's reputation as a world energy superpower, construction of the pipeline would create thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic activity across Canada. The potential impacts of the Mackenzie Gas Project during its lifetime are exceptional – over 200,000 person years of employment, \$86.3 billion in GDP and \$10 billion in tax revenues for the federal government. Clearly, what's good for the NWT is great for Canada.

As a direct beneficiary of these economic benefits, the federal government has an obligation to contribute to this extraordinary economic opportunity – just as it did for many years when today's energy powerhouse provinces, like Newfoundland and Labrador, Alberta and Saskatchewan, were first developing their resource wealth. The NWT expects nothing less than the chance to repeat their success.

- **Are you and your party committed to seeing the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline project proceed?**
- **How quickly can the NWT expect action on this priority initiative if your party forms government?**

Regulatory Improvement

The Northwest Territories is experiencing historically low investment in resource exploration and development across the territory due largely to our complex regulatory regime. Resource development investment, from grass roots exploration to full project development, is key to the NWT's self-sufficiency and prosperity.

- **What are the key regulatory improvements that you would support to encourage economic development in the NWT?**
- **In light of the signing of the Devolution AIP how would you see Canada engaging GNWT in regulatory improvement initiatives?**

Infrastructure Investment Program Renewal

While the Northwest Territories has benefited from recent federal infrastructure programs such as the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund, the Building Canada Plan and the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, we are still facing growing infrastructure deficits in the areas of municipal infrastructure, transportation and information technology infrastructure. Aging and underdeveloped infrastructure, increasing resource development pressures, and climate change impacts are contributing to this growing infrastructure deficit. There is a pressing need for the federal government to develop, in consultation with the three territorial governments, a long-term base plus funding program that addresses the unique issues and challenges of Northern infrastructure.

- **With current federal infrastructure programs such as the Building Canada Plan, Infrastructure Stimulus Fund and Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund drawing to a close, what will you and your party do to ensure the unique infrastructure needs of the NWT are addressed?**
- **What would you do to improve communications infrastructure in the NWT, including high-speed internet service?**

3) FISCAL PRIORITIES

The high cost of providing essential public services such as health care and education in the NWT continues to present challenges to our government. To ensure the continued sustainability of remote communities, to build and maintain a healthy society and to increase NWT residents' quality of life, we need assurance of continued federal fiscal support.

- **The GNWT counts on adequate and stable funding through the Territorial Formula Funding (TFF) arrangements to provide essential public services to NWT residents. Do you commit your party to ensuring adequate ongoing TFF levels?**
- **Recognizing the high per capita costs of delivering health services in a large, sparsely populated territory, what will you and your party do to provide fair, sustainable health care funding – above the Canada Health Transfer – in the NWT?**
- **Do you commit your party to ensuring there will be no additions to the *Canada Health Act* (e.g. long-term care, pharmaceuticals) without full funding by the federal government?**

- **Would you support forgiving student loans for graduating medical and health care graduates in return for service in rural/remote northern communities?**

Housing needs in the NWT are far greater than in southern jurisdictions as a result of the region's geographic, climatic, economic and social conditions. The high cost of building, maintaining and operating housing in the territory make housing unaffordable for a large proportion of the population, particularly in small non-market communities, without government support. Recent capital investments by the federal and territorial governments are a short-term step in addressing NWT housing needs. However a great deal of work, collaboration and ongoing investment is vital if the growing need for housing and the challenges posed by our aging housing stock are to be addressed over the long term.

- **How will you and your party help to address the critical shortage of social and affordable housing to sustain the NWT's social housing stock?**
- **What will you do to address the decreasing level of support for operations and maintenance from the federal government?**

Borrowing Authority

Currently the GNWT requires federal government approval in order to borrow. The size and definition of the limit set by Canada on this authority have a very real impact on the GNWT's ability to support needed investments in infrastructure that will grow the NWT economy and improve the lives of our residents. Canada needs to consider its role in the long term development of the NWT. A longer term perspective on the borrowing limit, one that enables the GNWT to make large, financially sustainable, investments would be a win for both Canada and the NWT.

The GNWT is committed to our *Fiscal Responsibility Policy* which is based on the principle of living within our means and avoiding unaffordable levels of debt. If there must be a legislated borrowing limit, a formula-based approach mirroring the requirements of the *Fiscal Responsibility Policy* is preferable to an arbitrary amount.

- **Does your party support the establishment of a responsible borrowing limit that reflects the fiscal maturity of the GNWT and that facilitates badly needed infrastructure investment in the Northwest Territories?**

4) ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Climate change

NWT residents are already experiencing the dramatic impacts of climate change. Permafrost degradation, changing snow loads, changing water flows and shoreline erosion threaten existing infrastructure and facilities throughout the NWT. It also advocates integrating climate change risks in to new infrastructure planning, incorporating traditional and local knowledge into planning, and developing new technologies and materials responsive to the changing northern climate. Governments and residents of the NWT are taking action to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and to identify ways to adapt to changes in our climate. However, adaptation measures will require substantial investment in community and transportation infrastructure. Investment is also needed to develop renewable energy.

- **What programs will you and your party implement specifically to help the NWT further reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and to assist the territory in adapting to and mitigating the existing and anticipated impacts of climate change?**

Water Management

The federal government currently has the mandate for water management in the NWT. In May 2010, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the GNWT signed *Northern Voices, Northern Waters – NWT Water Stewardship Strategy*. The Strategy represents a significant policy commitment on the parts of the Governments of Canada and the NWT to ensure the “Waters of the Northwest Territories will remain clean, abundant and productive for all time.” Yet, the Strategy alone is not enough. Only concrete and well-funded actions will achieve our joint objectives.

- **What actions and funding commitments toward water monitoring and research is your party prepared to make to advance the Action Plan in support of the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy?**
- **Does your party support the recommendations of the scientific team contained in “Lower Athabasca – Water Quality Monitoring Plan – Phase 1”, and will you commit to developing and implementing a holistic monitoring program within the NWT in subsequent phases of this Plan?**

MOVING FORWARD

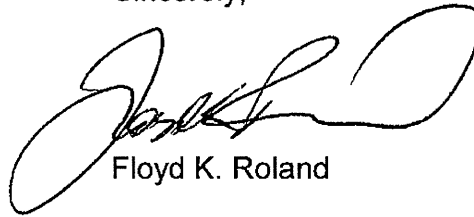
While not an exhaustive list of the challenges and opportunities facing the NWT, this overview of our priorities highlights the issues of greatest importance to the Government and people of the Northwest Territories.

The GNWT recognizes the necessity, and power, of partnerships – with the federal government and also with Aboriginal governments, industry, and communities. Working together holds the key to a stronger NWT. We are anxious to learn how you see our government's relationship with the incoming federal government unfolding in the years ahead.

Your considered response is important to the future of the NWT, and to all of Canada. Written answers to the questions we have posed will further inform NWT residents and facilitate their decision-making regarding the upcoming election. This letter, as well as your responses to it received by April 25, 2011, will be made public on the GNWT website. .

Thank you for your attention to this during a busy campaign period.

Sincerely,



Floyd K. Roland

c. Mr. Dennis Bevington, M.P.
Western Arctic Candidate
New Democratic Party of Canada

Mrs. Sandy Lee
Western Arctic Candidate
Conservative Party of Canada

Mr. Joe Handley
Western Arctic Candidate
Liberal Party of Canada

Mr. Eli Purchase
Western Arctic Candidate
Green Party of Canada

Ms. Bonnie Dawson
Western Arctic Candidate
Animal Alliance Environment Voters Party of Canada

R(16)627

Realizing NWT Potential Requires Agreement on Devolution – Premier

YELLOWKNIFE (April 15, 2011) – Premier Floyd K. Roland says negotiations to devolve administrative responsibility for public lands and resources are about giving the future of the Northwest Territories (NWT) a chance.

“It’s about giving our young business people opportunities to grow their North and to achieve success,” the Premier told Members and guests of the Norman Wells Chamber of Commerce last night.

“The thing about potential is that that is all it is... until we take action and realize it.”

Speaking in Norman Wells, the Premier said all NWT residents need to be the benefactors of their decisions and the stewards of their lands.

“Whether you’ve lived here six months, 20 years or your entire life, Devolution benefits us all and allows us to make our own decisions about our collective future.”

A final Devolution agreement will transfer responsibilities and decision making for public lands and resources in the NWT from Canada to the Government of the Northwest Territories. It will not affect Aboriginal or treaty rights, and will not interfere with the settlement of land claims or self-government agreements by Aboriginal Governments in the NWT.

The Premier is committed to advancing negotiations on Devolution and continues to meet with NWT leaders, communities and organizations to correct misinformation and increase understanding about the Agreement-in-Principle signed in January.

For more information, contact:

Rebecca Alty
Communications Officer
Office of the Premier/Cabinet
Government of the Northwest Territories
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R(16)628

Students Compete at 2011 Skills Canada NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (April 18, 2011) – Yellowknife’s high schools will be bustling with activity tomorrow as students, apprentices, trades professionals and visitors take part in the 2011 Skills Canada Northwest Territories (NWT) Competition. With over 90 competitors registered, the 13th Annual Territorial Skills Competition sees educators, industry and labour professionals celebrating and supporting the future of trades in the NWT.

“Providing opportunities for NWT students, parents and residents to recognize and explore different career paths is vital to the future of our territory,” says the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Jackson Lafferty. “Through Skills Clubs and competitions, Skills Canada NWT encourages youth to consider pursuing skilled trades and technologies.”

“Thanks to support from the government, Skills Canada NWT is able to reach more and more youth in the NWT,” adds Ms. Kelly Arychuk, President of Skills Canada NWT. “We’re excited by the growing number of schools and communities that are hosting Skills Clubs, which lead to broader participation in events like this Territorial Skills Competition. All of these things increase awareness of career opportunities in skilled trades and technology – careers that are essential to the health of our northern economy.”

To further engage youth, Skills Canada NWT is piloting a “Try-a-Skill” tent where visitors can try hands-on activities related to skilled trades and technology, and including a cultural sewing demonstration, with the hope to include it as a full contest area in 2012.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to helping residents gain the knowledge and skills to reach their full potential, lead fulfilled lives and contribute to a strong and prosperous society. Skills Canada NWT helps build possibilities for a strong future by providing youth and apprentices with a chance to demonstrate and challenge their skills while gaining hands on experience and instruction.

Details about this year’s competition, including contest areas and locations, are available in the backgrounder below.

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For more information, contact:

Ashley Green

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Jan Fullerton

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**Territorial Skills Competition 2011 Schedule
April 19, 2011**

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Registration of Volunteers, Judges & Tech Chairs (St. Pat's)
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration of Competitors (St. Pat's)
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Opening Ceremony and Orientation (St. Pat's)
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Competition Events (Contest Sites) Career Expo (St. Pat's and Sir John gyms)
12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	<i>Lunch – Supplied by Skills Canada (St. Pat's, Sir John & KCTC)</i>
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Competition Events (Contest Sites) Career Expo (St. Pat's and Sir John gyms)
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Submission of judges scores
6:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Closing Reception (Explorer Hotel)
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Medal presentations & Closing Ceremony (Explorer Hotel)

Contest Locations:

Akaitcho Trades & Technical Centre: Auto Service, TV/Video Production

École Sir John Franklin High School: Baking (kitchen), Electrical Wiring, Millwright, Plumbing, Small Engine Repair

École St. Patrick High School: Aesthetics, Cooking (kitchen), Graphic Design, Hairstyling, Workplace Safety, Sewing Demonstration, Photography

Kimberlite Career & Technical Centre (KCTC): Carpentry, Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Welding

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R(16)629

Ministers Say Economic Potential High - Devolution Critical

YELLOWKNIFE (April 20, 2011) – The potential for ongoing growth in the NWT economy and the key role Devolution will play were highlighted yesterday by Deputy Premier, J. Michael Miltenberger, and the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod, at the Annual General Meeting of the NWT Chamber of Commerce in Yellowknife.

Speaking on behalf of the Premier, Minister Miltenberger emphasized the need for residents of the NWT to have direct control over their future.

“All Governments and people of the NWT must play a role in decisions concerning our collective future,” the Minister said. “Living up to our potential as a territory is always going to be difficult – if not impossible – unless we have authority over our own lands, waters and resources.”

Minister McLeod highlighted the potential economic impacts of large scale infrastructure investments like the Mackenzie Gas Project and the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

“The pipeline is a basin-opening project and nation-building endeavour that will be a key economic driver for our future. Constructed and operated in an environmentally and socially responsible way, the pipeline will provide a secure supply of natural gas to southern markets,” said Minister McLeod.

Minister McLeod also spoke of the potential associated with the diamond and mineral projects currently being considered in the NWT including the proposed Gahcho Kue mine, Prairie Creek lead zinc mine and the Nechalacho rare earth project.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)629 30

Immunization Awareness Week: April 23 - 30, 2011

YELLOWKNIFE (April 26, 2011) – This year’s theme for National Immunization Week, April 23 - 30, is: *Immunization Protects Everyone*.

In the last 50 years, immunization has saved more lives in Canada than any other health intervention which is why the Government of the Northwest Territories is urging residents to ensure their immunization records, and their children’s, are kept up-to-date.

“By immunizing yourself, you also protect others from vaccine-preventable diseases,” said Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger. “Thanks to our hardworking frontline health care professionals who deliver our immunization programs, and our responsible residents who get immunized, the NWT has one of the highest immunization coverage rates – 75% – in all of Canada.”

One of the priorities in the Department of Health and Social Services action plan, *A Foundation for Change*, is to improve vaccination rates across the NWT and improve communication around diseases.

For more information, contact:

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Department of Health and Social Services
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R(16)62X 31

Grand Opening of the Hay River Territorial Supported Living Campus Day Program

YELLOWKNIFE (April 26, 2011) – The Hay River Territorial Supported Living Campus' day program centre is celebrating its grand opening this Thursday. The day program centre will offer programs for moderate to severe cognitively disabled adult residents and clients.

“One of the priorities in the *A Foundation for Change* action plan is to work with partners and stakeholders to improve the quality of life for Northerners with disabilities,” said the Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger. “The new center will provide residents and clients with an opportunity for personal growth, life skills, peer and social supports in their own community.”

The addition of the day program center will also allow the repatriation of NWT residents currently living in the south.

Media are invited to the grand opening of the day program centre, located near the HH Williams Memorial Hospital and Woodland Manor in Hay River.

When: Thursday, April 28, 2011

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Address: 52 Woodland Drive, Hay River

Since the Hay River Territorial Supported Living Campus opened two years ago, it has helped people with disabilities live independently within their community. It is equipped to house up to 12 residents, including two beds for respite care.

For more information, contact:

Damien Healy

Manager, Communications

Department of Health and Social Services

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R(16)632

South Slave Minister's Regional Forum on Aboriginal Student Achievement Focuses on Revitalizing Language and Culture

YELLOWKNIFE (Thursday, April 28, 2011) – Language and culture revitalization was the focus of the South Slave Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA) Minister's Regional Forum on Hay River's K'atlo'deeche First Nation Reserve, April 5 to 7, 2011.

This was the fifth in a series of forums hosted by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty, to hear from community and youth representatives, educators and Aboriginal governments. Feedback from the forums will help direct development of territorial, as well as community specific, education plans.

“The Northwest Territories (NWT) is unique in its multitude of recognized languages and cultures,” says the Minister. “Many of our Aboriginal languages are disappearing; we must work diligently to preserve and revitalize these, which in turn revitalize our cultures. We will succeed by working together to develop a plan to engage our children and youth in their Aboriginal language.”

K'atlo'deeche First Nations Chief, Roy Fabian, spoke to the importance of Dene language and culture. “The expressed concern for the well being of young Dene in the future is in all the hearts of the people involved in the Forum. Returning to the Spirit of being Dene with strong Dene beliefs, values, knowledge and skills based on the Integrity of the Land is vital for Dene Culture and Language to survive.”

“It was a great workshop. It really widened my eyes on what the education system is lacking and why,” says grade 12 Diamond Jenness Storefront School student, Tali Warrington. “I believe that the people are going to take what we youth have been saying and make some progress in upgrading our educational system.”

Grade 11 student, Jake Basil, of Lutsel K'e Dene School, says, “I think this is a great way to get everyone's ideas coming together and sharing options and ideas to rebuild our cultures and traditions for the future.”

Mattie McNeill's comments, as the former principal of Chief Sunrise School, long time South Slave educator and keynote speaker, mirrored the high school students' outlook. “I think this

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forum is an opportunity for us to explore our willingness to shift and share power for decision making and political action in order to improve Aboriginal student achievement.”

The sixth and final meeting of a series of regional forums throughout the 2010-2011 school year will take place in Inuvik on May 3-5. Discussions will focus on the ASA priorities of early childhood education, family and student supports, Aboriginal Language and Culture and literacy.

For more information, please contact:

Ashley Green

Public Affairs Officer

Education, Culture and Employment

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R(16)633

Premier Releases Responses on Key Election Issues

YELLOWKNIFE (April 27, 2011) – Premier Floyd K. Roland has released responses from federal leaders and candidates to his April 12th letter requesting their positions on issues of importance to the people of the Northwest Territories.

The Premier asked leaders of the federal political parties to respond to questions on Governance, Devolution, Economic Development, Fiscal priorities and Environmental concerns.

“This is a pivotal time for the future of the Northwest Territories,” the Premier noted. “It is important that NWT residents have a strong representative voice at the National level. I encourage voters to read and consider these responses in their efforts to cast a fully informed ballot.”

For an electronic version of the responses or the letter from the Premier, click [here](#).

For more information, contact:

Victoria Velez
Media Liaison
Office of the Premier and Executive Council
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Tel: (867) 669-2302

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April 24, 2011

The Hon. Floyd K. Roland
Premier
Northwest Territories
Legislative Assembly
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9

Dear Premier Roland:

Thank you for your letter of April 12, 2011 asking about the policies of the New Democratic Party of Canada as they concern the people of the Northwest Territories. At the outset, let me first say how much I have enjoyed my visits to the NWT. I have always received a warm reception from Northerners. I believe this is because Northern values and NDP values are often very similar.

The NWT is well served by MP Dennis Bevington. Dennis, more so than any other MP, has put on to the national stage the real concerns of the North. Because of his efforts, for example, Northerners received an increase to the Northern Residents Tax Deduction. He was also successful in having the House of Commons Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development conduct an in-depth study into Northern Economic Development. He ensured that funding commitments for the expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve were guaranteed in writing. Dennis was also able to build majority House of Commons support for his bill to increase the borrowing limit for the NWT.

I have answered your questions below in the order in which they were asked. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide the people of the Northwest Territories with specific and detailed answers to their many issues and concerns.

Sincerely,



Jack Layton
Leader, Canada's New Democrats

Devolution and Governance

- **Question:** Will your party honour the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement in Principle and commit the necessary resources to conclude and implement the Final Agreement expeditiously?
- **Answer:** The attainment of province- like powers by the Northwest Territories is fully supported by the New Democratic Party of Canada. We disagree however with the manner by which the current agreement-in-principle was reached. For example, a New Democrat Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development would never renege on the fiduciary duty to the Aboriginal people of the North in the manner that Minister Duncan did by his refusal to meet with the Dene. The history of constitutional development in the NWT has shown conclusively that cooperation and agreement with all stakeholders is the key to success.

With regards to the current devolution agreement-in-principle, a New Democrat government would review it with the intent of ensuring the maximum transfer of province-like powers to the people of the NWT. We would achieve this objective through a tri-partite process involving representatives of the Aboriginal people of the NWT, the Territorial Government and the Government of Canada.

- **Question:** What commitment will you make that the NWT will have a say in land-related decisions, such as the creation of national parks, while a final agreement is negotiated?
- **Answer:** For far too long the federal government made decisions about the lands of the Northwest Territories -- without involving Northerners. A recent example of this was the decision by the Conservative government to allow sub-surface protection of the Edehzhie (Horn Plateau) area of the Dehcho to lapse October 31, 2010. The Harper Conservatives took this action, despite a plea by your own Minister of the Environment to continue the protection of Edehzhie.

A New Democrat government would work, in cooperation with NWT governments, Aboriginal and public, in making decisions about the future of Northern lands.

- **Question:** Both the territorial and federal governments have important obligations under these agreements. How will your party ensure the federal

government meets its obligations under existing land, resource and self-government agreements in the NWT?

- **Answer:** A New Democrat government, as part of a national policy of renewal, will build a new partnership on a nation-to-nation basis with the Dene, Inuvialuit and Métis people of the NWT. This national policy will restore a central element of social justice and reconcile the hopes of Aboriginal people with those of all Canadians. A key element in this will be respecting the full intent of the modern treaties. As such, a New Democrat government would completely fulfil its obligations to the North's many agreements.
- **Question:** How will you ensure that communities with self-government agreements have the necessary resources to implement fully their settlements?
- **Answer:** At our 2006 national convention, delegates from the Northwest Territories insisted that our policies regarding implementation funding for Aboriginal agreements must meet the full cost of implementation and that incremental funding for public governments must also meet the full cost of implementation.

Economic Development and Sustainability

- **Question:** Recognizing that new transportation infrastructure remains a federal responsibility in the NWT, how would your party support the construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk?
- **Answer:** In our 2011 election platform, we commit to creating a **Northern Highways investment fund** designed to assist in the completion of the Mackenzie Valley Highway. A New Democrat government would introduce amendments to the *Northwest Territories Act* transferring this authority to the territories. MP Bevington introduced a private member's bill to do this April 30, 2009.
- **Question:** Funding of over \$150 million over five years for the construction of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk segment of the MVH was identified in the recent federal budget. What is your position on this?
- **Answer:** We note that the promised funding for this vital infrastructure project would only start next year and only at the rate of \$30 million per

year. We believe that this level of funding is insufficient to complete the highway construction project.

The first priority of our Northern Highways investment fund would be to secure the completion of the Dempster Highway from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk. At the same time, we would re-examine the more than \$300 million dollars in planned cuts to Northern programs as laid out in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development's 2011-12 Expenditure Plan. We think it is wrong to cut back funding which supports Northern youth and women, builds community capacity and provides environmental protection while only promising future funding for the highway. New Democrats believe all these are important, and accordingly, should be properly supported.

- **Question:** Are you and your party committed to seeing the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline project proceed?
- **Answer:** New Democrats have supported and continue to support this important project. We recognize that oil and gas will continue to play a prominent role in our energy mix in the medium term. We will develop - in consultation and cooperation with provincial, territorial and Aboriginal governments, unions, energy providers, environmental organizations, and other stakeholders - a comprehensive strategy for our country's long-term energy security in a lower carbon future. Our energy policies will put Canadians first.

In Northern terms, this means the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline must only proceed in a manner that protects the environment, respects land, resources and self-government agreements, while providing significant benefits to Northerners.

- **Question:** How quickly can the NWT expect action on this priority initiative if your party forms government?
- **Answer:** Because completion of the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline would significantly improve Canada's energy security and the reduced greenhouse gas footprint from the burning of natural gas, a New Democrat government would take all appropriate steps to ensure this project is completed in a timely fashion.
- **Question:** What are the key regulatory improvements that you would support to encourage economic development in the NWT?

- **Answer:** The current system of environmental and other regulatory approvals in the Northwest Territories grew from a desire by Northerners to have a say in how their lands and waters are used. New Democrats fully support the environmental regulatory processes as laid out in land claim final agreements like the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.

There is still work to be done, however, to perfect these systems. New Democrats support many of the recommendations of “Road to Improvement” also known as the McCrank Report. For example, the NDP fully supports recommendation number one. “A priority should be given to completing the Land Use Plans in all areas, and obtaining their approval from the federal government.” We also support the recommendations concerning impact benefit agreements, closing gaps in environmental protections, and cumulative impact-monitoring, to name a few.

- **Question:** In light of the signing of the Devolution AIP how would you see Canada engaging GNWT in regulatory improvement initiatives?
- **Answer:** A New Democrat government would work in cooperation with the governments of the Northwest Territories, Aboriginal and public. We would use this tripartite process to implement changes with a goal to increasing the amount of control Northerners have over how their lands and waters are protected.
- **Question:** With current federal infrastructure programs such as the Building Canada Plan, Infrastructure Stimulus Fund and Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund drawing to a close, what will you and your party do to ensure the unique infrastructure needs of the NWT are addressed?
- **Answer:** As we state in our 2011 election platform, a New Democrat government would continue current federal infrastructure funding commitments, like those under the *Building Canada Fund*.

We will also develop a stable, predictable Canadian infrastructure plan, to include; funding public transit by one additional cent of the existing gas tax, significant new funding for affordable and social housing; maintaining the Gateways and Border Crossings Fund, creating a Northern Highways investment fund, providing federal investment in major green energy projects across the country and funding for sewer and water treatment. As it is NDP policy, any infrastructure funding for the North must take into consideration the cost of doing business in the North.

- **Question:** What would you do to improve communications infrastructure in the NWT, including high-speed internet service?
- **Answer:** In our platform, New Democrats commit to ensuring all Canadians have access to broadband and a robust digital economy. To achieve this, we will apply the proceeds from the advanced wireless spectrum auction to ensure all Canadians, no matter where they live, will have quality high-speed broadband internet access. We will expect the major internet carriers to contribute financially to this goal.

Fiscal Priorities

- **Question:** The GNWT counts on adequate and stable funding through the Territorial Formula Funding (TFF) agreements to provide essential public services to NWT residents. Do you commit your party to ensure adequate ongoing TFF levels?
- **Answer:** New Democrats believe in fairness in Canada's dealings with its partners in Confederation. At our 2008 national convention, delegates from the Northwest Territories were instrumental in seeing that our policies ensure that funding for Canada's territories should be based on the actual cost of delivering government programs and services in the North. This policy is in sharp contrast to the approach from the Conservatives and Liberals that both insist on using a per-capita formula which short changes the North.
- **Question:** Recognizing the high per capita costs of delivering health services in a large, sparsely populated territory, what will you and your party do to provide fair, sustainable health care funding – above the Canada Health Transfer – in the NWT?
- **Answer:** As we outline in our platform, a New Democrat Government would negotiate a new ten-year health accord with the provinces and territories in 2014. The accord will guarantee a continued strong federal contribution – including the 6 per cent escalator - to Canada's public health care system – in return for a clear, monitored and enforced commitment to respect the principles of the *Canada Health Act* and to the integrity and modernization of health care. As noted above, it is NDP policy that the special conditions and costs of delivering government programs and services in the North must be taken into consideration when funding is provided.

- **Question:** Do you commit your party to ensuring there will be no additions to the *Canada Health Act* (e.g. long-term care, pharmaceuticals) without full funding by the federal government?
- **Answer:** New Democrats believe that downloading of costs to other levels of government is not in the best interests of Northerners. We would ensure that all necessary and appropriate funding be in-place before additions are made to the *Canada Health Act*.
- **Question:** Would you support forgiving student loans for graduating medical and health care graduates in return for service in rural/remote northern communities?
- **Answer:** In our platform, we commit to working with the provinces and territories to address the shortage of doctors, nurses and other health care professionals. Specifically, our plan calls for training 1,200 new doctors over the next 10 years, adding 6,000 new training spaces for nurses over six years while substantially increasing the number of training spaces for other health professionals. As part of this process, we will work- in collaboration with the provinces and territories- to establish programs aimed at recruiting and supporting low-income, rural and Aboriginal medical students. Forgiving student loans may be a workable element of this process, but a holistic approach developed in cooperation must be used rather than the current 'here's the solution, take it or leave it' approach of the Conservatives.
- **Question:** How will you and your party help to address the critical shortage of social and affordable housing to sustain the NWT's social housing stock?
- **Answer:** The current shortage of social and affordable housing across Canada is directly related to the killing of Canada's housing programs by the Liberals in the 1990's. Since that time, social housing agencies have struggled to meet the growing need for affordable and social housing. The need for housing assistance is most acute in the North, where the percentage of households in core need is much greater than elsewhere.

As part of our platform, we commit to providing significant new funding for affordable and social housing. New Democrats will do this by enacting legislation to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians. To increase the supply of affordable housing, we will restore funding for the homeowners Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program, and the Affordable Housing Initiative. Our platform also commits us to

doubling the funding for forgivable loans under the *Home Adaption for Seniors' Independence Program*, to help elders remain in their own homes.

- **Question:** What will you do to address the decreasing level of support for operations and maintenance from the federal government?
- **Answer:** The decreasing levels of operations and maintenance support from the federal government are directly due to federal policies that have been calculated to shift the costs onto the territories and provinces. While these policies were enacted by the Liberals in the 1990s, they have been fully supported by the Conservatives since 2006.

As I said earlier, New Democrats believe in fairness for all within Confederation. Support for operations and maintenance of social housing must be addressed in any new national housing initiative. A New Democrat government would work in cooperation with the territories, provinces and other housing stakeholders to address the need for on-going operations and maintenance support.

- **Question:** Does your party support the establishment of a responsible borrowing limit that reflects the fiscal maturity of the GNWT and that facilitates badly needed infrastructure investment in the Northwest Territories?
- **Answer:** As you know, New Democrats have already been working on this issue. During the last parliament, Dennis Bevington brought forward his Private Member's bill to increase the borrowing limit for the Northwest Territories. His bill, which received support from the majority of Members of Parliament, would have established the NWT's borrowing limit at 70 per cent of the territories' total estimated revenues. It was unfortunate that the Conservatives were the only party opposing the bill, preferring instead to continue the current situation where the North must first seek permission from Ottawa, before it can borrow.

At committee hearings into the bill, it was revealed by Northwest Territories Finance Department officials that the review of the borrowing limit currently underway was only administrative. They confirmed that this review did not take into consideration the adequacy of the current borrowing limit or whether there is a need for a borrowing limit.

New Democrats do not believe any of the territories should be forced to come, cap-in-hand, asking for Ottawa's permission to borrow the funds

necessary to ensure the people of the North have the basic infrastructure that is often so acutely needed. The Government of the Northwest Territories has shown commendable fiscal maturity and responsibility, as reflected in Moody's Investors Services Aa1 credit rating for the NWT.

New Democrats support the removal of colonial relics like the borrowing limit from the *Northwest Territories Act*. As you stated in the 2006/07 Budget Address, "This borrowing limit flies in the face of the principle of territorial political autonomy. It reflects an outdated and unreasonable view that we cannot make sound financial decisions on our own. And it does not reflect the fact that the Government's borrowing ability should be based on our capacity to finance debt rather than be set at a fixed level."

Environmental Action

- **Question:** What programs will you and your party implement specifically to help the NWT further reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and to assist the territory in adapting to and mitigating the existing and anticipated impacts of climate change?
- **Answer:** Dealing with the crisis of climate change is a central plank in the New Democrat's commitment to Canadians. We are committed to taking practical first steps to tackle climate change. A New Democrat government will adopt the *Climate Change Accountability Act*, legislation to ensure that Canada meets the long-term target of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to a level 80 per cent below that of 1990 by the year 2050, and we will establish interim targets for the period 2015-2045. We will put a price on carbon through a cap-and-trade system, which will establish hard emissions limits for Canada's biggest polluters to ensure companies pay their environmental bills and create an incentive for emissions reductions. As Prime Minister, I will work closely with President Obama and his administration in Washington to ensure a coordinated response to climate change. Our party is committed to advancing the idea of an integrated continental cap-and-trade system ensuring a level economic playing field for North American businesses. A New Democrat government will establish effective programs to help Canadian communities, particularly those in the North where the effects of climate change are being felt the most, to deal with the significant impacts of a warming planet. We will also insist that this nation lives up to our international obligations to assist developing countries in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

- **Question:** What actions and funding commitments toward water monitoring and research is your party prepared to make to advance the Action Plan in support of the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy?
- **Answer:** In 2007, the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly passed a motion declaring, "All peoples have a fundamental human right to water that must be recognized nationally and internationally, including the development of appropriate institutional mechanisms to ensure that these rights are implemented." New Democrats agree with this motion. We also agree with the vision of "Northern Voices, Northern Waters" that, "The waters of the Northwest Territories will remain clean, abundant and productive for all time."

"Northern Voices, Northern Waters" promotes an ecosystem-based approach within watersheds to improve water stewardship that reflects 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 generations. The Strategy will improve decision-making processes, information sharing and communications among all parties involved in water stewardship activities in the NWT.

Providing funding support for an action plan is the next crucial step in ensuring "Northern Voices, Northern Waters" becomes a reality. A New Democrat government would support funding to advance the action plan. Unfortunately, I am concerned that funding for this action plan is part of the more than \$57 million cut from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development's 2011/12 budget for "contributions for promoting the safe use, development, conservation and protection of the North's natural resources."

- **Question:** Does your party support the recommendations of the scientific team contained in "Lower Athabasca – Water Quality Monitoring Plan – Phase 1" and will you commit to developing and implementing a holistic monitoring program within the NWT in subsequent phases of this Plan?
- **Answer:** In our platform, New Democrats state our strong support for science-based monitoring and enforcement for the oil sand sector, particularly the waters of the Athabasca. During the 2008 election at a stop in Fort Smith, I committed to protecting the Athabasca watershed. I made that

commitment on the banks of the Slave River and a government I lead will fully support the implementation of this program.

Monitoring by itself, however, is not sufficient. The federal government must be prepared to take its responsibilities in protecting a watershed that flows through three provinces and the NWT. Canada must be prepared to enforce its laws and, where necessary, introduce stronger regulations to protect the environment.

From: Eli Purchase [eli.purchase@greenparty.ca]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 04:47 PM
To: Floyd Roland
Subject: Questions sent to federal parties

Hello Mr. Premier,

The Green Party has asked me, in association with some of our other northern candidates to prepare this response to your letter.

In addition to these responses, I would like to say that my first priority is the people of the NWT, and this trumps any Party policies. I will work with whichever party is governing to ensure that northerners get a fair shake, and my door will always be open to listen to the concerns of all levels of government, Territorial, Aboriginal self governments, and Municipalities.

1. A) I will work with whichever party forms the government to ensure the NWT is moving forward on a Devolution Agreement that works for the people of the NWT with all necessary resources.

B) I believe any Province or Territory should have a voice at the table with regards to the creation of national parks.

C) Any obligations under existing land, resource and self government agreements must be met by the federal government, no ifs ands or buts.

D) I will support and implement initiatives to ensure communities with self-government agreements have the necessary resources to fully implement the settlements. In order for implementation to be successful, communities need to be supported with strong infrastructure and an investment in education. Additionally We have allocated \$800 M / year specifically to First Nations towards education, safe drinking water and housing. In addition, we propose a complete (fully costed) national affordable housing strategy, to the tune of \$400 M / year, plus \$150 M / year for energy retrofits for low income housing stock. Our municipal program allocates \$2.4 B a year towards six funds that focus on affordable housing, water/wastewater, brownfield remediation, sports/culture/recreation, mass transit, and cycling/pedestrian promotion.

2) A) The MVH needs to be built and I will support all initiatives to build it.

B) The funding for the Inuvik/Tuk highway should be in any federal budget that is tabled once parliament resumes.

C&D) I will work to ensure any development on the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline meets and exceeds the recommendations set out by the National Energy Board, and the regulations in place in the NWT and Canada and that there is sufficient monitoring in place to make sure the project meets those recommendations and regulations. We also need to ensure that the Economic, Environmental, and Social costs of the pipeline are taken into account.

E&F) We need the Land Claims settled and a Devolution Agreement in place so that there is no ambiguity to the regulations in place. Settling the Land Claims and getting a Devolution Agreement in place will encourage economic development in the NWT. Once a Devolution Agreement is in place, it would be up to the Territory to decide what regulatory improvement initiatives should be in place.

G) I will work with those other 125+ rural and northern MPs to educate southern MPs as to the unique infrastructure needs of the NWT. By presenting a united voice in Ottawa, we can make the Government of Canada realise how important these initiatives are to the NWT. The Green Party also has a fully costed municipal program that focuses on six areas: each is allocated a 'Superfund' of \$500 million/fund/year, to which municipalities can apply for grant funding to replace the less specific Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund (CSIF). These areas are:

- a) Community Housing Options Promotion (CHOP) Fund supporting a national housing program to build energy efficient co-ops and affordable housing units where there is a shortage of such housing options;
- b) Water and Waste Treatment Facilities (WWTF) Fund to upgrade water treatment, sewage treatment and recycling facilities to make them efficient, safe and sustainable;
- c) Community Brownfield Remediation (CBR) Fund to provide assistance in cleaning up toxic and brownfield sites;
- d) Sports, Cultural and Recreational Facilities (SCRF) Fund to support the development of green recreational and cultural facilities and refurbish existing facilities;
- e) Mass Transit Promotion (MTP) Fund to improve and expand urban mass transit infrastructure and inter-modal connections, as well as car-sharing initiatives; and,
- f) Cycling and Pedestrian Promotion (CPP) Fund to support pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and smart-growth developments that transform urban areas and towns into walkable communities linked by transit to reduce the need for owning and using cars.

Other relevant goals in our platform include:

- A continuation of the gas tax commitment to allow for stable and predictable funding;
- An increase of the Gas Tax Transfer to municipalities to 5 cents/litre to be used in funding sustainable transportation initiatives such as public transit, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure and rural roads;
- A tax policy shift to create a new pool of long term municipal infrastructure funding by allowing municipalities to issue new Municipal Registered Retirement Savings Plans Bonds (MRRSPBs) which can be held in RRSPs and self-directed RRSPs; and,

- An allocation of one cent from GST on an approximate per capita basis to municipal governments for "Green Cities" initiatives, ensuring (through contractual agreements) that the funding is not used in ways that encourage urban sprawl, but instead to reduce sprawl and greenhouse gas emissions, conserve electricity and water, increase densification, expand convenient, safe, reliable and affordable public transit, and build cycling and walking paths.

H) There are a few initiatives being suggested by the other parties with regards to high-speed internet service in the NWT. These are not sufficient. I have heard goals of 1.5Mbps in every community in 3 years, well I can get better than that on my cell phone in Yellowknife right now. 1.5Mbps was fast ten years ago, making that the end goal is like suggesting we will upgrade everyone's 8-track players to cassette tape players when everyone else is already using iPods. It is not sufficient and leaves every child, business, and government agency at a disadvantage compared to the majority of Canadians. I will work to put real high speed internet into every community. In my opinion, anything less than 5Mbps is not acceptable. The Green Party also recognises that information access should be a right, not a privilege, for all Canadians. We also see that youth are increasingly connected through virtual communities online, and that young people are intrinsic to healthy community development. We are concerned about the increasing corporate control of media, and wish to see arms length media bodies remain free of political interference.

3A) Yes

B) I will work with the other parties to ensure health care funding is sufficient for all Canadian jurisdictions. We are committed to addressing health concerns where we can get the most return for our investment: that is, at the prevention end. We recognize the need for reliable, accessible acute care, and that the best way to reduce wait times and improve over all access to the health care system is to reduce the number of people within it through preventative health care. This includes education as a major component (eg: 500 million annual investment in early childhood education, and programs focusing on first nation education), to ensure that we change direction as a country and start becoming fitter and more active, and make healthier lifestyle and dietary choices. We also propose in our platform a 300million/year investment in a national pharmacare program.

C) Yes

D) Yes. In addition, we have a \$1 Billion allocated to a municipal youth employment program that allows for youth to be employed within their community for a year, completion of which makes them eligible for a tuition credit for post-secondary education.

E) We need a national housing strategy to ensure all Canadians have adequate housing and I will work with the other parties to try and make this happen. As mentioned above, we have allocated \$800 M / year specifically to First Nations towards education, safe drinking water and housing. In addition, we propose a complete (fully costed) national affordable

housing strategy, to the tune of \$400 M / year, plus \$150 M / year for energy retrofits for low income housing stock. Our municipal program allocates \$2.4 B a year towards six funds that focus on affordable housing, water/wastewater, brownfield remediation, sports/culture/recreation, mass transit, and cycling/pedestrian promotion.

F) Whatever I can to keep those levels from decreasing. The Green Party supports the implementation of a tax shift, to move taxes off of things we want, like jobs (ie: income splitting), and onto things we don't want, like carbon emissions. We recognise that Canada's future lies with a clean energy economy, and especially in the north we see that we cannot keep subsidizing oil and gas - we only perpetuate this dependency. the north is being affected very heavily by climate change, and we need to invest in our communities in order to increase their resilience and help support this shift towards a clean energy economy. We focus in our housing initiatives (cited above) on supergreen construction and consequent reductions in energy needs. Also, I recognize that the NWT is looking at a carbon tax, and believe that this would work best at the territorial level, as 9/10 times, Ottawa does not realise the additional burden national strategies like this would put on northerners.

G) Yes

4A) The federal government needs to ensure there is adequate funding for initiatives like the Con Mine Energy Project and ENR's Biomass initiatives.

B&C) There needs to be adequate monitoring of water in the NWT and I would support initiatives to make sure these monitoring agencies have sufficient funding to protect the water of the NWT. We have set aside in our platform 800 million per year towards First Nations focused programs around safe drinking water, housing, and education. Additionally, one of our municipal superfunds (cited above) focuses on water/wastewater.

Thank you so much for your questions, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you need clarification on anything.

Cheers,

Eli Purchase



Liberal Party of Canada | Parti libéral du Canada

81 rue Metcalfe Street, Suite 400
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 6M8

April 25, 2011

The Honourable Floyd K. Roland, M.L.A.
Premier of the Northwest Territories
Legislative Assembly
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
X1A 2E9

PREMIER RECEIVED	APR 26 2011
LOG #	4342
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Dear Premier Roland:

Thank you for your letter of April 12, 2011, in which you outline issues of importance to the Government and citizens of the Northwest Territories. On the subjects that you have identified, the Liberal Party of Canada's positions are below:

Devolution and Governance

The Liberal Party supports devolution, which has been a longstanding goal of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). In pursuit of that goal, a Liberal government will work respectfully with the GNWT and all aboriginal groups in the Northwest Territories to include them and secure their support for an Agreement in Principle. That may require improving that Agreement as part of renewed efforts to achieve results.

A Liberal government would work through the Land Claims Implementation Coalition, to negotiate fair and reasonable terms for full implementation of the spirit and intent of self-government agreements. We will meet with representatives of communities with self government agreements and the GNWT to determine what resources are required.

Economic Development and Sustainability

Mackenzie Valley Highway

The next federal budget under a Liberal government will recommit to funding of \$150 million over five years for the construction of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk segment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH).

A future Liberal government will also work with other levels of government and the private sector to put in place a Canadian Transportation and Infrastructure Strategy that targets long-term economic benefits. As a first step, additional support for the construction of the MVH from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk would be considered. Any plan must ensure maximum socio economic opportunity for each community impacted by the Highway.

- 2 -

Mackenzie Gas Project

The Liberal Party has been very supportive of the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline project, but have maintained that it be done in a responsible, sustainable way, fully recognizing the interests of key communities, including Aboriginal stakeholders. We will explore ways to ensure that the aboriginal pipeline group can maintain ownership of 30% of this project.

With a green light from federal regulatory bodies, a Liberal government will begin work immediately to ensure all Northerners; especially Aboriginal people have access to the appropriate training to be qualified for as many of the construction jobs as possible, as the project proceeds. It is anticipated that the private sector would make a decision at the end of 2013, and would begin construction 2015. Socio-economic development must begin before this.

Regulatory Improvement

Liberals believe in the sustainable, responsible development of Canada's natural resources. Indeed, the goal of regulatory regimes is to ensure that proposed projects will not put Canadians' health at risk, nor cause irreparable damage to the environment. However, we also recognize that regulations should not be an overly burdensome and bureaucratic hindrance to economic development. A Liberal Government would look at ways of increasing efficiency in the regulatory process, without opening settled land claims.

A Liberal government will work closely with the GNWT, other governments, and the private sector to identify regulatory improvements that can further bolster economic development while safeguarding human safety and environmental protection.

Infrastructure Investment Program Renewal

As noted earlier, a Liberal government will work with other levels of government and the private sector to put in place a Canadian Transportation and Infrastructure Strategy to replace the existing federal infrastructure programs when they expire in the coming years. A Liberal government will work directly with the GNWT to identify the unique infrastructure needs of the Northwest Territories as that long term strategy is put in place.

A future Liberal government is committed to achieving the goal of 100% high-speed internet connectivity within three years of being elected. We will be pleased to work directly with the GNWT and the private sector in the achievement of this objective.

Fiscal Priorities

The Liberal Party has committed to maintaining the 6 percent annual increase of the Canada Health Transfer and to convene a First Ministers meeting within 60 days of being sworn into government. We will launch work on new funding arrangements, and system-wide reforms to secure the future of health care in Canada.

.../3

- 3 -

As Prime Minister, I also look forward to working with you and the other territorial premiers on the future of the Territorial Formula Funding arrangement.

To attract new medical professionals to the North, a Liberal government will work with the territories to forgive up to \$40,000 of student debt for doctors and \$20,000 for nurses and nurse practitioners who choose to practice in designated Northern communities. In addition, a Liberal government will also invest \$40 million over the next two years, in partnership with the provinces and territories, to develop and fund additional programs to strengthen rural and remote health services

A Liberal government will work with provincial, territorial and municipal partners to put in place a renewed Affordable Housing Framework. The new Framework will feature a long-term commitment by the federal government, replacing the collection of temporary programs that currently exist. In our first two years in government, Liberals will increase federal investment in affordable housing by \$550 million.

Borrowing Authority

A Liberal government would work with the GNWT to ensure there is a responsible borrowing limit that facilitates additional infrastructure investment in the Northwest Territories.

Environmental Action

Climate Change

A Liberal government will tackle the challenges of climate change head on by launching a Canadian Clean Energy Partnership with the provinces and territories to work together on Canada-wide objectives for managing the transition to the low-carbon economy of the future.

This will include a new, permanent \$400 million Green Home Renovation Tax Credit, an investment in a Renewable Power Production Incentive to quadruple Canada's supply of low-impact renewable energy and the development of a cap-and-trade system.

Water Management

In addition to the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy signed by the Government of Canada and the GNWT in May 2010, a future Liberal government will also work with the provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive Freshwater Strategy to address the challenges of ground water contamination, drought and flooding, as well as better water consumption efficiency. We will begin by investing \$100 million annually towards this Strategy, rising to \$125 million at full implementation.

We commend the work completed thus far for the Lower Athabasca – Water Quality Monitoring Plan, and strongly support the recommendations of the scientific team.

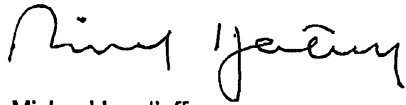
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- 4 -

A Liberal government will also work to finalize the trans-boundary water agreement among those jurisdictions in the Mackenzie River basin.

I would like to thank you again for your letter. I look forward to working with you, and the Government of the Northwest Territories, in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Ignatieff".

Michael Ignatieff
Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada



R(16)634

Premiers release pan-territorial papers on energy and climate change at the Northern Premiers' Forum

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (April 28, 2011) – Territorial premiers released the *Pan-Territorial Adaptation Strategy* and the *Pan-Territorial Renewable Energy Inventory* in Yellowknife today at the conclusion of the ninth annual Northern Premiers' Forum.

“These documents underscore the need for northern governments to work together to address climate change and to explore renewable energy supplies,” said Floyd K. Roland, NWT Premier and chair of this year’s Northern Premiers’ Forum. “These papers build on priorities outlined in our Northern Vision document released in 2007. Territorial governments are working together to expand the use of renewable energy in ways that will reduce the cost of energy for residents, communities, businesses and industry in our North.”

“Northern premiers believe that a pan-territorial approach to important issues leads to a better quality of life for northerners,” said Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie. “We are committed to working on a strategic common approach to highlight to Canada the unique needs of the North in areas such as health care funding and infrastructure development.”

“The predicted effects of climate change stand to have far-reaching effects on the North. Through a collaborative effort, the three territories have prepared these two documents to ensure we both adapt to these changes, and explore our use of renewable energy that will lead us into the future,” said Nunavut Premier Eva Aariak.

Territorial premiers have a long history of cooperation and partnership. Premiers Roland, Fentie, and Aariak are committed to working together to improve the quality of life for all northern residents. The Northern Premiers’ Forum not only formalizes the partnership but also provides an opportunity for the territorial premiers to develop northern solutions to issues of common concern.

The increasing international attention on the circumpolar world, and the economic, environmental and political significance of the Canadian North in particular, underscores the importance of territories working together.

Territorial premiers discussed a number of issues at the forum including:

- circumpolar issues
- health promotion and sustainability
- northern housing
- policing in the North; and
- northern infrastructure

Circumpolar issues played a central role at the forum when premiers met with the Canadian Permanent Participant representatives to talk about the upcoming Arctic Council Ministerial meeting on May 12th in Nuuk, Greenland.

Premiers also discussed their common territorial interests in the work of the Arctic Council and agreed to work together with the federal government to ensure Canada's chairmanship of the Arctic Council, which begins in 2013, is productive and reflects the interests of northerners.

This year's forum will be the last to include the participation of Canada's longest currently serving Premier and NPF co-founder, Hon. Dennis Fentie.

"On behalf of Premier Aariak, I would like to acknowledge the contribution, guidance and commitment that Premier Fentie has provided to this Forum and through it to advancing the issues and interests of Canada's North and its people at the national level," Premier Roland said.

The next Northern Premiers' Forum will be hosted in Nunavut in 2012.

To find documents online, visit www.anorthernvision.ca

For more information, contact:

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Government of Nunavut
867-975-5050

R(16)635

Fred Henne Park Awarded Readers Choice Award from RV West Magazine

Yellowknife (May 2, 2011) Fred Henne Territorial Park has been recognized as a *Favourite Overall RV Destination* in the 2011 Reader's Choice Awards from RV West Magazine.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod says the award is a significant accomplishment because it is awarded by people who have camped in the park and reflects the results and accomplishments of ITI park staff and contractors dedicated to ensuring that the park is kept in top-notch condition for visitors to enjoy.

Every year, RV West surveys readers of both its website and magazine to give readers an opportunity to select a series of "RVing favourites".

"The award confirms that the Northwest Territories has some of the best parks in Western North America," the Minister said.

The Fred Henne Campground is operated by the Bottomline PR Company under an annual contract with the GNWT's Department of Industry Tourism and Investment.

ITI Regional Superintendent Tracy St Denis presented Lisa Tesar and Lona Collins from Bottomline PR Company with the framed Certificate of Recognition from RV West Magazine prior to the North Slave Region's seasonal lot draw yesterday.

"Together with their team, these individuals have played a key part in building and developing the award-winning product that we have established at Fred Henne Territorial Park," Minister McLeod notes.

Under its *Naturally Spectacular Parks* Initiative, delivered by the Department of Industry Tourism and Investment, the GNWT has invested over \$7.8 million in its parks over the last 4 years as a focal element of the NWT's tourism product.

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

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Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111

The tourism sector is an important element of the GNWT's effort to maximize economic opportunities for NWT residents and businesses by promoting and supporting diversification in the NWT economy.

For more information, contact:

Alayna Ward
Manager, Public Affairs and Communications
Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories
(867) 920-8696

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R(16)636

Strong Relationship with Federal Government Bodes Well for NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (May 3) -- Premier Roland today congratulates Hon. Stephen Harper and says he looks forward to building on the strong working relationship that the Government of the Northwest Territories has fostered with the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada.

“Prime Minister Harper’s commitment to northern sovereignty, job creation and nationwide economic rebuilding and the Conservative Government’s endorsement of the Mackenzie Gas Project in March align closely with our goals to maximize the benefits of sustainable development for the benefit of our residents and businesses,” the Premier noted.

Premier Roland says a Conservative Majority Government means that federal investments included in the Tory budget for the Mackenzie Valley Highway can now go ahead – along with negotiations to devolve administrative responsibility for public lands and resources.

“Now is the time to invest in nation building infrastructure projects in Canada’s North that will create thousands of jobs for Canadians, spur economic recovery and foster decades of economic growth for our country, Premier Roland said.

Premier Floyd Roland today also offered his congratulations to the returning Western Arctic Member of Parliament, Dennis Bevington.

“I look forward to establishing a better working relationship with Mr. Bevington, as he takes on the challenging tasks of building and supporting our Territory’s relationship with Canada and advancing the interests of our Territory as a Member of the Official Opposition,” the Premier said.

Drew Williams

Press Secretary for Premier/Cabinet
Government of the Northwest Territories
Phone (867) 669-2304

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R(16)638

**“Nursing – The Health of Our Nation” – celebrating National Nursing Week
May 9 - 15, 2011**

YELLOWKNIFE (May 9, 2011) -- National Nursing Week May 9 to 15, 2011 celebrates the quality health care services nurses provide in the Northwest Territories and across Canada.

This year's theme for celebrating nursing in Canada is *Nursing - The Health of Our Nation*. Together, Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners provide health services to the residents of the NWT.

“Nurses are an essential part of any health care system. In the Northwest Territories, we rely on more than 600 nursing professionals on the front lines and behind the scenes to promote health and provide services such as home care, public health and education,” said Minister of Health and Social Services, Michael Miltenberger.

A priority in the Health and Social Services Action Plan, *A Foundation for Change*, is to enable the health and social services system to deliver services through the right providers in the right places. This includes the adjustment of staffing models to best utilize the skills of all staff - including enhancing the role of Nurse Practitioners - so as to benefit from their full scope of practice.

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.

For more information, contact:

Damien Healy

Manager, Communications

Health and Social Services

Tel: (867) 920-8927

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R(16)639

New Sign Welcomes Visitors to the 60th Parallel

YELLOWKNIFE (May 9, 2011) - Motorists entering the Northwest Territories on Highway #1 are being greeted by a new welcome sign today.

“We are proud to have a colourful new welcome sign that was designed and manufactured in the NWT and creates a great first impression for visitors as they drive in to the territory,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod.

The new sign is part of a number of improvements being completed at the 60th Parallel that highlight the culture, language and geography of the Northwest Territories. Minister McLeod anticipates that more visitors will be drawn in to take their picture beside the sign, as well as to visit the new 60th Parallel Visitors Centre.

The 60th Parallel Visitors Centre provides visitors with information about experiences and activities in all NWT communities. The new, larger and more-modern facility will open May 13, the start of the NWT Parks season and a grand opening is scheduled for June 2, 2011.

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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(867) 920-8696

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Midwifery Services in Yellowknife

YELLOWKNIFE (May 11, 2011) – Midwifery services will be temporarily suspended in Yellowknife effective May 6, 2011. The Department of Health and Social Services is conducting a program review and expansion analysis to develop options for a Territorial Midwife Program.

Family Physicians and Nurse Practitioners working for the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority will continue to deliver a full range of comprehensive prenatal, birthing and post-partum services.

“As Minister of Health and Social Services I value our Midwives. I was responsible for bringing Midwifery Legislation forward and will continue to champion their efforts, unfortunately at this time we need to re-consider how the Midwifery program will look for Yellowknife,” said Minister Michael Miltenberger.

“I look forward to the results of the program review and expansion analysis and I would also like to commend our Midwife for all of her successful deliveries and accomplishments to date,” said Yellowknife Health and Social Services Board Chair Liz Wyman.

Midwifery services will continue to be offered in Fort Smith by two registered midwives.

For more information, contact:

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Press Secretary for Premier/Cabinet

Government of the Northwest Territories

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R(16)641

Call for Applications 2011 – 2012 Youth Ambassador Program

YELLOWKNIFE (May 12, 2011) – The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is accepting applications for the 2011- 2012 NWT Youth Ambassador Program. The program provides opportunities to build leadership skills through participation at special events and volunteer assignments throughout the year.

“The NWT Youth Ambassador Program provides excellent development opportunities for future leaders of our territory,” said Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Robert C. McLeod. “Supporting NWT youth in pursuing positive activities is an investment in our communities and a sure way to build a strong future for the NWT.”

Twenty five Youth Ambassadors will be selected based on their interests, community involvement, and what they hope to achieve from the experience. To qualify, youth must be between 17 to 25 years of age on September 1, 2011. The deadline to apply is June 10, 2011.

Five of the ambassadors are Youth Ambassador Alumni, who will mentor the new ambassadors. Those who are selected will represent the NWT at the 2012 Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse, Yukon, and at other events throughout the year.

Through the Youth Ambassador’s Program, the GNWT is working to maximize opportunities for NWT residents by providing youth with development opportunities to create healthy, educated residents as envisioned in the 16th Assembly’s vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

Applications forms can be downloaded at:

<http://www.proud2bnwt.ca/youth-ambassador/index.html> or www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

David Maguire

Communications and Website Advisor, Municipal and Community Affairs

Phone: (867) 920-3092

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R(16)642

Appointment of Chief Public Health Officer

YELLOWKNIFE (May 16, 2011) – Dr. Lorne Clearsky will assume responsibility as Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) for the Northwest Territories. He was appointed by Health and Social Services Minister Michael Miltenberger today.

Dr. Kandola who provided Acting CPHO coverage will return to her former responsibility as Deputy Chief Public Health Officer (DCPHO).

Dr. Clearsky was a Deputy Medical Officer of Health for the Calgary Health Region, and served as Program Director in the Community Medicine Residency Program and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, at the University of Calgary.

“I would like to welcome Dr. Lorne Clearsky who brings great experience in dealing with Aboriginal health and chronic disease issues,” said Minister Miltenberger. “I would also like to thank Dr. Kandola for her outstanding work as Acting Chief Public Health Officer during our search for a new CPHO and who for personal reasons will return to her DCPHO role.”

“I am excited to begin working as the Chief Public Health Officer for the Northwest Territories. I look forward to working with Dr. Kandola, the team in the Health and Social Services Ministry, and the communities in the Northwest Territories,” said Dr. Clearsky.

For more information, contact:

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

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The Premier's Awards

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 services for NWT residents.

Innovation and Creativity, Exceptional Performance and Service Excellence, Leadership and Organizational Excellence, Partnerships and Traditional Knowledge are the cornerstones of service excellence. Recipients have strived to incorporate these factors into their work.

Public Service. Public Focus.



The Premier's Awards & The Dave Ramsden Career Excellence Award

Presentation Ceremony

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

**Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories**



2011 Premier's Awards

Welcome

*Ms. Penny Ballantyne
Secretary to Cabinet*

Remarks

*The Honourable Floyd K. Roland
Premier*


Presentation of Awards

*The Honourable Floyd K. Roland
Premier*

*Ms. Penny Ballantyne
Secretary to Cabinet*


Closing Notes

*Ms. Penny Ballantyne
Secretary to Cabinet*



The Dave Ramsden Career Excellence Award

The Dave Ramsden Career Excellence Award will be presented annually to an individual public servant with more than 20 years of public service. The recipient will have demonstrated through a combination of qualities and exceptional skills either at a departmental or public service level their commitment to the public service of the Northwest Territories.





*The Dave Ramsden
Career Excellence Award*

Individual Award Recipient

Mr. Sukhdev Cheema



Premier's Award for Excellence

Individual Award Recipient

Mr. Benoit Boutin





Premier's Award for Excellence

Team Award Recipients

*Community Social Work Team,
Fort Smith Health & Social Services Authority*

Ms. Tracy MacPherson

Ms. May Tourangeau

Ms. Joanne Gauthier

Ms. Kristy Jones

Ms. Mary Bishop

Ms. Jylia MacLeod

Ms. Roxanne Wever



Premier's Award for Collaboration

Team Award Recipients

*NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Team
Environment and Natural Resources and partners*

Ms. Tricia Melander-Forde

Ms. Michele Culhane

Ms. Jennifer Dallman-Sanders

Mr. Sevn Bohnet

Mr. Joe Acorn

Ms. Mardy Semmler

Ms. Joline Huskey

Ms. Freda Taniton

Mr. Richard Binder

Mr. Tim Heron

Mr. Robert Sandford





Premier's Award for Collaboration

Team Award Recipients

*NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Team
Environment and Natural Resources and partners*

Ms. Meghan Beveridge

Ms. Jennifer Skelton

Ms. Aiyana Lajeunesse

Ms. Katarina Carthew

Mr. Mark Warren

Ms. Jane McMullen

Ms. Judy McLinton

Ms. Ella Stinson

Ms. Carole Mills

Mr. David Livingstone

Ms. Teresa Joudrie

con't



Premier's Award for Excellence

Team Award Recipients

*Technical Support Services Group
Public Works and Services*

Mr. Sukhdev Cheema

Mr. Richard Cracknell

Mr. William Wyness

Ms. Heather Hayne

Mr. John Dick

Mr. Kelvin Hawkins

Mr. Douglas McKie

*Team Fire Science: SPARCS
Environment & Natural Resources*

Mr. Franco Nogarin

Ms. Vera Green





Premier's Award for Collaboration

Team Award Recipients

*Mackenzie Gas Project National Energy Board (MGP NEB)
Intervention Project Team
Industry, Tourism and Investment and partners*

Ms. Deborah Archibald

Mr. James Fulford

Mr. Michael Joko

Mr. Roland Priddle

Mr. Wayne Taylor

Mr. Chris Sanderson

Mr. Keith Bergner

Dr. Robert Mansell



Premier's Award for Collaboration

Team Award Recipients

*Tundra Ecosystem Research Station (TERS)
and Annual Science Camp
Environment and Natural Resources and partners*

Mr. Steven Matthews

Ms. Brenda Hans

Ms. Tasha Stephenson

Ms. Stephanie Yuill

Mr. Thomas Andrews

Ms. Diane Baldwin

Mr. Michel Rabesca

Ms. Bernadette Rabesca

Ms. Dora Nitsiza



R(16)643

NWT Educators Honoured at Hall of Fame Ceremony

YELLOWKNIFE (Tuesday, May 17, 2011) –Seven Northwest Territories residents were honoured this morning as inductees into the Education Hall of Fame. The second annual induction Ceremony was held in the Legislative Assembly’s Great Hall, as a way of recognizing the important and lasting contributions of those dedicated to education in the North.

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

The Education Hall of Fame identifies and celebrates outstanding dedication to education in the territory from educators, Elders, custodians, administrators, volunteers, coaches, students, advocates, sponsors and businesses. A Selection Committee chose one inductee from each region of the NWT with a seventh inductee chosen to receive the Minister’s Choice Award.

The 2011 Education Hall of Fame inductees are:

- Joanne Tetlichy from Fort McPherson;
- Ethel Blondin-Andrew from Tulita;
- Lucy Lafferty from Behchoko;
- Ed Jeske from Yellowknife;
- Margaret Field from Fort Providence;
- Dorothy Beaulieu from Fort Resolution; and
- Garth Brasseur from Yellowknife as the Minister’s Choice Award.

For more information contact:

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R(16)645

Premier's Awards Honour Dedicated GNWT Employees and Their Partners

YELLOWKNIFE (Wednesday, May 18, 2011) –Premier Floyd K. Roland honoured 56 recipients and several organizations with Premier's Awards for Excellence and Collaboration today. The recipients include GNWT employees, teams and their collaborative partners. A ceremony was held this morning at the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly.

“Encouraging innovation among our public servants is one of the priorities this Assembly identified to help pursue its goal of effective and efficient government.” said the Premier. “The leadership, cross-agency collaboration and innovative ideas demonstrated by the recipients of this year's Premier's Awards and their working partners is a model for all of us and has resulted in enhanced productivity and improved services.”

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.

This year's ceremony included the inaugural presentation of the Dave Ramsden Career Excellence Award to Sukhi Cheema, Director of Design and Technical Services for the Department of Public Services. In his nearly 30-year career with the government, Mr. Cheema has guided building design decisions on major infrastructure projects throughout the North; promoted and demonstrated sound energy management practices; and played an instrumental role in bringing northern building science and technology issues to the international level.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams

Press Secretary for Premier/Cabinet
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Brenda Norris

Communications Officer
Human Resources Strategy & Policy
(867) 873-7070

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Backgrounder 2011 Premier Award Winners

Dave Ramsden Career Excellence Award (Individual)

Mr. Sukhdev Cheema, Director, Design and Technical Services, Public Works and Services, Yellowknife

Premier's Award for Excellence (Individual)

Mr. Benoit Boutin, Senior Advisor, French Language Services, Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Yellowknife

Premier's Award for Excellence (Team)

Community Social Work Team, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority, Fort Smith

Ms. Tracy MacPherson, Social Work Supervisor, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority, Fort Smith
Ms. May Tourangeau, Social Worker, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority, Fort Smith
Ms. Joanne Gauthier, Social Worker, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority, Fort Smith
Ms. Kristy Jones, Social Worker, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority, Fort Smith
Ms. Mary Bishop, Social Worker, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority, Fort Smith
Ms. Jylian MacLeod, Social Worker, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority, Fort Smith
Ms. Roxanne Wever, Administrative Officer, Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority, Fort Smith

Technical Support Services Group, Public Works and Services, Yellowknife

Mr. Sukhdev Cheema, Director, Design and Technical Services, Public Works and Services, Yellowknife
Mr. Richard Cracknell, Manager, Technical Support Services, Public Works and Services, Yellowknife
Mr. William Wyness, Senior Technical Officer, Public Works and Services, Yellowknife
Ms. Heather Hayne, Senior Technical Officer, Public Works and Services, Yellowknife
Mr. John Dick, Senior Technical Officer, Public Works and Services, Yellowknife
Mr. Kelvin Hawkins, Senior Maintenance Advisor, Public Works and Services, Yellowknife
Mr. Douglas McKie, Senior Maintenance Advisor, Public Works and Services, Yellowknife

Team Fire Science: SPARCS, Environment and Natural Resources, Fort Smith

Mr. Franco Nogarin, Forest Planning Officer, Environment & Natural Resources, Fort Smith
Ms. Vera Green, Fire Management Geomatics Analyst, Environment & Natural Resources, Fort Smith

Premier's Collaboration Award

Mackenzie Gas Project National Energy Board (MGP NEB) Intervention Project Team, Industry, Tourism and Investment and partners, Yellowknife

Ms. Deborah Archibald, Director, Minerals, Oil and Gas Division, Industry, Tourism & Investment, Yellowknife
Mr. James Fulford, Legal Counsel, Justice, Yellowknife
Mr. Michael Joko, Pipeline Regulatory Specialist, Industry, Tourism & Investment, Yellowknife
Mr. Roland Priddle, Roland Priddle Energy Consulting Inc., Ottawa, ON.
Mr. Wayne Taylor, W.K. Taylor Consulting Limited, Calgary, AB.
Mr. Chris Sanderson, Q.C., Lawson Lundell LLP, Vancouver, BC.
Mr. Keith Bergner, Lawson Lundell LLP, Vancouver, BC.
Dr. Robert Mansell, Principal, Calgary, AB.

Tundra Ecosystem Research Station (TERS) and Annual Science Camp, Environment and Natural Resources and partners, Yellowknife

Mr. Steven Matthews, Wildlife Biologist, Environment & Natural Resources, Yellowknife

Ms. Brenda Hans, Coordinator, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, Education, Culture & Employment, Yellowknife
Ms. Tasha Stephenson, Public Education Specialist, Environment & Natural Resources, Yellowknife
Ms. Stephanie Yuill, Public Education Specialist, Environment & Natural Resources, Yellowknife
Mr. Thomas Andrews, Territorial Archaeologist, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, Education, Culture & Employment, Yellowknife
Ms. Diane Baldwin, Community Minerals Advisor, Industry, Tourism and Investment, Yellowknife
Mr. Michel Rabesca, Elder, Behchoko,
Ms. Bernadette Rabesca, Elder, Behchoko
Ms. Dora Nitsiza, Elder, Whati

NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Team, Environment and Natural Resources and partners, Yellowknife

Ms. Meghan Beveridge, Advisor, Water Stewardship, Environment & Natural Resources, Yellowknife
Ms. Jennifer Skelton, Advisor, Watershed Management, Environment & Natural Resources, Yellowknife
Ms. Aiyana Lajeunesse, Advisor, Water Stewardship, Environment & Natural Resources, Yellowknife
Ms. Katarina Carthew, Watershed Science Consultant, Environment & Natural Resources, Yellowknife
Mr. Mark Warren, ADM, Corporate and Strategic Planning, Environment & Natural Resources, Yellowknife
Ms. Jane McMullen, Senior Advisor, Policy, Environment & Natural Resources, Yellowknife
Ms. Judy McLinton, Manager, Public Affairs and Communications, Environment & Natural Resources, Yellowknife
Ms. Ella Stinson, Communications Planning Specialist, Environment & Natural Resources, Yellowknife
Ms. Carole Mills, Manager, Water Resources Division, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Yellowknife
Mr. David Livingstone, Director, Renewable Resources, Retired, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Yellowknife
Ms. Teresa Joudrie, Director, Renewable Resources and Environment, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Yellowknife
Ms. Tricia Melander-Forde, Communications Officer, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Yellowknife
Ms. Michele Culhane, Regulatory and Science Advisor, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Yellowknife
Ms. Jennifer Dallman-Sanders, Policy Analyst, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Yellowknife
Mr. Sevn Bohnet, Regional Coordinator, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Yellowknife
Mr. Joe Acorn, ASC Representative, Deh Cho First Nations, Yellowknife
Ms. Mardy Semmler, ASC Representative, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvik
Ms. Joline Huskey, ASC Representative, Tlicho Territory Government, Behchoko
Ms. Freda Taniton, ASC Representative, Sahtu Secretariat Inc., Deline
Mr. Richard Binder, ASC Representative, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Inuvik
Mr. Tim Heron, ASC Representative, Northwest Territories Métis Nation, Fort Smith
Mr. Robert Sandford, Chair, Canadian Partnership Initiative of the United Nations, Canmore, AB.

R(16)646

Release of the Northwest Territories Energy Report

YELLOWKNIFE (Thursday, May 19, 2011) – The Northwest Territories (NWT) Energy Report was released today by the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee (MECC). Highlights of the report include: opportunities to develop alternative energy sources, reducing the high cost of energy in the territory and an overview of GNWT energy projects and programs.

“Early in the mandate of the 16th Legislative Assembly, our government made an unprecedented \$60 million commitment to address energy issues in the NWT,” said Minister Bob McLeod, Chair of the MECC. “The NWT leads the country in the installation of commercial wood pellet boilers, we have invested millions of dollars in energy conservation and efficiency programs, and we continue our efforts to develop local sources of energy supply for communities.”

The NWT Energy Report includes current information regarding a number of initiatives outlined in the NWT Energy Plan (2007), the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy (2007), and the Energy Priorities Framework released by the MECC in 2008. Also included in the report is an environmental scan of energy resources, development, and use in the NWT, as well as details on GNWT investment in energy programs and initiatives.

MECC is comprised of Minister Bob McLeod in his role as Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Premier Floyd Roland, as Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Minister Michael Miltenberger in his role as Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, and Minister Michael McLeod, Minister of Public Works and Services.

By reducing imported fossil fuels and mitigating the environmental impacts of energy use, the GNWT is taking action to maintain an environment that will sustain present and future generations, a key goal of the 16th Assembly.

For more information, contact:

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Alayna Ward
Manager, Public Affairs and Communications
Industry, Tourism and Investment
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R(16)647

Release of CD-ROM Dene Kede: Trails to Becoming

YELLOWKNIFE (Friday, May 20, 2011) – The Department of Education, Culture and Employment, District Education Councils and Regional Aboriginal Governments will launch *Dene Kede: Trails to Becoming* CD-ROM on Tuesday evening, May 24, 2011. The disc is a teacher orientation tool for Northwest Territories' (NWT) educators on the Dene Kede curricula and rolls out to all NWT schools in the fall.

“This new tool further prepares teachers for their role as culture-based educators and enhances the quality of teacher training on Dene Kede as the foundation of learning for students in the NWT,” says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty. “In keeping with the 21st Century’s advancement of technology, we must adapt our teaching methods to ensure the survival of our languages, culture and identity.”

Based on the Dene Kede Kindergarten to Grade 6 curriculum, *Dene Kede: Trails to Becoming* follows the ‘Seven Steps to Dene Kede’ as outlined in the Teacher Resource Manual. This interactive approach is broken down into eight sections:

- The first four sections transport the user into the past, before contact with European explorers and settlers. Users assume the roles of children and journey on the land where they learn traditional Dene ways.
- The next three sections allow users to reflect on what they learned about Dene ways and apply it to teaching Dene Kede.
- The last section reviews Dene Kede and provides tools for thinking about Dene ways of knowing.

For more information, please contact:

Ashley Green

Public Affairs Officer

Education, Culture and Employment

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R(16)648

ECE hosts Labour Force Development Symposium

YELLOWKNIFE (Tuesday May 24, 2011) – The GNWT’s Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) is hosting a Labour Force Development Symposium this Wednesday and Thursday, where it will launch the *Northwest Territories Labour Force Development Framework – People, Partnerships, Possibilities*.

“We are working with our partners to help people achieve their goals and contribute to a strong Northwest Territories,” says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “By making significant investments in skills training and employment development, we ensure that NWT residents can meet the demand of northern employers, therefore maximizing opportunities for our residents.”

The Development Framework is the result of NWT partners discussing common vested interests in how to improve training, skills and overall Northern employment. It is designed to continually improve the labour force to strengthen the North’s economy.

The Symposium provides an opportunity for ECE to meet with key NWT stakeholders to share labour market information linked to programs, services and supports; highlight the connection between skills development and regional economic development activities; and discuss territorial coordination to champion the new Framework.

For more information, please contact:

Ashley Green

Public Affairs Officer

Education, Culture and Employment

Phone: (867) 920-3059

Email: ashley_green@gov.nt.ca

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R(16)649

New Devolution Chief Negotiator Appointed

YELLOWKNIFE (Thursday, May 26, 2011) – Martin Goldney has been appointed as Chief Negotiator for the Government of the Northwest Territories on the Devolution of Lands and Resources.

Mr. Goldney is a lifelong northerner and a lawyer with extensive experience in Aboriginal and Constitutional Law. Mr. Goldney joined the Department of Justice in 2000, where he has played a supporting role in a number of GNWT self-government and land claims negotiations. He has been an important part of the GNWT's devolution team since 2002, serving as legal counsel until his recent appointment as Executive Director, Office of Devolution.

Mr. Goldney replaces Dr. Hal Gerein, who led negotiations since 2002 and will retain a role with the GNWT's negotiation team as a senior advisor.

“The signing of an AiP between the GNWT, Canada, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and NWT Métis Nation, represents a major step forward in achieving a decade-long goal for NWT residents,” Premier Floyd K. Roland said. “It was only possible with the dedication and hard work of our devolution team, admirably led by Dr. Gerein.”

In announcing the new appointment, Premier Floyd K. Roland says the milestone signing of the Agreement-in-principle on Devolution in January and plans to move forward with final negotiations dictate that leadership for the negotiation team be located in the NWT.

“I am very much a proponent of this change; this is the right thing to do and a good time to do it, Dr. Gerein said. “Mr. Goldney and I have worked together for nine years; he is an exceptional individual with excellent leadership skills.”

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R(16)650

Aboriginal Government and Education Leaders Support Education Partnership Declaration

YELLOWKNIFE (Friday May 27, 2011) – Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Jackson Lafferty, hosted a meeting with Aboriginal government and NWT education leaders on Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA) in Yellowknife this week.

“Creating and supporting partnerships is key to building stronger minds and a stronger north,” says Minister Lafferty. “All parties agreed that education is our top priority. We are committed to working together to provide quality education for all students and to eliminate the achievement gap between Aboriginal and other students.”

Minister Lafferty provided leaders with a status report on the ASA Initiative and shared results from the Regional Minister’s Forums. Feedback from the forums confirmed the need to focus on early childhood development and child care, student and family support, Aboriginal language and culture curriculum and resource development and literacy.

Another common message was that everyone plays a part and has responsibilities when it comes to educating our youth. All regional participants expressed the need to support an education system built on strong relationships at the community, regional and territorial level.

“I asked the leaders to join me in signing an Education Partnership Declaration that speaks to the importance of continuing to work together on the Aboriginal Student Achievement initiative. I am happy that all the Aboriginal and education leaders were in agreement, recognizing how powerful our collective voices are in improving our children’s future.”

Minister Lafferty is currently working towards all parties signing the Education Partnership Declaration this summer. The signed Declaration will be included in the Education Plan that the Minister will table, on behalf of the partners in the Legislative Assembly this August.

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For more information or to request a picture of leadership meeting participants, please contact:

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R(16)651

Using Appropriate Child Occupant Restraints – Another Healthy Choice

YELLOWKNIFE (Tuesday, May 31, 2011) – This is Safe Kids Week 2011. Its focus, this year, is child passenger safety – protecting children in vehicles through the use of properly fitting child occupant restraints.

“It is everyone’s responsibility to protect those who are most vulnerable, says Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod. “The proper use of child occupant restraints is an important way to protect our children when travelling.”

In the NWT, Transport Canada reports that only 38% of children and adults in communities outside Yellowknife are buckled up. The GNWT is taking action under the *Building Our Future* strategic initiative to reduce injuries of children and adults related to motor vehicle collisions. Under its Drive Alive program, it has launched the *Buckle Up NWT* campaign which reminds adult drivers and passengers to ensure every person in each vehicle is belted in safely every trip, every time.

In addition, the Departments of Health and Social Services and Transportation have joined with Safe Kids Canada to provide information and promote the use of properly fitting child occupant restraints under the Healthy Choices Framework.

“We are working together to make it easier for our residents to make better choices in their daily lives”, Minister of Health and Social Services Michael Miltenberger says. “Safety equipment such as car seats and booster seats are proven to save lives and reduce injuries – but we must make the conscious choice to use them.”

Safe Kids Week is promoted by Safe Kids Canada, the national injury prevention program of the Hospital for Sick Children. Executive Director Pamela Fuselli says that rear- and forward-facing car seats, booster seats, and seat belts used at appropriate stages of child development have been proven to reduce injuries and save lives.

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“We know the devastation that can result in the lives of children and their families, from not taking the time to ensure children are protected by a properly fitting car seat on every ride,” she notes.

Important information for parents wanting to protect their children is available on the Safe Kids Canada website at safekidscanada.ca and on the Healthy Choices website at choosenwt.com.

Healthy Choices is a GNWT-wide partnership approach to encouraging and supporting NWT residents to make healthy and safe choices. The Healthy Choices Framework helps deliver on the priority of the 16th Legislative Assembly to foster healthy, educated people.

For more information:

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R(16)652

Yellowknife Student wins Apple® iPad for Financial Fitness

YELLOWKNIFE (Friday June 3, 2011) Ecole St. Patrick High School student Trey Talbot is the NWT winner of the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA) *Financial Fitness Challenge*.

The Canada-wide online contest provided videos, Facebook and Twitter tips to help youth increase their financial literacy. It used interactive tools and scenarios to demonstrate important financial principals such as balancing needs versus wants, budgeting, saving and investing.

“For the fourth year in a row, the NWT had the highest per-capita participation rate in Canada at six times the Canadian average,” said Justice Minister Jackson Lafferty. “That’s really impressive! I would like to congratulate Trey and hope he continues on the road to a healthy financial future.”

Talbot, a 16-year-old Grade 10 student, was presented with his prize at the Securities Office in Yellowknife on May 31.

The CSA is made up of securities administrators from all provinces and territories. They educate Canadians about the securities industry, the stock markets and how to protect investors from investment scams. In the NWT, 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, please contact:

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Department of Justice

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R(16)652

60th Parallel Visitors Centre Grand Opening

YELLOWKNIFE (Friday June 3, 2011) – A new, larger and more-modern facility is now open for visitors at the NWT/Alberta border. The 60th Parallel Visitors Centre provides a variety of ways to learn about tourism possibilities within the NWT, including interactive digital displays and arts and crafts exhibits.

“Our northern communities are what make our territory truly special” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, (ITI) Bob McLeod, to attendees of the grand opening. “I believe the improvements made and the information provided at the 60th Parallel Visitors Centre will attract tourists to these unique northern destinations.”

The Centre is located on the NWT/Alberta border on Highway #1 and is coupled with a new, colourful sign, welcoming visitors to the territory. It is intended to highlight the culture, language, and geography of the NWT, particularly encouraging travellers to visit smaller northern communities.

“Our Industry is pleased with this gateway visitor centre that will welcome visitors to all our communities” said Ms. Jenni Bruce, Chair of Northwest Territories Tourism. “We will work with ITI to ensure the information here entices visitors to explore more of our Spectacular NWT.”

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)654

2011 Outstanding Volunteers Honoured

YELLOWKNIFE (Monday June 6, 2011) – NWT volunteers will be recognized at the 2011 Outstanding Volunteer Award ceremony, in Yellowknife on Friday, June 10. The annual awards, presented by Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), are an opportunity to recognize volunteers and volunteer organizations for their outstanding contributions to communities across the territory.

“The people we recognize with the Outstanding Volunteer Awards selflessly devote their time to making our communities a better place,” said Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Robert C. McLeod.

“MACA and our partner, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, are grateful to these outstanding volunteers who add so much to our communities. They are always leading by example and inspiring others to use their passion to take action.”

Recipients of the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards for 2011 are:

- Outstanding Elder Award – Cappy Elkin, Yellowknife
- Outstanding Youth Award – Hunter Gray, Norman Wells
- Outstanding Individual Award – Donald Finnamore, Yellowknife
- Outstanding Group Award- the Northern Games Society, Inuvik

Recognizing outstanding NWT volunteers is an important part of the GNWT’s *Building our Future* initiative, 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, please visit www.maca.gov.nt.ca or **contact:**

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R(16)653

Tourism Week is June 6th to 12th

YELLOWKNIFE (Monday June 6, 2011) Tourism Week in Canada is being celebrated from June 6-12.

To celebrate, the second annual Fun in the Sun Tourism Week Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, June 9, at the Yellowknife Golf Course. NWT Tourism is sponsoring the event in partnership with the Northern Frontier Visitors Centre. In addition, a barbecue will be held Friday, June 10, outside the Visitor Information Centre in Fort Simpson. The barbecue will feature a draw for various prizes donated by local tourism businesses.

“The tourism industry is of great importance to the NWT’s economy, and is one of its most diverse sectors” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “Tourism provides benefits to all of our communities, and Tourism Week will give well-deserved attention to operators and attractions across the territory.”

Tourism Week highlights the economic impact and social benefits of Canada's tourism sector, an industry that contributed over \$111 million to the NWT economy. The NWT had nearly 70, 000 visitors in 2010.

The GNWT is committed to supporting the tourism industry, through partnerships with NWT Tourism, initiatives like the renovation and construction of the 60th Parallel Visitors Centre, and through innovative industry development such as those released in the *Tourism 2015* plan.

During the 2010 Olympics, the GNWT partnered in Canada’s *Northern House* pavilion, which welcomed over 215,000 visitors and won many accolades.

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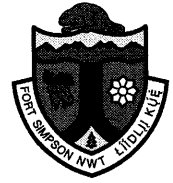
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R(16)656



BizPal Speeds up Processes for Businesses in Fort Simpson

FORT SIMPSON (Tuesday June 7, 2011) Starting and running a business in the Village of Fort Simpson has become easier thanks to BizPaL, an online business permit and licence service that saves time spent on paperwork.

BizPaL is an innovative service that provides entrepreneurs with simplified access to information on the permits and licences they need to establish and run their businesses. BizPal is currently running in Fort Smith and Hay River, as well as Fort Simpson. Eventually all NWT residents will be able to use the system to assist with their small business.

“Small businesses in the Northwest Territories are the backbone of our economy and offer diversified employment across the territory” said Minister Bob McLeod. “With easy access to the information they need to start or expand their businesses, this innovative service will allow more time for prospective entrepreneurs to take care of business.”

“Fort Simpson is a small community that is supportive and proud of its vibrant local business sector. In a community of 1,250 there are over 100 registered businesses and it is important to assist both current and future residents to make the right decisions when planning their start-up” said Mr. Sean Whelly, Mayor of Fort Simpson. “BizPal will be a great tool to promote business in Fort Simpson, by putting all the necessary regulatory and licensing information in one easy to access website.”

The release and continued support of BizPal in communities across the NWT 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*.

Area business owners and entrepreneurs can access the new BizPaL services by visiting the Village’s website at www.fortsimpson.com

Visit the BizPaL website (www.bizpal.ca) for additional information.

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R(16)658

**Federal Commitment to Mackenzie Valley Highway to Tuktoyaktuk
Project is Welcome**

YELLOWKNIFE (June 8, 2011) A key priority of the 16th Legislative Assembly received a welcome endorsement in the federal Budget Monday. The Government of Canada reaffirmed its commitment to spend \$30 million per year over the next five years to advance the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk portion of the Mackenzie Valley Highway project.

Premier Floyd Roland says the federal commitment is an important first step in a project that will move the NWT towards greater economic self sufficiency and, in doing do, advance Canada's sovereignty in our North. "This funding recognizes the importance of supporting exploration, oil and gas development, and other economic opportunities in the NWT for the good of Canada," he said. "It fits with the federal government's stated northern strategy and the progress we have made on Devolution and the Mackenzie Gas Project."

Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod notes that there is a lot of work ahead. "We will work closely with our partners to ensure that this project moves forward," he said. "We must still address the gap between the federal commitment and the projected cost of the road, but this is still an important step toward our goal of building an all-weather highway from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk."

The Government of Canada had previously provided funding for the completion of the Project Description Report (PDR) for the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk portion of the Highway which has allowed the project to proceed to the environmental review stage. Construction activities could begin as early as this winter.

Since 2007, the Government of the Northwest Territories has focussed significant effort on securing more and improved transportation infrastructure in the NWT and highlighting the benefits that northern development can bring for NWT residents and for Canada as a nation.

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New Training Facility to Improve Emergency Crew Training in NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (Thursday June 9, 2011) – A new burn structure has been added to the NWT Emergency Services Training Centre. The modular structure, designed for firefighters and rescue crews to practice scenarios for the battling of structure fires, was officially opened today.

Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod says partnerships were the key to finding the resources required for the new burn structure. “Our excellent relationship with the Yellowknife Fire Department, with each department supporting the other, continues with this project,” he said. “The contributions of Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. and BHP Billiton EKATI Diamond Mine will further support our efforts to make training for fire and emergency response crews in the Northwest Territories more available and effective.”

Yellowknife Mayor Gordon Van Tighem says the new facility will fill a crucial need. “Our crews need a facility to practice their skills and improve their response times,” he said. “Having all of our training in one place will certainly improve both the quality and affordability of that training.”

In addition to the ability to practice fighting structure fires, the Yellowknife Airport Fire Training Facility will allow crews to practice extrications, the use of hand-held extinguishers, and rescues from downed aircraft. These capabilities will benefit community fire departments and mine rescue crews around the territory.

President and Chief Operating Officer of Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. (DDMI) Kim Truter said “safety is our most important value at Diavik and part of our legacy with local communities includes building local infrastructure. When approached for support, we recognized this facility would meet community needs and is very much aligned with the way we work.”

Paul Harvey, Asset President of BHP Billiton EKATI Diamond Mine says, “We welcome the opportunity to participate in a project that has so much potential for the mines, airports, and

communities of the Northwest Territories,” he said. “This facility is an investment in both safety and effective emergency response.”

The new burn structure at the Yellowknife Airport Fire Training Facility was opened today by Minister McLeod, Yellowknife Fire Department Deputy Chief Jason Davidson, DDMI President and COO Kim Truter, and BHP Billiton EKATI Diamond Mine Asset President Paul Harvey. The opening was followed by demonstration events by the Yellowknife Airport and Yellowknife Fire Departments and mine rescue crews from the Diavik and EKATI diamond mines.

The Yellowknife Airport Fire Training Facility will be used by communities, industry, and businesses to support emergency training. The Facility supports the priority of the 16th Assembly for safe communities.

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R(16)660

NWT Youth Centres Receive Funding

YELLOWKNIFE (June 13, 2011) — The Government of the Northwest Territories is investing \$500,000 to assist with the operating costs of youth centres in every NWT community.

“Youth Centres Initiative funding helps provide financial support so youth centres across the NWT can focus on developing quality programs that help shape and strengthen our future leaders,” said Robert C. McLeod Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and Minister responsible for Youth.

“Youth centres across the NWT provide a safe, healthy environment. Giving our younger generations the tools and space they need to develop skills and good habits is key to building healthy vibrant communities.”

A total of 35 youth centres received funding; a summary of the distribution of funding for 2011 – 2012 is attached. For more information on the Youth Centre Initiative, please visit MACA’s website at www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

Through investment in youth centres the GNWT is improving positive programming for youth. Investing in youth and strengthening the programs and services available to them across the NWT helps build strong individuals, families, and communities as envisioned in the 16th Assembly’s Vision of *Northerners Working Together*.

For more information, please contact:

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**Youth Centres Initiative
2011-2012 Funding Recipients**

Each of the following communities will receive \$14,285.00 to help support youth Centres.

Inuvik Region

Aklavik	Aklavik Youth Centre
Fort McPherson	Hamlet of Fort McPherson Youth Centre
Inuvik	Inuvik Youth Centre Society
Inuvik	Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre
Paulatuk	Paulatuk Youth Centre
Ulukhaktok	Arctic Fox Youth Centre
Sachs Harbour	Ajgaliaq Centre
Tsiigehtchic	Tsiigehtchic Youth Centre
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 Centre
Trout Lake	Sambaa K'e Dene Band Youth Centre
Wrigley	Pehdzeh Ki First Nation Youth Centre

North Slave Region

Behchokò	Rae Edzo Friendship Centre
Dettah	Dettah Youth Centre
Edzo	Edzo 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	Wha Ti Youth Centre

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South Slave Region

Fort Providence	Zhati Koe Friendship Centre
Fort Resolution	Antoine Beaulieu Memorial Hall Youth Centre
Enterprise	Enterprise Youth Centre
Fort Smith	Uncle Gabe's Friendship Centre
Hay River	Hay River Community Youth Centre
Hay River Reserve	K'atlodeechee 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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News Release

R(16)661

Together We Can Stop Elder Abuse – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15th, 2011

YELLOWKNIFE (June 14, 2011) – June 15th, 2011 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and the Department of Health and Social Services wants residents of the NWT to be aware that abuse against older adults can come in the form of financial, emotional or physical.

Through its ongoing campaign, Together We Can Stop Elder Abuse, the Department is encouraging residents to speak up about abuse. The campaign is intended to raise awareness and provide information on elder abuse in the NWT.

“People should always speak up when they see or experience abuse,” said J. Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Health and Social Services.

“No one should feel alone or powerless against abuse, especially vulnerable people like our seniors and elders. There is help available,” said Minister Miltenberger.

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.

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 at: www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)662

Children and Young People Wearing Helmets Supplied by BHP Billiton *Another Healthy Choice*

YELLOWKNIFE (June 14, 2011) - For the third consecutive year, hundreds of bicycle helmets, supplied by BHP Billiton, are being distributed by the GNWT throughout the Northwest Territories to encourage children and youth to wear their helmets while cycling.

The donations support the GNWT's *Use Your Head* campaign under the Healthy Choices Framework. The campaign promotes the use of helmets by youth and adults as another Healthy Choice that will prevent brain and spinal injuries for bicycle, motorcycle, ATV, and snowmobile riders and skateboarders in the NWT.

Transportation Minister Michael McLeod says BHP Billiton's contribution is a reflection of the company's strong commitment to wellness and safety for NWT residents. "Recreation activities such as biking and ATViing are an important part of our lives, and helmets are necessary to help ensure well-being," he said. "BHP Billiton's support helps ensure that our children and youth can enjoy all that the NWT has to offer."

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod says children and youth are particularly vulnerable to head and spinal injuries, but he notes there are encouraging signs. "More and more young people are recognizing the value of wearing helmets when participating in sports and recreation activities," he said. "That positive change is coming about, in large part, because people are setting good examples."

Health Minister Michael Miltenberger says helmet safety is an important choice that can be made to stay healthy and safe. "We are seeing a great deal in the news about concussions and other preventable brain injuries," he said. "We are working with our partners to help NWT residents understand that the best ways to prevent head and spinal injuries is to wear your helmet as a key part of a Healthy Choices lifestyle."

BHP Billiton's Head of Health, Safety, Environment and Community, Karl Schubert, said "Cycling can be fun, healthy, and a great form of independence, but it's important to keep safety as the core value in any activity you and your family choose to do. A properly fitting bike helmet could help avoid head injuries, and could ultimately save a life."

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The campaign also supports the GNWT Building Our Future strategic initiative. Through this initiative, the Government is working to make significant investments in prevention and the long term well-being of NWT residents by encouraging healthy choices and increasing safety, particularly among our young people.

Since 2008, BHP Billiton has donated more than 1,400 child and youth bicycle helmets for distribution in communities outside Yellowknife. These donations are in addition to the hundreds of helmets the company provides annually for distribution in Yellowknife.

More information on the *Use Your Head* campaign can be found on the Healthy Choices website at www.choosenwt.com.

The *Use Your Head* campaign helps address the priority of the 16th Assembly for healthy people by promoting healthy choices and lifestyles.

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R(16)663

Fort Smith Hosts Aboriginal Student Achievement Youth Forum

YELLOWKNIFE (Thursday, June 16, 2011) –Approximately 50 high school students, gathered from across the NWT, are discussing their concerns and ideas to improve education in the North as the Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA) Youth Forum gets underway in Fort Smith.

“Youth are integral to the future of the Northwest Territories and their education determines our success as a strong and prosperous Territory,” says Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. “Their voice is vital in developing the ASA Education Plan to improve the educational outcomes of all Northern students.”

Through interactive activities, youth are expressing their opinions on the current education system, what education means to them and what they would change to improve education in the Territory. Discussions that focus on attendance and re-enrolment are also taking place.

The ASA Youth Forum is part of the larger NWT Youth Symposium hosted by Aurora College running June 13 to 17, 2011.

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R(16)665

Another Step Forward for the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project

YELLOWKNIFE (June 20, 2011) –The Project Description Report (PDR), for the future construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, was presented to Transportation Minister Michael McLeod by Richard Nerysoo, President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, marking another milestone in the Mackenzie Valley Highway to Tuktoyaktuk project.

“The completion of the PDR for the Gwich'in Settlement Area represents a significant chapter in the Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk highway project,” Minister McLeod said. “This work, completed by the Gwich'in Tribal Council, confirms that working in partnership with Aboriginal groups is an effective way to plan and move forward on major projects.”

In 2008, the Mackenzie Valley Highway to Tuktoyaktuk project received the unanimous support of Members of the 16th Assembly. The project is to complete an all weather highway from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk on the Arctic Coast. Project Description Reports are underway for the portions of the planned highway south of the Gwich'in's Settlement Area. Once those PDRs are complete later this year, they will be combined and the project will enter its environmental review phase.

When completed, it will improve the economics of energy and mining exploration and development in the region, enhancing economic development opportunities throughout the Northwest Territories. The Mackenzie Valley Highway to Tuktoyaktuk will also reduce the cost of living in communities along the highway. The completed highway will benefit all Canadians by enhancing sovereignty and economic activity.

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Western Premiers celebrate National Aboriginal Day

FORT SIMPSON (JUNE 21, 2011) – Canada's Western Premiers celebrated National Aboriginal Day in Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories yesterday by participating in a variety of community and cultural activities honouring the Territory's rich Aboriginal heritage and traditions.

Premiers enjoyed an aerial tour of the world-renowned Nahanni National Park, flying over iconic landmarks such as the Nahanni River, Virginia Falls, Horn Plateau and the Mackenzie Mountains.

A breathtaking, unspoiled wilderness in the southwest corner of the Northwest Territory, the Nahanni National Park Reserve is one of Canada's greatest treasures and the first-ever UNESCO World Heritage Site.

"I'm proud to be able to share the spectacular beauty and unique culture of the NWT's Dehcho region with Western Premiers, especially on National Aboriginal Day," said Premier Floyd K. Roland.

National Aboriginal Day is recognized across Canada to honour the history, languages, arts and customs of all Aboriginal peoples. For residents of the NWT, it is also a statutory holiday.

Western Premiers engaged with Fort Simpson youth as they discussed what National Aboriginal Day means to them and their community.

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R(16)667

News Release

NWT Details of the 2011 Royal Tour Announced

Yellowknife (21 June 2011) – The Northwest Territories (NWT) portion of the 2011 Royal Tour will highlight the NWT's diversity, Aboriginal heritage, unique culture, consensus style of government and natural beauty.

“We are looking forward to welcoming Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to the Northwest Territories, “says Premier Roland. “We’ve developed a program that will give Their Royal Highnesses an opportunity to meet people from across the NWT and learn about who we are and the territory we live in. We already know the NWT is a great place to visit, work and live and we want to share that with the Duke and Duchess. We’re confident that their visit here will be one of the highlights of their time in Canada and unlike anything else they will experience on their tour.”

The centrepiece of the program will be the official welcome to the Northwest Territories, taking place at Somba K’e Civic Plaza in Yellowknife on July 5th. Commissioner George Tuccaro, Mayor Gordon Van Tighem, Chief Edward Sangris and representatives of the NWT’s regional Aboriginal governments will join the Premier in welcoming Their Royal Highnesses to the NWT. The welcome will feature Dene and Inuvialuit drumming and demonstrations of Inuit games and Dene hand games.

A street hockey game featuring NWT Youth Ambassadors and participants from the SideDoor Youth Centre will be another important event on the program, introducing Their Royal Highnesses to this popular Canadian pastime and emphasizing the historical roots of hockey in the NWT going back to the days of the Franklin Expedition. Their Royal Highnesses will also meet with members of the NWT Youth Parliament and will visit with Canadian Rangers, Junior Rangers and staff and students of the Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning at Blachford Lake Lodge.

The NWT program was developed jointly by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), the Canadian Secretary to the Queen and the Department of Canadian Heritage in consultation with royal officials. It is designed to reflect the interests of Their Royal Highnesses and the priorities of both the GNWT and Government of Canada. Because the Duke and Duchess will be unable to travel to communities outside of Yellowknife during this visit, the GNWT has made a special effort to include people from all parts of the NWT in planned events.

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The full program for the 2011 Royal Tour can be found on the Government of Canada official website at www.royaltour.gc.ca. The program for NWT events can be found on the GNWT's website at www.gov.nt.ca.

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R(16)668

NWT Youth Participate in Fort Smith Dance Flash Mob

YELLOWKNIFE (Wednesday, June 22, 2011) – Nearly 40 youth from across the NWT staged the first dance flash mob in Fort Smith last week. The students were part of the inaugural NWT Youth Symposium, hosted by Aurora College, and spent Thursday afternoon participating in the Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA) Youth Forum hosted by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE).

“Youth from various regions and backgrounds, provided a strong unified voice to help improve the educational outcomes of all Northern students,” said Minister of ECE Jackson Lafferty.

“They are the ones who are directly affected by the education system. It is their education and they play a vital role in creating an Education Plan that caters to their needs.”

The afternoon of workshops included six stations for students to voice their opinions through various mediums including: two discussion centres, a feedback centre, an art centre, a Speaker’s Corner video station, and a dance station that taught choreography to K-naan’s song “Wavin’ Flag.”

Students discussed the difficult issues they face that affect their education, such as: drug and alcohol abuse, residential school influences, student-teacher relationships, and came up with potential solutions.

To bring the afternoon to a close, the youth participants surprised members of the community at a fish fry with the flash mob, which featured the “Wavin’ Flag” dance.

The NWT Youth Symposium provided youth with a chance to experience opportunities available through Aurora College. ECE is thankful to Aurora College for building time in the schedule to enable the department to meet with the youth to discuss the importance of education.

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R(16)669

GNWT Looking to Revamp Housing Programs

YELLOWKNIFE (Thursday, June 23, 2011) – NWT residents are invited to participate in a review that will refocus the GNWT's approach to providing housing programs and services.

The Shelter Policy Review will include workshops with regional and community leadership, meetings with residents, clients, and non-government organizations that provide housing services, and an online survey for NWT residents.

“We know that housing is one of the most important issues in our communities,” said Robert C. McLeod, Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. “This review is an important step in re-focusing the GNWT's approach to housing. We want to hear the views and ideas from as many NWT residents as possible.”

When completed, the review will outline a long-term vision for housing in the Northwest Territories. It will increase consistency in the way programs are developed and delivered, address the decrease in funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and propose solutions to housing infrastructure challenges. The report will be submitted to the Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly for their consideration in setting the next government's policies.

“Improving the quality and cost of shelter is a priority for the GNWT,” said Minister McLeod. “Housing costs are a significant factor in the cost of living in our territory. I am committed to finding greater effectiveness, efficiencies and a more client-focused, service-oriented approach to housing programs in our communities.”

The survey is available online at <http://nwthc.gov.nt.ca>, at Local Housing Organizations, and at the NWT Housing Corporation's regional offices until July 29, 2011.

For more information:

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Northwest
Territories

R(16)670

News Release

Environment Ministers to meet in Yellowknife

WINNIPEG (Thursday, June 23, 2011) – The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) will meet in Yellowknife, NWT on June 28, 2011 to discuss a range of issues including water, air quality and measures to reduce packaging.

The Council is made up of environment ministers from each of the provinces, territories and the Government of Canada. The current president of CCME, Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger, Northwest Territories Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, will chair the meeting, which will be held at the Explorer Hotel (Katimavik rooms A&B), 4825 49th Avenue, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

There will be a **photo opportunity** for members of the media at 10:30 am, MDT. At the close of the meeting the Council will issue a communiqué and hold a **news conference** on Tuesday June 28, 4:00 pm MDT (6:00 pm EDT).

Reporters outside of Yellowknife can join the news conference via conference call. To register for the teleconference, please contact Judy McLinton by e-mail (judy_mclinton@gov.nt.ca). Please confirm your participation by noon EDT, June 28, 2011.

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R(16)671

Celebrating Home Support Workers – June 28, 2011

YELLOWKNIFE (June 27, 2011) – Home Support Workers across the Northwest Territories are being recognized tomorrow (June 28th) on Home Support Worker Day.

Home Support Workers support daily living activities and provide health services to NWT residents in their own homes and communities. Their services enable residents to enjoy the independence and comfort of their own home as long as possible before entering a hospital or long term care facility which may not be located in their community.

This theme for this year's commemoration is Helping Hands in Your Home for Your Independence.

“Home Support Workers work tirelessly, effectively and with innovation to ensure our people get the care they need,” Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger says. “They embody the GNWT’s goal of a team-based, client-focused approach to providing sustainable, quality health and social services programs in the NWT.”

There are more than 65 Home Support Workers in the Northwest Territories facilitating a broad range of community care services including: social support, meals on wheels, management of medications, and follow up visits following hospital stays.

For more information on Home Support Workers and a complete list of Home Care services, visit the Department of Health and Social Services website at:
www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/english/services/home_care

Or contact:

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R(16)672

ECE Calls for Minister's Cultural Circle Nominations

YELLOWKNIFE (Monday, June 27, 2011) – The GNWT is accepting nominations for its inaugural Minister's Cultural Circle to recognize those who contribute to preserving and promoting the arts, cultures and heritage in the Northwest Territories.

The Circle, sponsored by the Minister of Education culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty, recognizes contributors at the local, regional, or territorial level. The Circle aims to strengthen awareness of our unique northern identity by celebrating successful arts and cultural activities. The Circle recognizes all cultures present in the Northwest Territories.

“The NWT is full of dedicated individuals and organizations who pride themselves on promoting and preserving the arts, culture and heritage,” says the Minister. “We live in a truly culturally rich land and the people who keep our diversity alive deserve recognition.”

There are four categories of recognition:

- **Elder:** an Elder, 50 years of age and older, respected for their contributions of practicing, promoting, guiding, teaching, leadership, vision, or hands-on participation in the areas of art, culture, heritage and language;
- **Group:** any organization, corporation, institution, committee or social club that plays a lead role in developing and supporting activities that celebrate, promote or preserve the arts, culture and heritage.
- **Youth:** individuals, 25 years of age and under, who demonstrate a strong commitment to engaging in the arts, cultural learning and cultural practices; and
- **Individual:** individuals who demonstrate a strong commitment to preserving and promoting culture through participation in various arts, culture and heritage related activities.

Nomination forms are available at www.ece.gov.nt.ca under the ‘What’s New at ECE’ tab, on the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre’s website (www.pwnhc.ca), at your local band

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office or at your Regional ECE Service Centre location. Deadline for nominations is Tuesday, August 2, 2011.

One successful candidate per category will be welcomed into the Minister's Cultural Circle this fall. Consideration is given to any project, organization, or person residing in the Northwest Territories that demonstrates a high level of commitment and makes an outstanding contribution to the arts, culture and heritage.

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R(16)673

Territories sign Memorandum of Understanding to further explore university models

YELLOWKNIFE (Thursday, June 30, 2011)—The ministers responsible for education in Canada’s three territories signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) today to express their mutual interests and goals in exploring approaches for university development in Canada’s North.

The governments of Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut are committed to providing and supporting consistent, accessible, quality post-secondary education opportunities to all northerners, and recognizing the importance of offering an educational environment that includes a balance of academic and traditional lifestyles and pursuits.

“Signing this MOU takes the first step to bring our governments’ shared goal of university development in Canada’s North to reality,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment for the Government of the Northwest Territories Jackson Lafferty. “It is the next logical step in the evolution of our post-secondary institutions and will enhance the learning environment for northerners by providing quality post-secondary education close to home, where family and community supports are available.”

“We are excited to explore university models and advance the post-secondary capacity of Canada’s North,” said the Honourable Patrick Rouble, Yukon’s Education Minister. “This Memorandum is a commitment among our three territories to further develop practical, quality post-secondary options for northern students.”

“We know that our young people are the key to building our future and we want to help them develop the skills and abilities needed to take on leadership roles in our territory,” said Premier Eva Aariak, Nunavut Minister of Education. “A high-quality educational environment that maintains a balance between academic excellence and the culture, values and lifestyle of our northern students will provide the support they need to achieve success.”

“This is part of our continuing commitment to Nunavummiut to increase post-secondary opportunities in all occupational categories from career training to professional education,” said the Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

To undertake this work, the three governments will form a tri-territorial committee to develop options on how to move forward with university development in Canada’s North. The Committee will work collaboratively to advance discussions with the Government of Canada on investments to support university development in Canada’s North.

The committee will include two representatives from each territorial government and an appointed chair. Participation from additional stakeholders is also being considered. The Committee will produce a discussion and options paper this summer for Ministerial consideration.

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R(16)675

National Strategy on Inuit Education Released

YELLOWKNIFE (Monday, June 27, 2011) — The National Strategy on Inuit Education has officially been released. The strategy, developed in association with the GNWT's Department of Education Culture and Employment (ECE), includes a series of bold new recommendations to empower parents, expand early childhood programs and gather detailed research data.

The ultimate goal of the strategy is to increasing graduation rates and opportunities amongst the Inuit population in the Canadian Arctic.

"Many of the proposed actions align with work our Department is already undertaking with the Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA) Initiative," says Minister of ECE, Jackson Lafferty. "This strategy will incorporates community, regional and territorial engagement, and aims to bring together key players in Inuit education from across Canada."

The strategy is the result of two years of intense work by the National Committee on Inuit Education. The Committee is made up of representatives from federal, provincial, territorial and regional governments, as well as school boards and regional and national Inuit organizations.

"As partners of the Committee on Inuit Education," says Nellie Cournoyea, Chair and CEO, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, "We are pleased that the Strategy document has been completed and is ready for implementation. The task towards its implementation will take a dedicated team effort to build upon the key elements of the strategy in stressing the importance of early childhood education with a strong focus on retaining and relearning Aboriginal languages.

For a copy of the First Canadians, Canadians First: The National Strategy on Inuit Education visit <http://www.itk.ca/publications/national-strategy-inuit-education>. For more information, please contact:

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R(16)676

Aviation Career Development Program Expands to Nunavut

YELLOWKNIFE (Thursday, June 30, 2011) – Students in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories training for careers in northern aviation can now apply for one of thirteen (13) \$5,000 scholarships through the Aviation Career Development Program (ACDP).

The Government of Nunavut will provide four scholarships for residents of Nunavut. Peter Taptuna, Minister of Economic Development & Transportation, says the commitment will help ensure Nunavummiut receive the training and education they need to play a role in the territory's air transportation system.

“We rely on air transportation for food, fuel, health care, and personal transportation,” Minister Taptuna said. “We are committed to supporting education and training for those working or wanting to work in northern aviation.”

One additional scholarship will be funded by Keewatin Air LP. The President of Keewatin Air, Wayne McLeod, says his company considers the scholarship funding commitment an investment in northern aviation. “Keewatin Air is committed to the North and the communities we serve,” he said. “All of us benefit when we can hire from the community the people we need, with the training and skills we require.”

GNWT Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod welcomes the additional partners, who are joining existing aviation partners Discovery Air (Air Tindi, Great Slave Helicopters) and Adlair Aviation.

“Air transportation makes an important contribution to the health and sustainability of our communities,” he said. “The ACDP scholarships serve to maximize opportunities for northern students in this exciting industry and, through training and skill development, contribute to the sustainability of our northern economies overall.”

This is the 11th year for the ACDP program, with approximately \$400,000 in scholarships being distributed. The deadline for applications is July 29, 2011. For more information about the ACDP scholarships and to apply, visit <http://bit.ly/ACDPscholarships>.

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R(16)677

NWT Youth Ambassadors to Share Culture and Games with Royals

YELLOWKNIFE (June 29, 2011) – Youth Ambassadors from across the Northwest Territories will get the opportunity next week to showcase examples of NWT culture and a Canadian tradition to Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

As part of the official welcome to the Northwest Territories, taking place at Somba K'e Civic Plaza, Youth Ambassadors will demonstrate traditional games including the airplane, one and two-foot high kick, and the Alaskan high kick; and participate in a friendly game of ball hockey against youth from the Side Door youth centre in Yellowknife. Ten Youth Ambassadors from seven communities representing all NWT regions will be involved in the demonstrations.

The GNWT's Youth Ambassador Program provides participants with a structured volunteer experience at significant national and northern events. Youth Ambassadors come from communities all across the NWT and include Dene, Inuit and non-Aboriginal individuals. They have demonstrated traditional Aboriginal games at events such as the 2011 Los Angeles Times Travel and Adventure Show and last year's Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver.

“Our Youth Ambassadors provide real life examples of how young men and women can stay in touch with their cultures and traditions, cultivate a volunteer ethic and make healthy lifestyle choices,” said Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and Minister Responsible for Youth Robert C. McLeod. “They are preserving and showcasing important parts of their Dene and Inuvialuit heritage while serving as role models for younger generations.”

Following their demonstrations and hockey game, Youth Ambassadors will gather at the Side Door from 2 – 4:30 p.m. to meet youth from Yellowknife who benefit from the centre. The event will include an informal meet-and-greet with information about the Youth Ambassador Program, a performance by the Paulatuk drummers and dancers and a chance for youth to try their hand at the traditional games.

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Through its *Building Our Future* Initiatives, the GNWT has invested \$20 million over four years to expand programming for children and youth including activities like the Youth Ambassadors program and youth centers, activities to improve educational outcomes, and supporting early childhood development. These initiatives promote the long term well being of NWT residents, and advance the 16th Legislative Assembly's goal of healthy educated people.

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R(16)679

Royal Welcome to Represent and Showcase all of NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (July 4, 2011) -- All regions, peoples and cultures of the Northwest Territories will be represented and showcased to Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge when they arrive tomorrow in the NWT capital.

“We're looking forward to introducing Their Royal Highnesses to some of what makes the NWT such a unique and wonderful place,” Premier Floyd Roland says. “We have made a special effort to involve residents from across the NWT in every event on the program.”

Dettah Drummers and Dene hand games together with the Paulatuk Moonlight Drummers & Dancers and Inuit traditional games will be a focal point of ceremonies welcoming the royal couple to Canada's North on Tuesday.

Political leaders representing all regions and levels of NWT Government will be in attendance in Yellowknife's Somba'Ke plaza where residents will also have the opportunity to see and greet the royal couple.

Canadian Rangers and Junior Rangers, elders and youth representing 19 communities and every constituency in the NWT will play a variety of roles in representing the NWT's arts, traditions and unique style of consensus Government to The Duke and Duchess.

Later in the day, a visit to the Dechinta Research and Learning Centre at Blachford Lake Lodge will highlight the traditional knowledge and deep historical roots that NWT residents have with their land and environment. Meanwhile, diamonds, to be presented to the royal couple by Premier Roland, will provide further insight into the NWT vast mineral wealth and enormous potential for sustainable resource development.

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The program for the royal visit was developed jointly by the GNWT, Canadian Heritage and the Canadian Secretary to the Queen. Special attention has been given to focus on involving young people and planning active events.

“I’m confident that Their Highnesses’ time in the Northwest Territories will be a memorable experience and unlike anything else they will do during their visit to Canada,” Premier Roland says.

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R(16)680

Premier Presents Northwest Territories Diamonds to Their Royal Highnesses

Yellowknife (Tuesday, July 5, 2011) – Northwest Territories (NWT) Diamonds will serve to commemorate the 2011 visit of Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to the NWT and Canada. In Yellowknife, this afternoon, NWT Premier Floyd K. Roland presented the Royal couple with northern-mined diamonds on behalf of the Territory and its people.

For His Royal Highness, a set of diamond pave cufflinks modelled on the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)'s official polar bear logo. The official gift to Her Royal Highness was a diamond pave brooch – also in the shape of the North's iconic polar bear. Both of the Territory's official gifts are made of diamonds mined at the Diavik Diamond Mine donated and designed by Harry Winston Inc.

"These gifts convey the wealth of respect and affection that we hold for the Royal couple," Premier Roland says. "Northwest Territories diamonds are among the world's best - prized for their distinctiveness and value, they represent the ongoing richness of our land – bridging the traditional lifestyles of our past and the brilliant future that we have as northern Canadians.

"It is an honour to provide these gifts that combine Harry Winston design and craftsmanship with the natural beauty of Northwest Territories diamonds," Robert Gannicott, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Harry Winston says.

The diamond is the official gem stone of the Northwest Territories. Nearly 80 million carats of gem quality diamonds have been mined in the NWT, worth an estimated \$11.4 billion Canadian. With its fourth mine in development, the NWT already produces 15% of the world's rough diamonds positioning Canada as the world's third-largest diamond producer by value after Botswana and Russia.

Harry Winston Diamond Corporation is a Canadian company with a 40% interest in Diavik Diamond Mine Inc., Canada's largest diamond mine. Diavik diamonds are highly regarded in the international commercial marketplace. With guaranteed authenticity of origin, most are one

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carat or larger, white in color and have good clarity. Diavik's exceptional grades make it one of the most valuable and profitable diamond mines in the world.

Harry Winston Inc., the Company's luxury brand division, is a premier diamond jeweller and retailer of luxury timepieces, with a growing international network of sales salons in major cities around the world.

For more information or photos of the jewellery please contact:

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R(16)681

GNWT Responds to Independent Leishman Review

YELLOWKNIFE (JULY 12, 2011) – An Independent External Quality Assurance Investigation, conducted by Dr. Douglas C. Perry with findings submitted directly to the Stanton Territorial Health Authority, endorses the professional response of Stanton employees and recommends:

1. Consideration be given to establishing trained in-house special constables with legislated powers to restrain and assist in direct patient care.
2. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel be reminded to encourage family member(s) to attend with patients at the Emergency Department, especially in cases involving potential mental health issues or other instances where communication may be compromised.

“Our priority is to provide the highest level of quality health care services for NWT residents,” Minister Miltenberger says. “We are appreciative and respectful of Dr. Perry’s recommendations and will take all necessary steps to ensure the excellent standard of care provided by the Stanton Hospital and its employees is protected and maintained.”

In April 2011, the Minister of Health and Social Services, J. Michael Miltenberger directed the Stanton Territorial Health Authority to conduct a review to cover all aspects of the November 2009 Allisdair Leishman incident. The Independent External Quality Assurance Investigation and recommendations of Dr Perry honours the request made in the Legislative Assembly. The Minister directed the review to make recommendations, as necessary, to improve safety and security for patients and staff at the Stanton Territorial Hospital – and to improve the overall quality of care for patients.

The Department of Health and Social Services is working with the Stanton Territorial Health Authority and the Department of Justice to assess cost and other requirements regarding the establishment of special constables.

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The Department will also work with municipalities, governments and organizations operating ambulance service to ensure that EMS personnel encourage the patient's family members to attend them at the Emergency Room.

In accordance to the *NWT Evidence Act*, and consistent with national practice, the report cannot be shared externally by the Stanton Territorial Health Authority.

On July 11, the Minister has met with family representatives to discuss the Independent External Quality Assurance Investigation recommendations and to reiterate the ongoing commitment the Department and Stanton have to provide an appropriate level of care now and in the future.

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R(16)682

Premier meets with Youth to Discuss Future

YELLOWKNIFE (July 11, 2011) – Youth attending the Forging the Future – Potential Leaders Conference in Yellowknife have identified two important concerns they want to see addressed by future leaders of the Northwest Territories: consultations for regional treatment centers and the addition of school councillors in every school in the NWT.

The conference, hosted by Premier Floyd Roland, was attended by 51 young adults, aged 18 – 25 from across the NWT. The Premier will include the conclusions of the conference in his transitional report to the next Legislative Assembly.

Last summer, Premier Roland asked young adults to participate in a visioning exercise for the future of the NWT. Many said they wanted more opportunities to engage with leaders and to be involved in decision making. Last week's conference provided that opportunity.

The Premier said he was impressed by the topics brought forward by the youth and the level of discussion that was held. He noted many issues addressed by youth reflected those discussed at the Western Premiers and Northern Leaders Conferences.

In his concluding remarks, the Premier encouraged participants to voice opinions about their specific concerns, and to seek out ways to address them in a respectful manner.

“My time for moving this forward is coming to a close, but yours is just beginning,” he said.

“When it comes to politics, you have the power to create change,” he said. “You have seen this world through more modern eyes than I did while growing up in Inuvik. Take what you've learned, share it and grow it. Plant that seed, nurture it, let it grow, and work that soil.”

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R(16)683

Aboriginal Languages Institute Returns to NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (Tuesday, July 12, 2011) – Monday marked the start of the second annual NWT Aboriginal Languages Summer Institute. A partnership between the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) and the University of Victoria Certificate Program in Aboriginal Language Revitalization, the two-week Institute runs from July 11th to the 23rd, 2011 and brings together 19 participants from across the NWT.

“Language and culture play a large role in creating a strong and prosperous North,” says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “Our territory is culturally rich, but we still have a lot of work to do to strengthen and maintain these cultures. We are striving to enable more people to speak their Aboriginal language in the coming years.”

The partnership with University of Victoria (UVic) program capitalizes on 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 program is being delivered at the Yellowknife Campus of Aurora College.

The long-term objective of this initiative is establishing the delivery of this language institute program as a regular language revitalization program. Plans are already under way for an expanded Aboriginal Languages Institute to be offered in partnership with the University of Victoria later this fiscal year.

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R(16)684

GNWT Provides More Support to the NWT Film Industry

YELLOWKNIFE (July 18, 2011) The NWT film industry has become one of the territory's most promising sectors and is in a great position to grow, thanks to recent changes by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Recognizing the promise of this vibrant industry, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) has restructured the Film Commission staff and added a dedicated Associate Film Commissioner to provide support to the NWT film industry to better serve aspiring northern filmmakers.

"We heard industry concerns that the Film Commission needed more capacity," said ITI Minister Bob McLeod. "This newly tailored support will allow ITI to maximize the effectiveness of its support for the industry by working directly with industry partners."

The Associate Film Commissioner will work directly with the film industry to provide assistance tailored to each specific project.

In addition to the restructuring of Film Commission staff, \$100,000 in new dedicated annual funding has been made available for NWT film industry projects. The money will be distributed through ITI's Support to Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) Policy starting this fall.

"For many aspiring filmmakers in the NWT, finding financial support has always been an issue" said Minister McLeod. "With this support, we hope to see even more films produced in the NWT that use our rugged landscape and vibrant cultural essence as a backdrop."

The Department of ITI's increased support for the NWT film industry is an example of its commitment to creating a diverse, sustainable economy as envisioned in the 16th Legislative Assembly's *Northerners Working Together* plan.

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R(16)685

Council of the Federation Literacy Award Winner Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (Wednesday, July 20, 2011) – Sylvia Clement of Tulita has been awarded this year’s Council of the Federation (CoF) Literacy Award for the Northwest Territories.

Presented annually to one individual from each of Canada’s 13 provinces and territories, the award celebrates outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy across the entire spectrum of the field of literacy, including: family, Aboriginal, health, workplace and community.

A single mother of two young children and with parental responsibility for her younger brother, Sylvia Clement has also been a student at the Aurora College Learning Centre in Norman Wells for the last two years and is working to achieve her goal of a secondary school diploma and to attend college.

Sylvia is also committed to improving the literacy of others as a volunteer in Tulita’s Chief Albert Wright School and through her work in the Family Literacy Program in Norman Wells. She is also very involved in traditional cultural activities in both communities.

“Sylvia is an inspiring role model to others in her dual roles of parent and student, and handles these two responsibilities with tremendous enthusiasm, commitment, grace and maturity,” says Premier Floyd K. Roland.

“Literacy skills are fundamental in creating a strong and prosperous northern society,” says Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty, “Ms. Clement demonstrates tremendous commitment to education and her success enriches us all.”

Created in 2004 by the Premiers of Canada, the award recognizes the valuable contributions made by Canadians and recognizes the importance of literacy as a major factor in Canadians' ability to participate as full and active citizens in all areas of society. In the NWT, the award is usually presented to an outstanding adult learner.

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Sylvia will receive a certificate signed by the Premier and a CoF Literacy Award medallion.

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R(16)686

Historic Signing at Dene Assembly

FORT PROVIDENCE (Wednesday, July 20, 2011) – Aboriginal leaders in the NWT are providing unprecedented support for the Education Partnership Declaration (EPD), a GNWT initiative spearheaded by Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. The EPD marks the first time Aboriginal leaders have united in such a strong show of support for education.

The EPD was signed by Minister Lafferty, National Chief Bill Erasmus, and the Grand Chiefs at the Dene Assembly last week. This historic signing indicates the importance all Aboriginal leaders attach to the educational success of their people.

“Signing this Declaration with the Grand Chiefs and the National Chief means that we all believe education is the way forward to ensure a healthy future for our people,” said Minister Lafferty, emphasising the importance of the signing in regards to the future of youth and the NWT. “I want to thank the Chiefs for their vision and leadership and for the strength and unity they have showed. Today we have made real progress for our people.”

“This initiative is very important as it demonstrates our commitment towards education and the improvement of our lives in the North,” said National Chief Bill Erasmus. “We encourage everyone to support it and make it real.”

The EPD sets out the guiding principles that all Aboriginal government and education leaders agreed to at a series of regional consultation meetings on Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA). The ASA initiative is designed to close the education success gap between Aboriginal and other students.

The EPD contains three articles:

Article 1- We recognize that public education aims to achieve quality education for all students and we all have roles and responsibilities for making improvements that will eliminate the gap in education achievement between Aboriginal and other students.

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Article 2 – We commit to working together and supporting each others’ work to provide a quality education system in the Northwest Territories at the territorial, regional and community levels that will eliminate the gap in education outcomes between Aboriginal and other students.

Article 3 – We agree that the priorities for attention and action that will help eliminate the education achievement gap between Aboriginal and other students are:

- Early childhood and childcare
- Student and family support
- Aboriginal language and culture curriculum and resource development
- Literacy

The EPD will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in August along with the Minister’s ASA Education Plan, a follow up to the ASA Status Report tabled in May (http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/Whats_New/ASA%20Interim%20Report%20May%202011%20final.pdf).

The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Northwest Territories Métis Nation and the Chairs of the Education Authorities and Aurora College will also sign the EPD in the coming weeks, making it the most widely supported education document ever produced.

Photographs in respect of this event are attached and should be attributed to the GNWT.

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R(16)688

Raising the Profile of Northern Issues at PNWER Annual Summit

YELLOWKNIFE (July 25, 2011) – The Northwest Territories delegation has returned from the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit in Portland. During the summit, NWT representatives had the opportunity to raise the profile of critical northern issues such as energy and mining.

Attendees discussed various issues including resource development, sustainability, and the environment. The Summit was held over four days and explored issues of interest to the NWT and the other PNWER members: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Yukon, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

The NWT delegation at the PNWER Summit included 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.

Minister McLeod delivered a keynote speech to delegates updating them on the state of the NWT mining industry, as well as co-chaired a session on natural resource development.

“The PNWER Annual Summit is an important tool in fostering partnerships and gaining advice from other territories, provinces and states” said Minister McLeod. “I am excited with the progress made here this week towards maximizing not only the potential of the NWT, but of the entire Pacific Northwest.”

“As members of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region, the NWT faces many of the same challenges of other participating jurisdictions” said MLA Ramsay. “Gatherings such as this Summit are key in sharing information which can benefit the region as a whole.”

“The scope of the NWT's economy is no longer limited to Canada – it is international” MLA Krutko remarked. “Being an active member of organizations like PNWER will help ensure that the NWT has a voice in providing input on pertinent international issues.”

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While in Portland, Minister McLeod, MLA Ramsay, and MLA Krutko invited delegates to this summer's meeting of the PNWER Arctic Caucus, which will be held from August 17-19 in Yellowknife. The caucus, comprised of delegates from the northern jurisdictions of PNWER, will meet to identify core issues that are priorities to the NWT, the Yukon, 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.

PNWER is a statutory public/private partnership established in 1991 to promote collaboration between the organization's 10 regional partners. The NWT joined PNWER in 2009.

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R(16)689

Aboriginal Tourism Champions Advisory Council Formed

YELLOWKNIFE (July 27, 2011) -- Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod has appointed seven Northwest Territories (NWT) residents to a new Aboriginal Tourism Champions Advisory Council.

The establishment of the Council is an important step in advancing a sustainable Aboriginal Tourism Strategy for the NWT. Council members will provide leadership and direction to the tourism industry, help to identify development opportunities for Aboriginal tourism, and promote Aboriginal tourism in communities across the NWT.

Growing the Aboriginal tourism sector was a key goal identified in *Tourism 2015: New Directions for a Spectacular Future*, the strategic plan to guide investment by the Government of the Northwest Territories in the tourism industry.

“Our Territory has an extraordinary resource of individuals and skills to draw on,” Minister McLeod notes. “The collective knowledge and experience of this Council will provide the strong and balanced understanding and guidance needed to help us grow the Aboriginal tourism sector.” The terms of membership on the Council will be to a maximum of two years, with an option for renewal by the Minister.

Council membership reflects a broad range of industry sectors, as well as the regional and Aboriginal cultural diversity of the Northwest Territories. The following individuals have been appointed to the nine-seat council:

- Mr. Grant Beck, Yellowknife
- Mr. Knute Hansen, Fort McPherson
- Mr. Doug Lamalice, Hay River
- Ms. Ria Letcher, Fort Simpson
- Ms. Margaret Nazon, Tsiigehtchic
- Mr. Moise Rabesca, Behchoko
- Ms Judith Wright-Bird, Tulita

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The Council will also include a representative from Northwest Territories Tourism and Ms. Kelly Kaylo of Yellowknife in her capacity as Co-Chair of the Tourism Marketing Advisory Committee (TMAC).

Actively supporting the growth of Aboriginal tourism in the NWT is just one way that the Government of the Northwest Territories is taking action to diversify the economy and provide all 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)690

Yellowknife Health and Social Services - Same Day Services

YELLOWKNIFE (JULY 28, 2011) – The Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority (YHSSA) has initiated “Same Day Services” at the Yellowknife Primary Care Centre and Frame Lake Community Health Clinic in response to suggestions from clients and staff in an operational review conducted in April.

Same Day Services will replace “Walk-In” services formerly delivered at these sites. Same Day Services allow clients to schedule appointments with a Nurse Practitioner, Nurse or Physician, on the day that they call for the appointment.

“We expect that Same Day Services will help increase the number of same day appointments available to clients; provide easier access by allowing clients to book appointments by phone; and reduce appointment waiting times. We look forward to client feedback about Same Day Services over the coming months,” said Les Harrison CEO of YHSSA.

Effective July 18, 2011, the following changes have occurred:

1) Scheduling of Same Day Appointments

- Clients will be able to book “Same Day Appointments” by calling the clinics. Clients will no longer be required to come in person to clinics to book appointments for evening services.
- There are a limited number of Same Day Appointments available each day. These appointments will be provided on a “first call basis”.

2) Expanded access to appointments – “Same Day” appointments can now be scheduled from

- 12:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at the Yellowknife Primary Care Centre.
- 12:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays at Frame Lake Community Health Clinic.

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Same Day Services provide quick access to appointments for health issues that do not require a visit to the Emergency Room. YHSSA continues to offer regular clinic appointments for the scheduling of physical exams, routine pap tests, wart treatment and other minor procedures, follow-ups for lab or other diagnostic results, injections or narcotic medication refills.

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R(16)691

Health and Social Services Introduces YouTube Channel

YELLOWKNIFE (July 25, 2011) – The Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) is broadcasting its messages to Northwest Territories (NWT) Residents on its new YouTube Channel.

HSS has launched its official YouTube Channel, <http://www.youtube.com/user/HSSCommunications>. The channel has informational videos on public health, environmental health, social services, addictions and seniors programming.

“The Department’s YouTube Channel provides another way people can learn about our programs and services,” said Minister of HSS J. Michael Miltenberger. “The channel also has video content in the various NWT official languages. I encourage you to log on to YouTube and subscribe to our channel in order to be notified when new videos are added.”

YouTube search is the second most used search engine on the Internet (Google is number one). It exceeds 2 billion views a day, and 24 hours of video is uploaded every minute. The average user spends 15 minutes a day on YouTube. YouTube, like other social media has become the communication tool for federal and provincial governments as people are integrating it into their lifestyles. HSS currently has 37 videos on its channel.

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R(16)692

Update on Elective Surgeries – Stanton Territorial Hospital

YELLOWKNIFE (Aug 2, 2011) – Stanton Territorial Hospital is targeting August 12, 2011 to resume elective surgeries. This target date is based on current sterilization equipment showing consistent safety results.

“Safety of patients is our priority,” said Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger. “Only when Stanton Territorial Health Authority is satisfied that consistent results can be achieved, will we resume our normal business.”

Although some surgeries have been performed at Stanton, limits on elective surgeries have been in place since January 20, 2011. Demand for surgeries have been managed by either completing the surgery, accessing southern hospitals or, when possible, rescheduling.

Issues with infection control and sterilization equipment are a common occurrence in all hospitals. Patient safety and risk management will continue to be the priority for Stanton Territorial Hospital.

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R(16)693

GNWT Encourages Smokers to Live a Smoke Free Life

YELLOWKNIFE (August 12, 2011) To support residents in the stop smoking challenge, Nicotine Replacement Therapies (NRT's) will be available to all NWT smokers and smoking cessation prescription drugs will be covered under NWT health care benefits, Health and Social Services (HSS) Minister Miltenberger announced today.

"Every year we needlessly lose friends, family and loved ones due to smoking related deaths," Miltenberger said. "Smoking is the single biggest preventable cause of death. It is of special concern because the NWT has double the national rate of smokers. The options that we have in place provide smokers with direct support to quit, living a smoke free lifestyle and improving not only the quality of their health but of their families' health as well."

The quit smoking options available to smokers include NRT's and prescription medications. The GNWT covers the cost for approximately three months supply per year of these products to residents. Private sector employers may also offer cessation supports depending on their benefit plans.

Smokers can also get one-on-one support from their doctors and nurses to quit smoking. The GNWT has worked with the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health to provide training on smoking cessation to 45 healthcare providers throughout the territory.

HSS Authorities also offer tobacco cessation assistance. People can ask their health care providers for more information about supports and programs offered within their communities.

Another support system available to smokers is the NWT Quitline. This is a toll free help line staffed by trained cessation counsellors. For more information on the NWT Quitline and on tips on how you can quit, please visit www.nwtquitline.ca.

The GNWT is also working with the Alberta/NWT Lung Association, to offer the Smart Steps program in three or four NWT workplaces. The Smart Steps program provides a series of brief facilitated sessions in a workplace. The sessions help participants motivate themselves and prepare for a quit date.

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“The tools and supports are there. It is up to you to take the step towards quitting and enjoying a healthier lifestyle,” said Minister Miltenberger.

“For organizations that want to join us on the war against tobacco, I encourage you to apply for funding towards community based tobacco reduction through the Health Promotion Strategy Fund. This can be accessed on our website, www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca.”

For more information on how you can make simple changes towards a healthier lifestyle, visit www.choosenwt.com.

For more information contact:

Damien Healy,

Manager, Communications

Department of Health and Social Services

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R(16)694

Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services Resigns

YELLOWKNIFE (August 10, 2011) Premier Floyd K. Roland has accepted the resignation of Ms. Paddy Meade from her position as Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services effective September 23, 2011.

The Premier, along with Minister of Health and Social Services Michael Miltenberger thanked Ms. Meade for her efforts to make long-term improvements to the NWT health and social services system. Ms Meade was instrumental in the ongoing implementing of *A Foundation for Change*, the Government of the Northwest Territories' plan for creating a sustainable and effective health and social services system that will meet the needs of NWT residents into the future.

“We will miss the leadership and hard work that Ms. Meade has brought to her position at Health and Social Services,” Premier Roland said. “Her commitment to improve the health and social services system our residents rely on has been invaluable and leaves the Government of the Northwest Territories well-positioned to build on her improvements in coming years.”

Ms. Debbie DeLancey will fill the position Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services until the next Premier appoints a permanent replacement. Ms. DeLancey's previous appointments with the GNWT include Deputy Minister of Human Resources, Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and Associate Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services.

For more information:

James MacKenzie

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R(16)695

PNWER to Meet in NWT for the First Time

YELLOWKNIFE (August 16, 2011) Canadian and U.S. government officials along with business leaders will meet in Yellowknife this week to discuss issues of importance to the Northwest Territories (NWT) at the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Capital Visit and Arctic Caucus.

The Capital Visit will take place on Aug. 17, and the Arctic Caucus will be held on Aug. 18 – 19, 2011.

The theme of the Arctic Caucus, “Arctic Action: Global Growth” will see delegates coming together to explore various issues of importance to the Arctic region, including arctic search and rescue, mining, infrastructure, and spill response technology.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod will host and chair the 2011 PNWER Capital Visit and Arctic Caucus. MLA for Kam Lake and Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure David Ramsay will also be attending.

“Hosting this event in Yellowknife provides an ideal forum to collaborate on issues that will ensure a stronger voice for the Arctic,” said Minister McLeod. “Moreover, we will be able to give delegates a stronger understanding of the NWT’s economic potential, highlight the issues we are facing and garner support in areas that will allow us to move forward.

“Meetings such as the PNWER Arctic Caucus are essential in ensuring that our regions can collaborate on the common challenges our jurisdictions face, and explore solutions together,” said MLA Ramsay. “I am thrilled that Yellowknife has been given the opportunity to host this event and am eager to discuss our common economic issues over the course of this Caucus.”

Some Arctic Caucus speakers include:

- **Mr. John Cameron**, VP & GM of Marsh Creek LLC Energy Systems – *Gas to Wires: Arctic Infrastructure for Development.*
- **Dr. Brian Chambers**, National Energy Board(NEB) Northern Advisor – *Process/Outcomes of Arctic Offshore Drilling Review.*
- **Mr. Larry Dietrick**, Director, Division of Spill Prevention and Response Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation – *Spill Planning, Preparedness and*

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Response in the Arctic and Opportunities for Cooperation between Alaska, Yukon and NWT.

- **Mr. Tom Hoefler**, Executive Director, NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines – *A Brief History and Overview of Mining in the NWT.*
- **Dr. Harvey Brooks**, Deputy Minister, Yukon Economic Development – *Infrastructure Gateways to Support Economic Development.*

On Aug. 18 Fred Carmichael, Chair of the Aboriginal Pipeline Group, will also give a lunchtime keynote address on the Mackenzie Gas Project.

Another highlight of the Capital Visit is a planned roundtable session with members of the NWT business community, to discuss how NWT businesses and PNWER can work together for mutual benefit.

PNWER is a 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, Yukon, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

The PNWER Arctic Caucus was formed in November 2009 as a group of legislators, government officials, business and non-profit leaders committed to the responsible development of North America's Arctic. The purpose of the Arctic Caucus is to provide a forum within PNWER for the arctic jurisdictions of Alaska, Yukon and NWT to share information, discuss issues of mutual concern, and to identify areas for collaboration; which may include providing arctic-relevant input to PNWER working groups.

The NWT's participation in PNWER exemplifies the GNWT's ongoing commitment to maximize northern opportunities for economic development, as envisioned in the *Northerners Working Together* plan.

For more information, please contact:

Alayna Ward

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Industry, Tourism and Investment
Phone: (867) 920-8696

Jessica Fournier

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R(16)696

GNWT co-hosts 2011 Arctic Ungulate Conference in Yellowknife

YELLOWKNIFE (August 15, 2011) – The Government of the Northwest Territories, in partnership with the Governments of Nunavut and Yukon, is proud to host the 2011 Arctic Ungulate Conference in Yellowknife from Aug. 22 to 26. This will be the 13th international conference.

The event is held every four years and focuses on the management and status of Northern ungulate species, such as caribou, moose and bison. Over 200 delegates are expected to attend the conference, including scientists, researchers, co-management boards and government officials from across the world.

This year, the theme of the conference is “Challenges of Managing Northern Ungulates.” The conference will include traditional, local and scientific knowledge and an Indigenous Talking Circle to share traditional knowledge about sustainable ungulate harvesting.

Presentations will address a variety of topics, including climate change and increasing human presence on the land, as well as the challenges to developing recovery plans for declining ungulate populations such as caribou and reindeer. Other sessions include: a cross-country comparison of northern ungulate management; research and monitoring; health and disease; and, physiology and nutrition.

The conference has two sessions that are free and open to the public:

On Tuesday, August 23rd, a storytelling session hosted by Paul Andrew will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Tom Eagle Memorial Hall in the Tree of Peace. Delegates and the public will be welcomed to tell stories relating to the importance of ungulates, such as caribou, to northern people.

On Thursday, August 24th, a session and visual demonstration on counting caribou in the North will be held at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre at 7:00 p.m. The public are encouraged to attend and learn about how caribou populations are monitored.

To register as a member of the media or for more information, visit www.auc2011.ca or contact:

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Conference Agenda



Monday, August 22: Day 1 Seminars

Time	Session and Location
8:00-9:00	Registration and breakfast – Tom Eagle Memorial Hall, Tree of Peace Friendship Centre
9:00-12:00	Seminar 1 – Indigenous Talking Circle Facilitated by <i>D. Beaulieu and W. Bezha</i> Tom Eagle Memorial Hall, Tree of Peace
	Seminar 2 – Wildlife Necropsy and Health/Condition Sampling Techniques Facilitated by <i>B. Elkin and J. Harms</i> North Slave Region Lab
	Seminar 3 – Conservation Education Facilitated by <i>S. Yuill</i> Room 205, Northern United Place
	Seminar 4 – Caribou demographic modeling session Facilitated by <i>J. Boulanger</i> Basement boardroom, Scotia Centre
12:00-1:00	Lunch (provided) – Tom Eagle Memorial Hall, Tree of Peace
1:00-4:00	Seminar 1 – Indigenous Talking Circle Facilitated by <i>D. Beaulieu and W. Bezha</i> Tom Eagle Memorial Hall, Tree of Peace
	Seminar 2 – Wildlife Necropsy and Health/Condition Sampling Techniques Facilitated by <i>B. Elkin and J. Harms</i> North Slave Region Lab
	Seminar 3 – Conservation Education Facilitated by <i>S. Yuill</i> Room 205, Northern United Place
	Seminar 4 – Caribou demographic modeling session Facilitated by <i>J. Boulanger</i> Basement boardroom, Scotia Centre
4:00-6:30	Dinner (on your own)
6:30-10:00	Registration and Evening Social (cash bar) – Tom Eagle Memorial Hall, Tree of Peace <i>Tentative: Presentation of "Voices of the Caribou People" and other videos</i>

Tuesday, August 23

Time	Session and Location
7:30-8:30	Registration and breakfast – Explorer Hotel
Opening Prayer, Welcoming Remarks, and Panel/Plenary Session – Katimavik Room, Explorer Hotel	
8:30-9:15	Opening Prayer and Welcoming Remarks Chair: <i>R. Charlie</i>
9:15-9:30	Arctic Ungulate Society <i>A. Blix</i>
9:30-10:30	Plenary Session: What are the challenges of managing caribou and reindeer? <i>D. Russell and J. Tetlich</i>
10:30-10:50	Health Break – Explorer Hotel
10:50-4:30	Panel Session: Circumpolar Comparison of Caribou and Reindeer Management Chairs: <i>D. Russell, J. Tetlich</i> 10:50-11:40: Russia – L. Kolpashikov, I.M. Okhlopkov, A. Degteva 11:40-12:10: Norway – C. Nellemann 12:10-1:10: Lunch (catered) 1:10-1:40 : Greenland – C. Cuyler 1:40-2:10: Alaska – R. Boertje 2:10-2:30: Canada: Arctic Archipelago – D. Jenkins 2:30-2:50: Canada: Taiga and Tundra – S. Fleck 2:50-3:10: Canada: Southern Boreal – J. Ray 3:10-3:30: Health Break 3:30-4:00: Trends and Patterns observed across the Circumpolar – J. Tetlich and D. Russell 4:00-4:30: General discussion and final comments – R. Charlie
4:30-6:00	Dinner (on your own)
6:00-9:00	Poster Session Large Boardroom, Tree of Peace
7:00-10:00	Storytelling Session – The Importance of Arctic Ungulates to Northern People (session open to delegates and the public) Hosted by <i>P. Andrew</i> Tom Eagle Memorial Hall, Tree of Peace

Wednesday, August 24

Time	Session and Location	
7:30-8:30	Registration and breakfast – Explorer Hotel	
8:30-5:00	Indigenous Talking Circle – Tom Eagle Memorial Hall, Tree of Peace	
	Session 1A: Health and Disease Chair: A. Gunn Katimavik A, Explorer Hotel	Session 1B: Management 1 Chair: J. Nishi Katimavik B, Explorer Hotel
8:30-8:50	Gastrointestinal parasite diversity: drivers and relation to host health in two West Greenland caribou herds <i>J. Steele</i>	The Newfoundland caribou strategy: science and management for a declining population <i>S.P. Mahoney</i>
8:50-9:10	Lymphocyte development in captive Alaskan reindeer (<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>) <i>Z. Purtzer</i>	Taking care of caribou: management planning process for the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East caribou herds <i>J. Snortland-Pellissey</i>
9:10-9:30	Infectious keratoconjunctivitis in semi-domesticated reindeer (<i>Rangifer tarandus tarandus</i>) – chasing causative agents <i>M. Tryland</i>	Decline and harvest management of the Bathurst caribou herd – a collaborative approach in a time of crisis <i>K. Garner</i>
9:30-9:50	Circum-arctic presence of <i>Mycobacterium avium</i> subspecies <i>paratuberculosis</i> in caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>) herds <i>T. Forde</i>	Inuvialuit management of caribou in a state of decline: an example of effective co-management <i>F. Pokiak</i>
9:50-10:10	Health impacts of the deer ked (<i>Lipoptena cervi</i>) on reindeer (<i>Rangifer tarandus tarandus</i>) in Finland <i>S-M. Kynkäänniemi</i>	Shifting targets in the tundra: are calving grounds of migratory caribou really protected? <i>J. Taillon</i>
10:10-10:25	Health Break	

Wednesday, August 24

Time	Session and Location	
	Session: 2A Range and Habitat Chair: C. Johnson Katimavik A, Explorer Hotel	Session 2B: Management 2 Chair: J. Nishi Katimavik B, Explorer Hotel
10:25-10:45	Fall habitat and diet selection of reindeer on the Seward peninsula, Alaska <i>L. Davis</i>	Conservation of wild reindeer (<i>Rangifer tarandus</i> sp) in southern Norway: transiting from a harvest to a landscape oriented management system <i>O. Strand</i>
10:45-11:05	Seasonal resource selection by the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd <i>R. Wilson</i>	Taimyr Peninsula: Ecosystem: reindeer-pastures-man <i>L. Kolpashikov</i>
11:05-11:25	Modifications of migration patterns of caribou in northern Québec-Labrador during the last two decades <i>M. Le Corre</i>	Rapid predator population growth endangers Fennoscandian reindeer husbandry, <i>Ö. Dannel</i>
11:25-11:45	Phenology of mosquito activity within summer ranges of North Slope caribou herds in Alaska <i>A. Bali</i>	Vulnerability and adaptive capacity of a coastal reindeer pasture district in northern Norway <i>K. Hansen</i>
11:45-12:05	Wildfire, habitat and harvesters - understanding the distribution of Bathurst caribou during winter <i>C. Johnson</i>	
12:05-1:05	Lunch (provided) – Tom Eagle Memorial Hall, Tree of Peace	

Wednesday, August 24

Time	Session and Location	
	Session 3A: Behaviour, Genetics and Evolution Chair: M. Musiani Katimavik A, Explorer Hotel	Session 3B: Status and Population Ecology Chair: T. Hegel Katimavik B, Explorer Hotel
1:05-1:25	Caribou genetic diversity in western North America: implications for hunting and conservation planning <i>B. Weckworth</i>	Rise and crash in two migratory caribou herds in northern Québec and Labrador <i>S. Courturier</i>
1:25-1:45	Rangifer mating system – revisited <i>Ø. Holand</i>	Dealing with uncertainty in management of declining herds of migratory tundra caribou: an evaluation of evidence and implications for the decline of the Beverly caribou herd in northern Canada <i>J. Adamczewski</i>
1:45-2:05	Carry-over effects of raising a son in wood bison (<i>Bison bison athabasca</i>) <i>A. Massolo</i>	A data-driven demographic model to explore the decline of the Bathurst caribou herd <i>J. Boulanger</i>
2:05-2:25	Using allometry to infer age- and sex-specific resource allocations towards antlers in reindeer (<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>) <i>N. Melnycky</i>	Post-calving photo surveys and extrapolated calving photo surveys for barren-ground caribou: a comparison from the Bluenose-East herd in June and July 2010 <i>J. Adamczewski</i>
2:25-2:45	Foraging time and activity budget of rutting male reindeer: influence of individual characteristics, period and group composition <i>R. Weladji</i>	Geographical and changing abundance influences on winter, pre-calving and calving distribution of a continental caribou herd <i>A. Gunn</i>
2:45-3:05	Influence of dam information on selection practices in reindeer <i>K. Muuttoranta</i>	Dolphin and Union caribou herd status <i>M. Dumond</i>
3:05-3:20	Health Break	

Wednesday, August 24

Time	Session and Location	
	Session 4A: Predators and Prey Chair: R. Boertje Katimavik A, Explorer Hotel	Session 4B: Disturbance and Climate Change Chair: C. Nelleman Katimavik B, Explorer Hotel
3:20-3:40	Mortality of the semi-domesticated reindeer (<i>Rangifer tarandus tarandus L.</i>) calves in the Finnish reindeer-herding area <i>M. Nieminen</i>	Evidence of a non-linear response to anthropogenic disturbances: a case study with woodland caribou in a highly managed landscape <i>D. Beauchesne</i>
3:40-4:00	CSI Newfoundland: molecular determination of caribou calf predators <i>M. Mumma</i>	Estimating the zone of influence of mine areas and industrial developments on barren ground caribou distribution <i>J. Boulanger</i>
4:00-4:20	The effects of predation on a declining population of mainland migratory barren-ground caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus</i>) in the vicinity of Qamanirjuaq Lake, Nunavut <i>M. Awan</i>	Impacts of industrial development and climate change on Nenets reindeer herders in Yamal Peninsula, Russia <i>A. Degteva</i>
4:20-4:40	Managing moose-caribou-wolf-bear systems in Alaska <i>R. Boertje</i>	Stressed caribou in disturbed landscapes: using hair to track the physiological burden of man-made forest alterations <i>L. Renaud</i>
4:40-5:00		Sea ice and migration of the Dolphin and Union Caribou Herd in the Canadian arctic: an uncertain future <i>K. Poole</i>
5:15-6:00	Arctic Ungulate Society Business Meeting – Cumberland Room, Explorer Hotel	
6:30-11:00	Evening Banquet – Katimavik Room, Explorer Hotel	

Time	Session and Location	
7:30-8:30	Registration and breakfast – Explorer Hotel	
	Concurrent Sessions – Explorer Hotel	
	Session 5A: Integrating Traditional Knowledge into Management Chair: R. Charlie Katimavik A, Explorer Hotel	Session 5B: Nutrition and Physiology Chair: P. Barboza Katimavik B, Explorer Hotel
8:30-10:30	8:30-8:50 Key Note Speaker – Timmikut, tarnikkut anersaakkullu – Inuit knowledge. <i>K. Williamson</i>	8:30-8:50 Reproductive pauses and extended lactation in musk-oxen <i>B. White</i>
	8:50-10:20 Case Studies (15 minutes each) 1. Integrating Traditional Knowledge (TK) into wildlife management through the co-management process, <i>L. Carpenter</i> 2. Using participatory action methods for long-term management planning for a population of Arctic tundra caribou, <i>M. Ferguson</i> 3. The effects of development on barren-ground caribou according to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, <i>N. Thorpe</i> 4. Traditional Knowledge in reindeer herding in Russia, <i>D. Khorolia</i> 5. Aboriginal caribou management through Traditional Ecological Knowledge and partnerships, <i>T. Giroux</i> 6. A comparison of traditional ecological knowledge and Western science woodland caribou habitat models in support of caribou recovery, <i>J. Polfus</i>	8:50-9:10 The long days of spring stimulate appetite in reindeer <i>K. Stokkan</i>
		9:10-9:30 Isotopic indicators of protein dynamics in wintering reindeer, caribou and musk-oxen <i>P. Barboza</i>
		9:30-9:50 Body condition in a declining West Greenland caribou population <i>C. Cuyler</i>
		9:50-10:10 How do reindeer populations manipulate their own food supply? <i>H. Prouillet-Leplat</i>
		10:10-10:30 Experimental reduction of food quality is not compensated with increased food intake in musk-oxen <i>A. Blix</i>
10:20-10:30	First round of questions	
10:30-10:45	Health Break	

Time	Session and Location									
	Special Session 5A: Integrating Traditional Knowledge into Management, continued Chair: R. Charlie Katimavik A, Explorer Hotel	Session 5C: Health and Disease 2 Chair: B. Elkin Katimavik B, Explorer Hotel								
10:45-12:05	10:45-11:30 Panel Discussion <i>K. Williamson, F. Pokiak, W. Bezha, J. Nagy, G. Kofinas</i> 11:30-12:05 Question and Answer Period	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>10:45-11:05</td> <td>Community interviews contribute to our knowledge of caribou: an analysis by the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Coop <i>D. Russell</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>11:05-11:25</td> <td>Disease in barren-ground caribou: serology in a period of widespread herd declines <i>P. Curry</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>11:25-11:45</td> <td>To snail or not to snail? – Modeling the impact of climate change on two arctic parasites with contrasting life histories <i>P. Molnár</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>11:45-12:05</td> <td>Demographic effects of an outbreak of <i>Brucella suis</i> on island bound barren-ground caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus</i>) on Southampton Island, Nunavut <i>M. Campbell</i></td> </tr> </table>	10:45-11:05	Community interviews contribute to our knowledge of caribou: an analysis by the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Coop <i>D. Russell</i>	11:05-11:25	Disease in barren-ground caribou: serology in a period of widespread herd declines <i>P. Curry</i>	11:25-11:45	To snail or not to snail? – Modeling the impact of climate change on two arctic parasites with contrasting life histories <i>P. Molnár</i>	11:45-12:05	Demographic effects of an outbreak of <i>Brucella suis</i> on island bound barren-ground caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus</i>) on Southampton Island, Nunavut <i>M. Campbell</i>
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12:05-1:05	Lunch (provided) – Tom Eagle Memorial Hall, Tree of Peace									
1:05-2:45	Indigenous Talking Circle – Tom Eagle Memorial Hall, Tree of Peace									

Time	Session and Location		
	Concurrent Sessions – Explorer Hotel		
	Session 6A: Circum-Arctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment (CARMA) Chair: R. Charlie Katimavik A, Explorer Hotel	Session 6B: Health and Disease 3 Chair: B. Elkin Katimavik B, Explorer Hotel	
1:05-2:45	CARMA: Current Status and Next steps (15 minutes each) 1. Introduction to CARMA – Origins, goals and accomplishments, <i>D. Russell</i> 2. CARMA, communities and education – an overview of tools and resources developed through International Polar Year, <i>S. Kutz</i> 3. CARMA's integrative modeling: development and application of an energy/protein model, <i>B. White</i> 4. CARMA's climate database: assessing habitats on a circumpolar scale, <i>D. Russell</i> 5. CARMA's tools and approach for collaborative assessment of cumulative effects, <i>A. Gunn</i> 6. The challenges ahead: CARMA after International Polar Year, <i>G. Kofinas</i> 7. Question and Answer Period	1:05-1:25	Cervis herpesvirus 2 (CvHV2) is endemic in Alaskan caribou and reindeer <i>A. Evans</i>
		1:25-1:45	Young reindeer health: issues and ways of solution <i>M. Neustroev</i>
		1:45-2:05	Cervid Herpesvirus 2 infections in reindeer in arctic region <i>C.G. Das Neves</i>
		2:05-2:25	Health survey of selected veterinary and zoonotic diseases in musk-ox (<i>Ovibos moschatus</i>) of Victoria Island, Nunavut, Canada <i>J. Wu</i>
		2:25-2:45	Anthrax in the Northwest Territories <i>T. Armstrong</i>
2:45-3:00	Health Break – Explorer Hotel		
	Closing Session – Katimavik Room, Explorer Hotel		
3:00-3:20	A circum-arctic conservation plan for caribou and wild reindeer <i>M. Hummel</i>		
3:20-4:05	Research Priorities for Arctic Ungulates <i>A. Gunn, T. Hegel, P. Barboza, B. Elkin, M. Musiani, C. Johnson</i> Followed by 10-15 minutes of open discussion		
4:05-4:45	Management Priorities for Arctic Ungulates <i>J. Nishi, R. Boertje, R. Charlie, C. Nellemann, Talking Circle Chair</i> Followed by 10-15 minutes of discussion		
4:45-5:00	Closing Comments, Closing Prayer Chair: <i>R. Charlie</i>		

Thursday, August 25

Time	Session and Location
5:00-7:00	Dinner (on your own)
7:00-9:00	Counting caribou: visual demonstration (session open to delegates and the public) Facilitated by <i>J. Nishi</i> Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

Friday, August 26: Field Trips

Three local field trips have been arranged on your behalf. Please register online or contact us at AUC2011@gov.nt.ca for more information.

1. Yellowknife Up Close and Personal

Spend a half day seeing the highlights and unique sights that Yellowknife has to offer. Learn about our rich mining history, from the 1934 discovery of gold to our present day diamond industry. Experience the places and faces that make Yellowknife so unique.

- Price: \$52.50 per person
- Yellowknife departure
- Minimum: 4 guests each time slot
- Maximum: 15 guests each time slot
- 3 Departure times to chose from:
 - 10:00 AM
 - 1:00 PM
 - 5:00 PM

2. Fishing on Great Slave Lake

Enjoy a day of endless sunshine, big fish and big lakes! This guided fishing trip takes you to the local haunts of feisty trout and tasty whitefish. Try your luck casting for the one that didn't get away.

- Price: \$100.00 per person
- Yellowknife departure
- Minimum: 2 guests each time slot
- Maximum: 8 guests each time slot
- 2 Departure times to chose from:
 - 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
 - 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

3. Canadian Shield Adventure

Spend the day walking and talking! Walking on some of the oldest rocks in the world and talking about the beauty that surrounds them. Yellowknife's Ingraham Trail is the gateway to rivers, lakes, waterfalls and a day of easy going adventure.

- Price: \$100.00 per person
- Yellowknife departure
- Minimum: 3 guests each time slot
- Maximum: 48 guests each time slot
- Two departure times to chose from:
 - 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
 - 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Or spend your time exploring the great places in and around Yellowknife independently!

R(16)697

NWT and Government of Canada Work Together to Increase Emergency Preparedness Capacity

YELLOWKNIFE (August 15, 2011) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is working in partnership with the Government of Canada to enhance emergency preparedness and response activities in the NWT.

Seven projects totalling approximately \$450,000 received funding in 2010-11. This included a contribution of \$194,000 from the Government of Canada through the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) to support Canada's emergency management priorities – developing valuable learning events and the improvement of telecommunications capacity.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) administers JEPP on behalf of Public Safety Canada. Funding is available annually to GNWT departments and municipal authorities to help meet the costs of approved emergency preparedness projects.

“Being prepared for emergencies is important. JEPP support efforts across our territory to increase emergency preparedness capacity through training, education, and improved telecommunications,” said Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. “The Government of Canada is a valuable partner in protecting the safety of people and property in communities across the Northwest Territories.”

“Through JEPP, the Government of Canada has been helping provinces and territories prepare for emergencies for over 30 years,” said Canada's Public Safety Minister Vic Toews. “All governments share a responsibility to invest in emergency preparedness and help keep Canadians safe.”

Projects supported by JEPP improve emergency preparedness capacity and support the GNWT's goal of sustainable, vibrant, safe communities as envisioned in the 16th Assemblies' *Vision of Northerners Working Together*.

Communities wishing to pursue JEPP projects in 2012-2013 can find more information about the program on MACA's website at www.maca.gov.nt.ca, or contact the MACA office in your region.

For more information, contact:

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

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R(16)699

GNWT and Canadian Zinc Sign Socio-Economic Agreement

YELLOWKNIFE (August 22, 2011) - The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Canadian Zinc Inc. today signed a Socio Economic Agreement (SEA) for the proposed Prairie Creek Mine in the Dehcho Region.

The agreement formalizes commitments by Canadian Zinc with respect to employment, training, business opportunities and other related benefits for Northwest Territories (NWT) residents. It also details measures to monitor and adapt to possible socio-economic impacts related to the proposed project.

“The signing of this Agreement reflects the commitment of both parties to ensure that the development of northern resources occurs in a manner that is sensitive to social and cultural considerations and is economically sustainable,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod. “The signing of this Socio-Economic Agreement is a significant step in moving the process forward towards bringing the Prairie Creek Mine into operation, and that will translate into economic opportunities for Dehcho residents.”

The GNWT has long supported the advancement of non-renewable resource development that respects the principles of conservation and is carried out in a manner that ensures benefits from northern development accrue to both the residents and economy of the NWT.

“Canadian Zinc is very pleased to have signed this landmark agreement with the GNWT. The Prairie Creek silver/zinc/lead mine has the potential to provide significant direct and indirect employment benefits and business opportunities to the NWT and in particular to the Dehcho Region. We are committed to developing and operating the Project in a manner that contributes to the social, economic and cultural well-being of the Northwest Territories and, in particular, the residents and communities in the region”, stated John Kearney, Chairman and CEO of Canadian Zinc Corporation and the President of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Chamber of Mines.

Highlights of the SEA include:

- 18 ongoing training positions;

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- The establishment of a Socio-Economic Advisory Committee with members from the GNWT, Canadian Zinc and local Aboriginal governments;
- Confirmation of Canadian Zinc's employment and procurement commitments for the life of the project;
- For project employees living in any of the NWT's communities, the SEA also includes a commitment to cover the costs of travel to and from employee pick-up points.

“This is an excellent opportunity for Northerners to benefit from meaningful jobs and training, particularly in the Dehcho,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty. “We have worked hard to ensure any business opening its doors in the NWT makes provision for creating and developing opportunities for northerners. I commend Canadian Zinc for their commitment to northerners and look forward to many job opportunities becoming available as a result of this project.”

“There is vast potential in the Nahendeh for a sustainable future” said Nahendeh MLA Kevin Menicoche,” This agreement is an important signal that the people of the Nahendeh are taking control of their future and ensuring that economic benefits will go directly to the community level”

The signed SEA will be posted online at: <http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/publications/>.

For more information, please contact:

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Steve Dawson
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R(16)700

Health Status Report

YELLOWKNIFE (AUGUST 22, 2011) – The Health Status Report has been released by Health and Social Services Minister J. Michael Miltenberger. The report provides an insight into the health and well-being of the Northwest Territories population.

“A goal within the Health and Social Services Action Plan *A Foundation for Change* is to promote healthy living and wellness. To do this, we must have insight into the health of our residents so we can implement preventative strategies and provide education to avoid unhealthy behaviours and disease. Evidence from this report form the basis of our programs and influence our decision making and program development for the future,” Miltenberger said.

Health Status informs people about the well-being and health of the general public and its results provide insight into the challenges and opportunities that exist along the road to healthy living.

The Report is published every five years. The last report of 2005 focused on describing health conditions over time and it compares the health of small communities, regional centres and Yellowknife.

Electronic copies of the latest Health Status Report can be found on the Department of Health and Social Services website at: www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)701

NWT Residents Honoured at Minister's Cultural Circle Awards

YELLOWKNIFE (Monday, August 22, 2011) – Five Northwest Territories (NWT) residents and organizations were honoured this morning at the inaugural Minister's Cultural Circle Award Ceremony. The event took place in the South Gallery of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, as a way of recognizing the important and lasting contributions of those dedicated to the arts and cultures of the North.

“We live in a culturally rich land,” said the Honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty. “Arts and craftsmanship, languages and the passing on of traditional knowledge and practices weave a culturally diverse mosaic of who we are as individuals and as a territory. This year's recipients pride themselves on making a positive and lasting impact on the lives of countless NWT residents, and I applaud them for both their outstanding achievement and passion.”

The Minister's Cultural Circle provides lasting recognition of those contributing to the preservation and promotion of culture and heritage in the NWT. It helps build awareness amongst all northerners about the importance of promoting, protecting, preserving and celebrating our unique culture, heritage and ways of life. An independent panel of judges chose one recipient from each of the four categories with a fifth recipient receiving the Minister's Choice Award.

The 2011 Minister's Cultural Circle recipients are:

- Evan Tordiff from Fort Smith – Youth Category;
- Abel Tingmiak from Inuvik – Elder Category;
- Ben Nind from Yellowknife – Individual Category;
- Aklavik Delta Drummers and Dancers – Group Category; and
- Chief Jimmy Bruneau School from Behchoko receives the Minister's Choice Award.

More information about each recipient is available on the attached backgrounder.

For more information contact:

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NWT Residents Honoured at Cultural Circle Ceremony

BACKGROUNDER

Purpose: To provide lasting recognition and gratitude towards those who contribute to the preservation and promotion of cultures and heritage in the Northwest Territories. The Cultural Circle helps build awareness amongst all northerners about the importance of promoting, protecting, preserving and celebrating our unique culture, heritage and ways of life.

Eligible Recipients:

Youth Category - Youth, 25 years of age and under, who demonstrate a strong commitment to engaging in the arts, cultural learning and cultural practices.

Individual Category - Individuals who demonstrate a strong commitment to preserving and promoting culture through participation in various arts, culture and heritage related activities.

Elders Category - Elders, 50 years of age and older, respected for their contributions of practicing, promoting, guiding, teaching, leadership, vision, or hands-on participation in the areas of art, culture, heritage and language.

Group Category - Any organization, corporation, institution, organizing committee or social club that plays a lead role in developing and supporting activities that celebrate, promote or preserve the arts, culture and heritage.

Criteria:

- Must be a current resident of the Northwest Territories (except where awarded posthumously)
- Must have made a significant, long-term contribution to the arts, culture and heritage.
- Must be independently motivated by a genuine desire to make a difference.

2011 Minister's Cultural Circle Award Recipients:

Fourteen year old **Evan Tordiff** prides himself in his Métis heritage. He loves being on the land, learning new things and is very active in his community of Fort Smith. Evan demonstrates a strong commitment to cultural learning and practices through numerous activities, including going hunting every fall, setting and checking his own traps, taking part in Traditional Trapping workshops on his own time and practicing building shelters and setting up camp on his own in the bush. He received the first Junior Trapper award at his school's Spring Camp at Hanging Ice for his remarkable harvesting skills and was recommended to be a local guide for his knowledge of the land for a documentary on the Slave River. Evan is well respected in his community.

Elder **Abel Tingmiak**, of Inuvik, is an Ambassador for the Inuvialuit culture. He spends his time revitalizing and teaching Inuvialuit traditions to younger generations. He is a founding member of the revitalization of the Inuvialuit/Inuit games, demonstrating them locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, and offering lessons to youth to learn the different games. Abel teaches drum dancing skills and songs to students at Sir Alexander Mackenzie School, including teaching grade 5 students to make Inuvialuit drums. He ensures to pass on not only the skills and traditions, but the history behind each of them. Abel is a staple of the North and is well respected by all in his community, region and across the territory.

Ben Nind of Yellowknife has served as the Artistic Director of the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre (NACC) for the past nine years. His dedication to the arts in the North has seen many professional

musicians, theatre productions and artists come North to perform. Ben devoted many hours to expanding NACC's outreach program to 22 communities across the territory. He personally takes the time to assist Northern artists and performers achieve their visions and dreams. He was also instrumental in developing an NWT Arts and Culture Strategy. Ben is well respected in the greater arts community of the Northwest Territories.

The Aklavik Delta Drummers and Dancers have been performing for more than 30 years. Originally formed by Inuvialuit elders to revive the songs and dances taught to them by their elders, they travelled to Inuvialuit communities to encourage others to take part. Now, though many of these elders passed away, the group thrives, showcasing the traditions and cultures of the Inuvialuit around the globe. The group continues providing youth, both in and outside of school, with lessons and thus passing on their culture and language.

Chief Jimmy Bruneau School worked diligently with the Tlicho Community Services Agency to develop the unique, culture and land based course, *Trails of Our Ancestors*. The course gives Tlicho people, in particular Tlicho youth, the opportunity to re-trace the past through the eyes of their Elders. It provides an opportunity for the youth to learn and practice the lifestyle of traditional travel by canoe and helps teach them to respect the land, their culture and language and the Tlicho way of life. For fifteen years, Chief Jimmy Bruneau School has encouraged youth to spend their summer travelling the traditional water routes their ancestors used for centuries. Students earn 5 credits toward their high school diploma by taking this course. For all their work on and support of this course, Chief Jimmy Bruneau School receives the Minister's Choice Award.

R(16)702

GNWT Expresses Condolences for the Tragedy in Resolute Bay

YELLOWKNIFE (August 22, 2011) – Flags at Government of Northwest Territories buildings across the NWT have been lowered to half mast following the tragic loss of First Air Flight 6560, which crashed near Resolute Bay Saturday claiming the lives of four crew and eight passengers.

Premier Floyd Roland and Minister of Transportation Michael McLeod were the first to sign the Book of Condolences has been set up at the Yellowknife Airport to allow the public to express their heart-felt thoughts to the NWT aviation community and the families and friends of those impacted by this tragic event. The Book will remain at the Airport until Sunday, August 28, after which it will be entrusted to First Air's Yellowknife Office. Any flowers or gifts dropped off at the Airport will also be passed on to First Air's Yellowknife office.

“Despite the vast distances that separate us, we – as northerners – are a tightly knit community and the impacts of this tragedy extend well beyond the boundaries of our northern territories to touch us all.” Premier Roland said in a statement to the Legislative Assembly. “Our lives and communities will be forever changed.”

Minister of Transportation, Michael McLeod echoed the Premier's sentiments. “We grieve for the loss of the passengers and crew of Flight 6560. We depend on the courage and skill of the men and women who crew our aircraft, and I am saddened that some of our very best have been lost to us through this tragic event.”

The Department of Transportation continues to work with investigators, and provide assistance to First Air as they deal with this unfortunate event. The Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority has provided grief counsellors to loved ones of the victims. Other GNWT resources stand ready to assist the people of First Air and the families of the victims of Flight 6560 as required.

For more information, please contact:

Earl Blacklock

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R(16)704

Atlantic Residents Invited to Come Make their Mark in the NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (August 24, 2011) After successful launches in Ontario, Quebec and universities nationwide, yesterday the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will launch the next phase of the *Come Make Your Mark* national marketing campaign – this time in Atlantic Canada.

Come Make Your Mark is a national marketing and awareness campaign aimed at attracting 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 2010 and was launched in the fall in universities across Canada. This past spring, the campaign also launched in Quebec and had an overwhelmingly positive response.

The campaign's launch coincides with the 144th Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) in St. John's, Newfoundland – doubly significant as the next CMA Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held in Yellowknife in the summer of 2012.

“Medical professionals are in particularly high demand across the Northwest Territories, and this makes the CMA Annual General Meeting a perfect setting to launch the next phase of *Come Make Your Mark*,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “This national marketing campaign is critical in addressing our territory's labour shortage, and we hope that CMA members, as well as other residents of the Atlantic provinces, choose to move here and experience the limitless job and lifestyle opportunities available in the Northwest Territories.”

Following *Come Make Your Mark*'s introduction in Newfoundland, the campaign will launch in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on August 29th.

Come Make Your Mark supports the 16th Legislative Assembly's Maximizing Opportunities strategic initiative, which focuses on ensuring the NWT economy is balanced, diversified and sustainable.

For more information on *Come Make Your Mark*, visit www.comemakeyourmark.ca.

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For more information, contact:

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R(16)706

Territorial Premiers Welcome Extension of Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative (THSSI)

Yellowknife (August 25, 2011) – Canada’s Northern Premiers are welcoming today’s announcement by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to extend Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative (THSSI) funding until March 31, 2014.

Northern Premiers acknowledged the Prime Minister’s ongoing commitment to addressing the unique challenges of the North - noting that the extension of THSSI funding reflects the recognition that Canada’s territorial governments face added costs and challenges in the delivery of all programs and services – and especially in the areas of health care.

THSSI funding will provide \$30 million per year divided among the three territories to undertake health system innovation and management, participate in pan-territorial health initiatives, and offset medical transportation expenses.

“Investments in the long term well being of our population contribute to the sustainability of our communities and our territories. Through them we are strengthening our North and contributing to a stronger Canada,” NWT Premier Floyd Roland said.

"Working collaboratively, our governments have proven that northerners can receive the same high quality health care as the rest of Canada. The Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative helps to achieve this standard by offsetting the high cost of medical travel, and building capacity at the community level to reduce long-term reliance on the health care system," Nunavut Premier Eva Aariak said.

“Improved access to health care for the citizens of all three territories is the result of northern premiers working together with Canada on a common set of principles. Economic and social development across the North relies on a foundation of healthy people, healthy communities, and an adequate health service network and infrastructure,” Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski said.

Northern Premiers made special note of the work completed by territorial health ministers to advance the renewal of this funding, and thanked federal Minister of Health Leona Aglukkaq for her support in promoting their request.

Premiers also recognized the support of Western Premiers and the Council of the Federation for the extension of the THSSI funding, which has achieved demonstrated success in developing

new and innovative long-term approaches to territorial health planning and in building on the cooperative relationship between territorial and federal health departments.

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Backgrounder

Territorial Premiers Welcome Extension of Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative (THSSI)

In 2005, the federal government provided the three territories with a five-year \$150 million targeted fund. The Territorial Health Systems Sustainability Initiative (THSSI) was designed to facilitate the transformation of territorial health systems to ensure greater responsiveness to the needs of northerners and improve community-level access to services. In 2010, the federal government extended THSSI supplementary funding by \$60 million over two years to consolidate progress made.

The three broad goals of the THSSI funding are to:

- reduce the reliance over time on the health care system;
- strengthen community-level services; and
- build self-reliant capacity to provide services in-territory.

Today's formal extension of THSSI funding to March 31, 2014 is comprised of \$60 million to be shared among the three territories over the next two years.

There are three components to this funding:

1. The Territorial Health Access Fund (total \$13 million per year) intended to reduce reliance on the health care system, strengthen community level services and build capacity to provide services in-territory.
2. The Medical Travel Fund (total \$15 million per year) intended to offset expenses for medical transportation.
3. An Operational Secretariat Fund (total \$2 million per year) intended to fund pan-territorial projects, support the functioning of a federal/territorial Health Assistant Deputy Ministers Working group and provide resources to manage THSSI commitments.

Territorial Health Access Fund

Through its Territorial Health Access Fund, THSSI has provided funding for the following regional initiatives since its inception:

Nunavut

- Training for Community Health Representatives to better address prevention and health promotion
- A full-time pediatrician to provide expert direction for the care of sick children
- Expansion of midwifery services and education program to another regional centre
- Additional physicians to reduce out-of-territory travel and to provide better quality health care within Nunavut
- Orientation program for nursing graduates to facilitate the transition of nursing knowledge and skills to from expert nurses to novice nurses
- Mental Health Worker integration for new graduates into employment opportunities

Northwest Territories

- Additional Nurse Practitioners and Community Health Nurses to improve patient access in remote communities;
- Initial development of a Territorial Chronic Disease Management Strategy to help reduce the severity and incidence of chronic diseases like diabetes, mental health, heart disease and cancers;
- Extension of the dialysis program at Stanton Territorial Hospital to six days a week;
- A review of the capacity of the Health and Social Services Authorities to implement a territory-wide endoscopy management system;
- Anti-smoking campaign targeting youth 8-14 years old;
- Consideration of policy and service delivery options for midwifery practices outside of hospital/health centre parameters.

Yukon

- the chronic conditions support program which is a collaborative care model that suits the Yukon context;
- nurse mentorship and other activities to support health human resource recruitment and retention;
- the Yukon health line which provide 24/7 access to health information and advice across Yukon;

- a palliative care team that supports service providers and individuals wherever they reside;
- mental health care, including enhanced services in the rural communities; and
- telehealth, which is now available in all Yukon communities.

Operational Secretariat Fund

THSSI supports pan-territorial initiatives that will have a significant impact on northern health care including a Medical Travel Review, the Social Marketing Pan-Territorial Project, and the Mental Health First Aid Project.

- A review of the medical travel system is being undertaken on medical travel programs, best practices and technologies in order to improve clinical care pathways and find efficiencies in medical travel practices.
- The Government of Yukon is leading a social marketing project with activities in all three territories.
- The NWT is leading a project to adapt the Mental Health First Aid course for use with a northern population. The project involves revising and adapting the curriculum and piloting it in communities in each of the three territories.

R(16)706

GNWT Opens new Data Centre

Yellowknife (August, 26, 2011) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) opened its new Data Centre today. Minister Responsible for Public Works and Services Michael McLeod, officially cut the ribbon on the new facility this afternoon.

“The new Data Centre will ensure that the information technology (IT) that our departments, boards and agencies need to deliver high quality programs and services to NWT residents is in place for the next 20 years,” the Minister said.

The state-of-the-art facility supports government programs and services which increasingly rely on specialized digital information systems and applications such as video conferencing, electronic records and database systems. With business resumption capabilities and sophisticated back-up systems, the Data Centre ensures that these critical government functions are delivered reliably to NWT residents.

In addition to the unique user requirements of this facility, energy efficiency standards were achieved with the help of PWS’ Design and Technical Services division and the 2009 Guidelines for Good Building Practices for Northern Facilities. This GNWT facility far exceeds the national Eco-Energy Validation Program’s energy-efficiency standards, and is 25 per cent more energy efficient than buildings built for similar purposes.

A heat recovery system incorporated into the design of the building allows the new Data Centre to reuse waste heat from computer and other IT equipment to heat the actual building. Once fully operational, surplus heat will also be used to heat the adjacent Government Warehouse located on the same site, substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions and operations and maintenance costs.

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The new GNWT Data Centre is an example of how, through collaboration and innovative technology, the GNWT has invested to improve its operations and infrastructure in support of the 16th Assembly's vision of effective and efficient government.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)707

Fast Actions Demonstrate Commitment to Independent NWT – Premier Says

YELLOWKNIFE (Monday August 29, 2011) -- Premier Floyd Roland says the Prime Minister's quick actions, last week to confirm ongoing operation of water-quality monitoring stations in the Northwest Territories demonstrate Canada's commitment to working in partnership with the NWT – and in the true spirit and intent of Devolution.

Premier Roland addressed the predicted closure of 21 NWT monitoring stations in a meeting with Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development John Duncan Thursday in Yellowknife. His concerns echoed those expressed by NWT Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Michael Miltenberger in response to questions in the Legislative Assembly.

In a telephone call to Minister Miltenberger Friday morning, the Federal Environment Minister confirmed that any speculation surrounding the closure of water monitoring facilities in the Northwest Territories had been premature.

While Premier Roland says he's pleased with the Prime Minister's continued demonstration of support for a strong and independent North, the confusion arising out of this issue reiterates the importance of having decision making authorities devolved to the people of the Northwest Territories.

“Our Territory has the means and the leadership to guide its future – and to play a role in ensuring the sustainability of our resources and environment,” the Premier said. “This misunderstanding should bring home to all of us exactly how tenuous our current dependence is.”

“Our advancement of the Water strategy is dependent on the ability to continue and affect water monitoring in the NWT,” Minister Miltenberger says. “The best way to secure and protect our place in making these important decisions is to reach an Agreement on Devolution.”

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Premier Roland, again, invited all Aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories to join negotiations in the ongoing AiP process. “The overarching principle behind these negotiations is our ability to govern our own affairs - something that we all believe in,” Premier Roland notes.

For more information, please contact:

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R(16)707 708

PhD Student Awarded with Prestigious Award for Northern Research

Yellowknife (Tuesday August 30, 2011) As a result of his extensive research and field work in the Northwest Territories (NWT), Carleton University PhD candidate Mr. Thomas Mumford has been awarded the prestigious W. Garfield Weston Award of Northern Research.

Mr. Mumford's studies focus on the Nechalacho rare-earth element deposit at the Blachford Lake Intrusive Suite in the NWT. The Blachford Lake area is home to significant mineral deposits of rare-earth elements, important components in the emerging green economy, as products turn towards more energy efficient sources and technologies.

"Research like Mr. Mumford's is instrumental in the discovery of new mineral deposits that contribute to the sustainability of the NWT mining industry and provide employment and business opportunities for NWT residents," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Bob McLeod. "His high-quality work will allow us to take advantage of opportunities rare-earth elements will provide. I want to offer my congratulations to Mr. Mumford on receiving this well-deserved award."

Mr. Mumford plans to create a model that describes the formation of the entire Blachford Lake Intrusive Suite. This model will be used to guide future exploration for rare-earth elements.

The Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies honoured Mr. Mumford with this award as part of the Canadian Northern Studies Trust awards program. The program aims to develop a group of scholars and scientists with northern experience while enhancing post-secondary education opportunities for northern Canadians.

This project is funded by the Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development (SINED) program administered by the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) and supported by the Northwest Territories Geoscience Office (NTGO). The NTGO enables Mr. Mumford to complete his research, allowing him to work through its office and with

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its resources. Awards such as this demonstrate the success of the NTGO partnership between ITI and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to produce high-quality modern geoscience data.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)709

Minister Jackson Lafferty Honours Life of Beaufort Delta Elder

YELLOWKNIFE (Friday, September 2, 2011) – Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Jackson Lafferty, today expressed his condolences to the family and friends of Beaufort Delta elder Elizabeth (Liz) Hansen, who passed away recently after a brief illness. Ms. Hansen was a respected educator who dedicated her life to the promotion and preservation of the Gwich'in language.

“It is with a heavy heart that I express condolences to the Hansen family today,” said Minister Lafferty. “Ms. Hansen was a valued and well respected member of the Beaufort Delta Education Council and an exceptional advocate for the education of our students. Her knowledge of and enthusiasm for the Gwich'in language will forever be remembered through her work with the Gwich'in language curriculum.”

Ms. Hansen enrolled in the Teacher Education Program at the University of Saskatchewan in September 1959. She earned her teaching certificate in April 1961 and returned to the Northwest Territories to begin her teaching career.

Liz began teaching in Hay River and spent time teaching in Tulita before moving to Inuvik. She retired in 1993 but was called back to teaching almost immediately as the Gwich'in Language Instructor at Samuel Hearne Secondary School until June 1995.

Liz continued to working with the Beaufort Delta Divisional Education Council as a Consultant for Gwich'in Language Instruction. Even as her illness progressed, Liz made valiant efforts to continue her work as a Gwich'in Language Curriculum Developer. Although she was already requiring the use of a wheel chair, she attended the Beaufort Delta Aboriginal Student Achievement regional forum in May 2011.

When it was evident that Liz required hospitalization toward the final days of her illness, her conviction to complete the work that she started was still very strong. Liz requested an office

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space at the Inuvik Regional Hospital and, with the support of caring staff, a small office was created so that Liz could work on the Gwich'in Language Curriculum.

Ms. Hansen's dedication and commitment to education in the Northwest Territories was remarkable. She was passionate about ensuring that the Gwich'in language and culture is sustained through the continued education of children and youth.

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R(16)710

Northern Mining Workforce Initiative Partners Conclude Successful Meeting

YELLOWKNIFE (September 6, 2011) – 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 on August 29, 2011.

The success of training through partnerships, and the need for a continued emphasis on training was identified during the meeting. The GNWT and the diamond mines companies agreed it is important to build on their successes by continuing to work on training, including skills development, leadership, safety, and financial literacy training.

The Steering Committee meeting also gave the partners the chance to review and discuss the efforts that have been made together to attract and retain an NWT workforce. In 2011 the three mines and the GNWT launched a *SayYes* campaign that highlights the benefits of living in the NWT. The campaign focused on the personal and career advantages of living in the NWT and profiled mine families who have made the move to the NWT and are glad they did.

“Maximizing opportunities for residents in all NWT communities is a GNWT priority. This MOU is an important initiative that will help us achieve our goals,” says Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. “Our focus is always on how we can continue to work together for the betterment of the people of the NWT, and this meeting provided us all with an opportunity to talk about the progress we have made and to lay out priorities to pursue in the future.”

“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. “It is important to be specific about the mines' future needs and to prepare our residents for those needs by collaborating together and ensuring they have the tools needed to lead healthy, productive lives.”

“Since the discovery of diamonds in the NWT by BHP Billiton, we have provided employment, training and business opportunities for the people of the NWT at EKATI Diamond Mine, at levels rarely seen elsewhere in the resources industry,” 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 NWT continues to prosper. Our commitment is to achieve a lasting positive impact in the communities where we live.”

Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. Acting President and Chief Operating Officer, Alasdair Martin, states that Diavik is fully committed to sustainable northern benefits for all stakeholders from its operations, including maximizing northern recruitment and retention. “Supporting the MOU initiative is a critical way forward to work together in partnership with the GNWT 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.” He adds: “One example is our work to continue to exceed our apprenticeship numbers beyond our 8-18 commitment. We currently have 27 apprentices on our mine site and our overall plan is to bring our total to approximately 100 northerners with trades training skills and journey person certifications during our life of mine. Since opening our mine, 30 individuals have achieved journey person status.”

“Developing and keeping the skills we need here in the NWT continues to be a high priority for De Beers,” said Cathie Bolstad, Director External and Corporate Affairs on behalf of 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. By working together, we have a better chance of success and De Beers remains committed to working with industry partners and government.”

The MOU was signed in November of 2008. Its members include the Departments of Industry, Tourism and Investment; Education, Culture and Employment; BHP Billiton Canada Inc.; Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.; and De Beers Canada Inc. The purpose of the MOU is to maximize employment opportunities from diamond mining for NWT residents. Through the MOU, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the diamond mines are working collaboratively towards two main objectives – develop the skills of NWT workers, and attract and retain a skilled NWT workforce.

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R(16)711

Community Health Representatives are ‘Lifelines to a Healthy Lifestyle’

YELLOWKNIFE (September 15, 2011) – Today is National Community Health Representatives (CHR) Day - a celebration of the dedication and commitment that CHRs have towards teaching, encouraging and supporting healthy style life choices to the people within their communities. The theme for this year is “CHR’s – Lifelines to a Healthy Lifestyle.”

Community CHR’s are the bridge between the community and the health services system in injury and disease prevention. There are currently 22 CHRs in the Northwest Territories, all of whom are indigenous residents. Since 1986, they have been trained in the North through the Aurora College Program.

“Community Health Representatives are health coaches and liaisons. They support individual and community efforts to become healthier, by connecting people with the services they need, and promoting personal responsibility,” said Minister of Health and Social Services J. Michael Miltenberger.

Improving the health status of the population is a priority under ‘Building on Our Foundation 2011-2016 - A Strategic Plan for the NWT Health and Social Service System. CHRs are a vital link in communicating the services that the NWT Health and Social Services system offers its residents.

During CHR Day, Health and Social Services Authorities across the NWT will host events to recognize and thank the CHRs in their communities.

For more information, contact:

Damien Healy

Manager, Communications

Health and Social Services

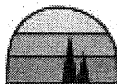
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R(16)712

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Get Active NWT Grants Offer Another Healthy Choice

YELLOWKNIFE (September 19, 2011) – 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 to help residents get active this year.

“The GNWT is working to build a healthy and active future by improving the physical and mental well-being of our people,” said Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod. “Get Active NWT events offer residents a fun way to be active, and encourage individuals and families to get involved in healthy activities with their friends and neighbours.”

Grant recipients must organize three physical activity events in their community. In the past people have organized Dene games, Nordic walking, snowshoeing, swimming, a cross-country ski loppet, elders fitness day, family Olympics, or a sports tournament.

“I encourage community groups to host a community physical activity event,” said Mr. Geoff Ray, Executive Director of the NWTRPA. “Physical activity makes you happy and it feels good, so get active NWT!”

First Air, as corporate sponsor, helps recognize the important role that the Get Active NWT organizers play in promoting healthy physical activity in our communities by donating two pairs of tickets that will be awarded to event organizers via ballot draw. First Air’s continued support of this program is just one small example of their commitment to helping build better communities across our territory.

The deadline to apply for funding this year is October 7, 2011.

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For more information, including an application form, please visit: www.getactivenwt.ca.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is giving residents more opportunities to make healthy choices as part of its Healthy Choices Framework.

For more information, please contact:

David Maguire

Communications and Website Advisor
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Phone: (867) 920-3092

Sheena Tremblay

Active Communities Coordinator
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R(16)713

Geological Resource DVD Released to Schools

YELLOWKNIFE (Monday, September 26, 2011) – The Department of Education, Culture and Employment, in partnership with the NWT Mining Heritage Society, announced the release of The Nature of Things series: Geological Journey I, at an opening held at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre today.

This DVD resource, produced by the CBC, chronicles the geological history of Canada and fosters greater understanding of geological processes. This resource is now available to every school in the NWT and Nunavut. It supports many of the geological concepts prescribed in the K-12 science curricula, especially with high school programming in the Experiential Science program.

The NWT Mining Heritage Society purchased the site licences, DVD's and teacher support materials through assistance from the Walter Gibbins Memorial Trust Fund. It is intended to give students a new appreciation for our land and spark an interest in pursuing careers in geology, the earth sciences or mining.

The Walter Gibbins Memorial Trust Fund was set up after Walter's passing in 1992. He was a government geologist who looked after the Arctic Regions of the NWT and Nunavut. The money from this fund is used to promote geological awareness and education in the North.

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R(16)714

Celebrating Arts Week in the NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (September 23, 2011) September 23 to October 2, 2011 is NWT Arts Week, a celebration of the arts and fine crafts community and the significant cultural and economic contributions the arts and crafts sector makes to NWT communities.

Various events are being held to showcase the diverse talent of NWT artists, allow artists to develop their skills through workshops, and provide networking opportunities.

In the NWT, the production of arts and fine crafts is also an important element of a diversified economy. Through its Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, the GNWT supports the marketing and business development of the arts and fine crafts sector with initiatives such as the NWT Artists Database and the NWT Arts Branding Logo Program and delivery of regional workshops on e-commerce and pricing.

Funding to artist organizations such as the Aurora Arts Society and other marketing and arts activities such as regional festivals, trade shows is provided through the Support for Entrepreneur and Economic Development (SEED) Policy.

The GNWT further recognizes that the spirit of creativity, collaboration and artistic experience can contribute to an enhance quality of life in the North – and serves to celebrate the NWT's rich cultural heritage on a national stage.

Through, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), the GNWT provides financial support 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.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)715

Premier Roland Expresses Condolences for Arctic Sunwest Tragedy

YELLOWKNIFE (September 23, 2011) Today, Premier Floyd Roland released the following statement on the Arctic Sunwest tragedy.

“We’ve become so accustomed in the North to travelling in small planes that it was with shock and sadness that we learned of yesterday’s crash in Yellowknife and the further loss of two members of our Northwest Territories air industry family.

The thoughts and prayers of all NWT residents are, today, with colleagues, friends and loved ones affected by this tragedy.

We are indebted to the professionals and volunteers who acted quickly and selflessly to attend to yesterday’s crash victims and who took steps to ensure their safety. Our best wishes and continued support are with those now recovering from this accident.

Amidst the history, romance and adventure of our trademark bush pilots and planes, it is so easy to forget the danger and risks that are inherent in this vital northern industry. It is a tribute to the men and women that fly these planes daily that reminders such as yesterday’s events are, in fact, rare and therefore so devastating when they occur.”

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R(16)716

Northwest Territories Recipients Honoured During Literacy Week

YELLOWKNIFE (September 27, 2011) – Recipients of the Council of the Federation Literacy Award and the Ministerial Literacy Awards, including a Youth Learner Literacy Award were honoured today during an Adult Learners' Luncheon in Yellowknife.

Sylvia Clement - Council of the Federation Literacy Award is given to an adult learner has overcome obstacles and demonstrated outstanding progress in the pursuit of literacy skills in any of the NWT official languages.

Clarissa Rogers - The Ministerial Literacy Award is given to NWT youth learners (ages 16 to 25) who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to their own literacy development and who have been role models for other youth.

Lea Lamoureux - The Ministerial Literacy Award is given to NWT teachers, tutors or literacy facilitators, who have demonstrated an outstanding dedication to literacy.

Chekoa Program - The Ministerial Literacy Award is given to NWT organizations, literacy committees or programs which have advocated for literacy and improved literacy levels in their communities.

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.

For more information, please contact:

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R(16)716

Backgrounder: Northwest Territories Recipients Honoured During Literacy Week

There are 4 Literacy Awards given out each year in the NWT.

The awards are advertised throughout the NWT using print media, emails, radio ads and the ECE website. Once the nomination deadline has passed, a Ministerial Awards Selection Committee is formed, consisting of literacy experts from both the GNWT and NGOs, to pick the winners. Nominees are scored, using scoring templates, and the highest scoring nominees receive the awards.

Sylvia Clement - 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 Clement is recognized for her tremendous enthusiasm and commitment to both her own education and the education of her children and younger brother. For the past two years, she has attended the Norman Wells' Community Learning Centre where she is working hard towards completing the courses necessary to receive her high school diploma and attend college.

Clarissa Rogers - The Ministerial Literacy Award (Youth Learner). This award celebrates a young adult's commitment to literacy and honours their literacy achievements. Ms. Rogers overcame many obstacles and returned to school after five years to reach her goal of completing a high school diploma. Having the highest average score in her class, as well as the best overall attendance recognized her diligence and hard work over the last academic year.

Lea Lamoureux - The Ministerial Literacy Award (Educator). This award honours outstanding practitioners in the field of literacy. This year's recipient is a teacher and principal at Kaw Tay Whee School in Dettah. Ms. Lamoureux's strong leadership and dedication to literacy has seen many improvements to the school and the students, including additions to the library both in English and in the Weledeh dialect. As a result of her efforts and her role as a literacy leader in the community, many students are now reading at or above their grade level.

Chekoa Program - The Ministerial Literacy 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 Chekoa Program has successfully created programs that involve and engage N'Dilo and Dettah children and youth in learning and improving their English and Weledeh literacy skills while having fun. Recognising that a child's first teachers are their parents, Chekoa staff also work closely with parents in the community, providing workshops on how to assist children with homework and the fundamentals of teaching children how to read and do math.

R(16)717

NWT Housing Corporation President to Retire

Yellowknife (September 27, 2011) – Premier Floyd K. Roland has accepted the resignation of Jeff Polakoff as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWTHC).

Mr. Polakoff joined the NWTHC as President and CEO in June 2006, moving to the position of Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs in June 2008 before returning to the NWTHC in August 2009.

“Mr. Polakoff has been responsible for managing many initiatives designed to improve access to housing for people across the NWT,” said Premier Roland. “I would like to thank Mr. Polakoff for his dedicated service to the people of the Northwest Territories and wish him well in his retirement.”

During his time with the NWTHC, Mr. Polakoff led efforts to improve responsiveness to client and community needs and improve coordination and strategic approaches in implementing housing activities in the NWT, including implementing the \$100 million Affordable Housing Initiative, introducing the Housing Choices Program and overseeing the return of the Public Housing Rental Subsidy Program to the NWTHC. Most recently he has led the Corporation in work related to the Shelter Policy Review.

Mr. Polakoff will continue to serve as NWTHC President until the next Premier names his replacement and will complete the transition of duties at that time.

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R(16)718

World Breastfeeding Week October 1 to 7, 2011

YELLOWKNIFE (Sep. 30, 2011) – Oct. 1-7 is World Breastfeeding Week. In the NWT, events are being sponsored, by a number of partners, to encourage new parents to breastfeed.

In Yellowknife, the 2011 Breastfeeding Challenge will take place:

Where: Northern United Place

When: 10:00am-11:30am Oct. 1, 2011 (Saturday)

Along with the Department of Health and Social Services and Regional Health and Social Services Authorities, several organizations work towards the protection, education, promotion and support of breastfeeding in the NWT. They include the NWT Breastfeeding Committee, the Yellowknife Breastfeeding Support Group: *Moms, Boobs and Babies* and the Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP).

The Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) supports breastfeeding moms in many ways. Many moms consider weaning early because they need to go back to work or they think they can't work breastfeeding into their lifestyle.

“We provide participants with breast pumps so that they can store their milk for future use says Diana Trang, CPNP Nutritionist, Beaufort Delta and Sahtu Health and Social Services Authorities, “That way, their baby still gets all the benefits of breast milk and moms still have flexibility.”

The Stanton Territorial Hospital Authority supports breastfeeding as a best practice for Moms. “Breast milk is the ideal food for newborns and infants. It is safe, gives babies the nutrients they need for healthy development and contains antibodies that help protect infants from common childhood illnesses,” says Carla Skauge, Prenatal Coordinator, Northern Women’s Health Program, Stanton Territorial Hospital. Breastfeeding is also a preventative approach to childhood obesity.

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The Stanton Territorial Hospital is working to join hospitals and health facilities around the world as a recognized baby-friendly facility. Training will be offered to staff this year as one of the steps to achieving this long-term goal.

For more information on the advantages of breastfeeding, visit the Department of Health and Social Services at: www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca or www.breastfeedingnwt.ca

For more information, contact: **Dorothy Westerman**
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Tel: (867) 920-3373

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R(16)719

Premier Expresses Condolences on Air Tindi Crash

YELLOWKNIFE (Oct. 5, 2011) – Premier Floyd Roland says he, like all NWT residents, was left in shock yesterday following the crash of a regularly scheduled flight from Yellowknife to Lutselk'e.

“There are no words that can begin to express the devastation that we feel today as a Territory. In a summer when one tragic plane crash was too much, we have had three.

Our condolences and support services are today with those most impacted by this loss.

Our thoughts and prayers are also extended to their corporate families – our northern airline industry in particular – and those men and women whose lives must begin again today without friend and colleague.

We recognize that yesterday's loss would almost certainly have been greater had it not been for the efforts of the rescuers and volunteers who worked to bring two survivors home – for that we are eternally grateful.

Our northern community has truly been tested this summer. We take some solace in the knowledge that it is through the faith and courage found in these times of tragedy that we strengthen the determination and resilience that, personifies our northern spirit.”

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R(16)720

Time to Celebrate Small Businesses in the NWT

Inuvik (October 17, 2011) – This is Small Business Week (Oct. 16-22) to celebrate the achievements of entrepreneurs and small businesses in the NWT and Canada.

In Inuvik, residents are invited to a presentation on the business funding programs offered by the GNWT's Department of Industry Tourism and Investment (ITI). The presentation will take place at the Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre on Wednesday, Oct. 19 from 2 – 4 p.m.

Attendees will have an opportunity to speak with staff and ask questions about funding types and the application process. Refreshments will be available and door prizes will be awarded.

Through programs like the Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) Policy, and organizations such as the Community Futures Development Corporations and the NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation, the GNWT supports small businesses in the NWT and is committed to helping them succeed.

Small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of the Canadian economy, comprising over 95 percent of businesses across the country and employing nearly half of the Canadian labour force.

For more information on other events being held during Small Business Week, please contact your local Chamber of Commerce chapter.

For more information on the SEED Policy, please visit:

<http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/businesseconomicdevelopment/seed.shtml>.

For more information, contact:

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R(16)721

Justice ADM Appointed to NWT Supreme Court

Yellowknife (October 24, 2011) – Ms. Karan Shaner has been appointed to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories. Until her appointment Thursday, by Canada’s Minister of Justice, the Honourable Rob Nicholson, Ms. Shaner was serving as the Assistant Deputy Minister (Attorney General Branch) of the GNWT’s Department of Justice.

In congratulating Ms. Shaner on her appointment, Premier Floyd K. Roland highlighted her commitment to the public service – in particular, her work to make family law and legal aid systems more accessible and sustainable and the development of a pilot court-based program to address family violence.

“The impact of Ms. Shaner’s work will be long-lasting and will benefit all communities in our Territory. Her invaluable legal advice and support will certainly be missed within the GNWT, but will be a strong addition to our excellent Supreme Court bench, her said.”

“I would like to thank Ms. Shaner for her years of service and for taking on this challenging role,” added Minister of Justice Jackson Lafferty. “Her appointment and wealth of experience in the North serves to strengthen the continued understanding and life-long commitment of Supreme Court Justices to the people of the NWT.”

Ms. Shaner joined the Department of Justice’s Legal Division in 1996, was promoted to the Director’s position in 2003, and became the Assistant Deputy Minister (Attorney General Branch) in 2008. She leaves the GNWT immediately, and her swearing-in will be scheduled at a later date by the NWT Supreme Court.

For more information, please contact:

James MacKenzie
Office of the Premier and Executive Council
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Tel: (867) 669-2302

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

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R(17)002

Vince Sharpe Receives Congratulations from GNWT

YELLOWKNIFE (Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2011) Premier Bob McLeod, together with Inuvik MLAs Robert C. McLeod and Alfred Moses, is today congratulating Inuvik's Vince Sharpe for receiving the Governor General's Medal of Bravery.

Mr. Sharpe received the award Friday, Oct. 28, from His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston in recognition for his actions to rescue two occupants from a burning trailer home, in Inuvik.

"I believe we all aspire to be that individual who will selflessly put the lives and safety of others before our own," Premier McLeod notes. "Mr. Sharpe came face to face with this reality and proved himself to be, in fact, a hero – not once but twice."

The Medal of Bravery (M.B.) recognizes acts of bravery in hazardous circumstances. It is one of three decorations for bravery introduced by the Government of Canada in 1972, to recognize people who risked their lives to try to save or protect the lives of others.

For more information:

Drew Williams

Press Secretary for Premier/Cabinet
Government of the Northwest Territories
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drew_williams@gov.nt.ca

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Back Grounder to be added to webpage.

Vince P. Sharpe, M.B.

Inuvik, Northwest Territories

Medal of Bravery

On November 17, 2007, retired firefighter Vince Sharpe rescued two occupants from a burning trailer home, in Inuvik, Northwest Territories. Mr. Sharpe stopped his vehicle when he noticed smoke coming from the door of the residence. At the same time, a woman ran outside, coughing and crying that her father was inside. Although he was unable to see due to the abundant smoke, Mr. Sharpe crawled inside, located the victim and dragged the unconscious man outside. Advised that there was still another man in the trailer, Mr. Sharpe crawled in again, feeling his way forward, until he located the second victim. He finally succeeded in bringing the young man to safety. Mr. Sharpe's quick actions saved the lives of both men.

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The following citation that was read before Mr. Sharpe received his medal can be read [here](#) along with all the other medal recipients.

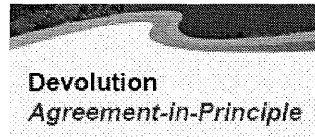
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Premier McLeod Announces Ministerial Portfolios

YELLOWKNIFE (November 2, 2011) – Promising a renewed focus on working together to promote the interests of all the people of the Northwest Territories (NWT), Premier Bob McLeod today announced portfolio assignments for the recently chosen Cabinet.

“We have challenges and opportunities ahead of us,” said Premier McLeod. “The people of the NWT are relying on us to work together to seize opportunities and resolve issues. MLAs have selected a Cabinet with a good balance of experienced and new Ministers who will bring their skills and energy to get the job done.”

The Premier assigned the following responsibilities:

- Hon. Jackson Lafferty – Deputy Premier, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Minister of Public Works and Services, Minister Responsible for the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission.
- Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger – Minister of Finance and Chairman of the Financial Management Board, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Government House Leader.
- Hon. Robert C. McLeod – Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Minister Responsible for Homelessness, Minister Responsible for Youth.
- Hon. David Ramsay – Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Minister of Transportation.
- Hon. Glen Abernethy – Minister of Justice, Minister of Human Resources, Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board.
- Hon. Tom Beaulieu – Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Responsible for Seniors, Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities.

Premier McLeod will be Minister of the Executive, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, Minister Responsible for Women and Minister Responsible for New Energy Initiatives.

“The recent meeting with Aboriginal leaders in Dettah is an important step in building the consensus we will require to move forward as a territory,” said Premier McLeod. “We are

committed to working in partnership with the Members of the Legislative Assembly, Aboriginal leaders, community leaders and all those with a stake in creating a strong and prosperous Northwest Territories.”

In the coming days, Ministers will familiarize themselves with their new portfolios and will continue to take part in the ongoing discussions to establish priorities for the 17th Legislative Assembly. Important parts of that work will occur during mid-November when all MLAs meet to set priorities for the new government and again in December when the Assembly will convene to review the 2012-13 Capital Budget.

Premier McLeod also announced new and continuing appointments in the senior ranks of the NWT public service and thanked Mr. Allen Stanzell and Mr. Drew Williams for their services during the 16th Assembly and transition, as well as Mr. Sandy Kalgutkar, who returns to his position as Deputy Secretary to the Financial Management Board and Director of Management Board Secretariat in the Department of Finance.

For more information:

Shaun Dean

Deputy Secretary, Corporate Communications and Protocol
 Department of Executive
 Government of the Northwest Territories
 Tel: (867) 669-2304

Backgrounder – Ministerial Portfolios and Deputy Ministers Appointments

Hon. Bob McLeod	Premier	Mr. Gary Bohnet, Principal Secretary
	Executive	Ms. Penny Ballantyne, Secretary to Cabinet and Deputy Minister
	Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations	Ms. Gabriela Sparling, Deputy Minister
	Minister Responsible for Women	N/A
	Minister Responsible for New Energy Initiatives	N/A
Hon. Jackson Lafferty	Education, Culture and Employment	Mr. Dan Daniels, Deputy Minister
	Public Works and Services	Mr. Paul Guy, Deputy Minister
	Deputy Premier	N/A
	Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission	Dave Grundy, President and CEO
Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger	Finance	Mr. Mike Aumond, Deputy Minister and Secretary to the

		Financial Management Board
	Environment and Natural Resources	Mr. Ernie Campbell, Deputy Minister
	Minister Responsible for the NWT Power Corporation	N/A
	Government House Leader	N/A
Hon. Robert C. McLeod	Municipal and Community Affairs, Minister Responsible for Youth	Mr. Tom Williams, Deputy Minister
	NWT Housing Corporation, Minister Responsible for Homelessness	Mr. Jeff Polakoff, President and CEO
Hon. David Ramsay	Industry, Tourism and Investment	Mr. Peter Vician, Deputy Minister
	Transportation	Mr. Russell Neudorf, Deputy Minister
Hon. Glen Abernethy	Justice	Ms. Bronwyn Watters, Deputy Minister
	Human Resources	Ms. Sheila Bassi-Kellett, Acting Deputy Minister
	Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board	N/A
Hon. Tom Beaulieu	Health and Social Services	Ms. Debbie DeLancey, Deputy Minister
	Minister Responsible for Seniors, Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities	Mr. Dana Heide, Associate Deputy Minister

R(17)003

Premier McLeod Announces Ministerial Portfolios

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- Hon. Glen Abernethy – Minister of Justice, Minister of Human Resources, Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board.

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Premier McLeod will be Minister of the Executive, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, Minister Responsible for Women and Minister Responsible for New Energy Initiatives.

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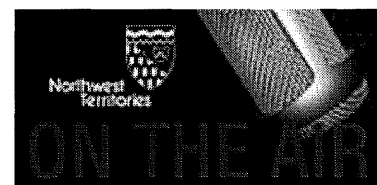
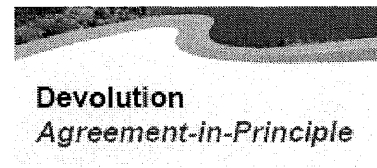
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set priorities for the new government and again in December when the Assembly will convene to review the 2012-13 Capital Budget.

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R(17)004

New ITI Minister Supports Tourism

Yellowknife (November 3, 2011) Minister David Ramsay gave his inaugural speech as the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) and spoke about the importance of tourism in the Northwest Territories (NWT) at the NWT Tourism Conference and Annual General Meeting this week.

Minister Ramsay recognized the efforts of NWT Tourism staff and Board of Directors, the Tourism Marketing Advisory Committee (TMAC), the Aboriginal Tourism Champions Advisory Council and tourism owners and operators across the territory. He outlined how the GNWT is committed to working with the tourism industry and Aboriginal organizations to grow and develop the Aboriginal tourism sector in the NWT, as well as highlighted GNWT tourism funding programs such as the Tourism Training Fund.

“Not only will this training fund help to increase the number of people with the skills necessary to obtain work in tourism, it will also help to provide NWT tourism employers with a workforce trained to meet their needs,” said Minister Ramsay. “I have great confidence in our tourism sector and look forward to working with the tourism industry to explore ways to attract more visitors to our beautiful territory”.

The Tourism Training Fund will cover up to 75 per cent of training costs for businesses or individuals engaged in or employed in nearly any tourism sector in the NWT and will enhance the skills of people working in the tourism industry.

TMAC was established in 2006 as a consultative body for the Minister of ITI. The Committee represents the broad interests of the NWT’s private sector government and tourism industry. Its role is to set priorities and strategies for the promotion and marketing of the NWT by facilitating industry input and leveraging knowledge, networks and financial partnerships.

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The Tourism Champions Advisory Council was established in the summer of 2011 to assist in the establishment of a sustainable Aboriginal Tourism Strategy for the NWT. Council members will provide leadership and direction to the tourism industry, help to identify development opportunities for Aboriginal tourism, and promote Aboriginal tourism in communities across the NWT.

To learn more about ITI's Tourism Training Programs, visit the links below or go to <http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/tourismparks/tourismtraining.shtml>.

[Tourism Training Programs Overview](#)

[Tourism Training Fund Guidelines](#)

[Tourism Training Fund Application Form](#)

[Aboriginal Tourism Champions Advisory Council](#)

For more information contact:

Alayna Ward

Manager, Public Affairs and Communications
Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories
867-920-8696

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R(17)005

Two Reid Lake Employees Honoured for their Excellent Service

Yellowknife (Nov. 7, 2011) Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) David Ramsay, presented the 2010 Parks Hospitality Award to Reid Lake Territorial Park operators Al and Mary Morton.

The Minister presented the award at the NWT Tourism Gala and Awards Dinner on Nov. 3. The Gala dinner was the closing event for the NWT Tourism Annual General Meeting and Conference held in Yellowknife Nov. 2 – 3.

The Parks Hospitality Award was created in 2005 to recognize people who exhibit extraordinary hospitality and service in NWT parks and visitor centres. Accepting the award on Al and Mary's behalf was their daughter Pam and son-in-law Richard.

"The Mortons are an ideal example of the outstanding people that staff our territorial parks," said Minister David Ramsay. "It is people like Mr. and Mrs. Morton, who regularly go above and beyond in giving superior service to their guests and helping to ensure visitors to the Northwest Territories get the very best experience in our beautiful parks and campgrounds."

This is the second time the Mortons have been awarded with the Parks Hospitality Award, having also won it in 2006.

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.

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Industry, Tourism and Investment

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R(17)006

NWT Premier and Cabinet Ready to Get to Work

YELLOWKNIFE (Nov. 7, 2011) – Premier Bob McLeod and the Cabinet of the 17th Legislative Assembly held a day-long planning retreat at the Sah Naji Kwe Lodge near Behchoko on Nov. 3, 2011. Discussions included approaches to engaging with NWT Aboriginal leaders, the timeline around establishing a Cabinet agenda for implementing the priorities of the 17th Legislative Assembly, improving government communications, Devolution and managing relations with federal, provincial and territorial governments.

Cabinet took advantage of the location to have a lunch meeting with Tlicho Chiefs, following-up on the Premier's commitment to hold bilateral meetings with regional Aboriginal governments made after the successful meetings with Aboriginal leaders in Dettah last month.

“We had positive discussions with the Tlicho Chiefs and they have invited us to the next Tlicho Assembly,” said Premier McLeod. “As residents of the NWT, we all face similar challenges and share common interests. Forging good working relationships with Aboriginal leaders and focusing on the things we share in common will help make sure that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is working to serve the interests of all the people of the NWT.”

The Premier has already called and spoken to Aboriginal leaders from each region of the NWT to discuss opportunities for working together more closely. He plans to pursue bilateral meetings with leaders from each regional Aboriginal government, before holding another joint meeting in the near future. The Premier also met with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation in N'Dilo on Nov. 4, 2011 and is looking forward to meeting with other band Chiefs in their communities.

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“Cabinet is ready to get down to working on the issues that matter to the people of the NWT,” said Premier McLeod.

Planning for the new Government continues. Members of the Legislative Assembly will meet in Caucus later this month to establish priorities for the 17th Legislative Assembly before reconvening in Dec. to review the GNWT’s Capital Plan.

For more information contact

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Media Liaison

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Government of the Northwest Territories

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R(17)007

78 Get Active NWT Grants Awarded

YELLOWKNIFE (Nov. 14, 2011) – Get Active NWT grants have been awarded to 78 community groups in the Northwest Territories (NWT) to provide support to organize events that will help residents get active this year. Applications were received from groups in all 33 communities and events will be held across the territory in the coming months.

“These Get Active NWT events will give people across the NWT the opportunity to get out and get active,” said Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. “I want to offer a special thanks to the community groups who are organizing these events with so much energy and dedication to making our communities healthy and vibrant.”

“It is great to be able to offer funding for community events that encourage residents to become more physically active,” said Geoff Ray, Executive Director of the NWT Recreation and Parks Association.

Created in 2006, Get Active NWT provides funding to community groups that organize local events to encourage residents to be more physically active. After all events are complete, Get Active NWT event organizers will have their names entered into a draw to win one of two pairs of airline passes courtesy of First Air, Get Active NWT’s corporate sponsor.

For more information, including a list of events, please visit www.getactivenwt.ca.

Get Active NWT is a part of the Government of the Northwest Territories Choose program. Choose is the GNWT’s stamp of approval for programs that support NWT residents to make healthy choices about healthy eating, physical activity, mental wellness, healthy sexuality, injury prevention, living tobacco free, and supporting healthy children and families. For more information about Choose programs, visit www.choosenwt.com.

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For more information, please contact

Sheena Tremblay

Active Communities Coordinator
NWT Recreation and Parks Association
Phone: (867) 669-8381

Or

Gary Schauerte

Manager, Policy and Planning
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
Government of the Northwest Territories
Phone: (867) 873-7512

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R(17)008

Project Management Conference

YELLOWKNIFE (November 7, 2011) – The Department of Public Works and Services will host the 2011 Project Management Conference from November 29 to December 1. Over 300 delegates are expected to attend.

“This conference is a chance for the entire northern project management community to share their knowledge on everything from procurement trends to new energy efficiency technologies, and will promote closer ties within the construction and consulting industries,” said Jackson Lafferty, Minister responsible for Public Works and Services.

This year’s theme, *Latest Trends and Innovative Approaches in Project Management – Helping Northerners Prepare for Tomorrow*, brings together a diverse group of people from the private sector and all levels of government. Delegates will include officials from Crown corporations, communities, local housing authorities, education and health boards, and representatives from northern construction, consulting, and manufacturing firms and associations.

The NWT & Nunavut Construction Association’s Northern Construction Trade Fair will be held at the same time as the conference. This will give delegates the chance to meet with northern manufacturers, suppliers and service providers to discuss conference topics and future business opportunities.

Through its support for the Project Management Conference, the GNWT is investing in the continued delivery of high-quality facilities that will meet the needs of NWT residents for years to come.

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

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Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111

The deadline to register for the conference is November 18th, 2011. For more information, visit the [Project Management Conference page](#) on the Department of Public Works and Services' website.

For more information, contact:

Mike Burns
Assistant Deputy Minister, Asset Management
Public Works and Services
(867) 920-6142

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R(17)009

Premier meets with Sahtu leadership

DELINE (Nov. 16, 2011) – Premier Bob McLeod met with Sahtu leadership Monday, November 14, 2011 as part of the GNWT’s continuing commitment to work with Aboriginal and community leaders.

“We have a shared interest in creating a strong and prosperous territory,” said Premier McLeod. “We continued our discussions from the successful meeting we held in Dettah just after the territorial election. The Sahtu leaders were very clear about their vision for the region. I know we can work together to build consensus and move forward as a territory.”

During the meeting, community representatives asked to meet with the Honourable Tom Beaulieu, Minister of Health and Social Services; the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources; and the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Premier McLeod made a commitment that over the life of this government, all Cabinet ministers will visit all regions of the territory to discuss residents’ concerns and work with them to resolve their issues.

“We are developing a new relationship with communities across the NWT,” said Premier McLeod. “Our territory is diverse, but we are united by common interests and a shared desire to overcome our challenges. The GNWT represents all residents and is committed to making the partnerships that are needed to benefit the entire territory. We must provide the programs and services our residents need, as close to home as possible. We must develop key public infrastructure throughout our territory. And we must all work together to ensure that NWT residents are the ones making the decisions about how our public lands and resources are protected and developed so we can be sure that all our residents share in the benefits.”

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The Premier met with Tlicho chiefs in Behchoko on November 3 and with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation in N'Dilo on November 4. He and his Cabinet look forward to continuing to meet with Aboriginal and community leadership. A second meeting with all regional Aboriginal leaders is being planned for early in the new year.

Members of the Legislative Assembly are meeting in Caucus November 15-17 to establish priorities for the 17th Legislative Assembly. The next Session begins December 7, when Members will reconvene to review the GNWT's capital plan.

For more information, contact:

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Media Liaison
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R(17)010

**New Youth Ambassadors
to Participate in the 2012 Arctic Winter Games**

YELLOWKNIFE (Nov. 21, 2011) – Twenty-five inspired and talented youth from across the Northwest Territories have been selected as NWT Youth Ambassadors for the 2012 Arctic Winter Games by the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

“The 2012 Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse, Yukon present a significant opportunity for the development of young northern leaders,” said Minister McLeod. “The Youth Ambassadors Program will provide participants with an opportunity to represent their communities and the NWT while building leadership skills through volunteer assignments at the Games.”

The Youth Ambassador Program provides a guided and structured volunteer experience for NWT youth at major events to develop significant life and job skills and build the confidence necessary to deal with many of the complex challenges in modern society. Youth Ambassadors have attended the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympics Winter Games and participated in the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge’s Royal Visit to Yellowknife.

NWT Youth Ambassadors are chosen based on their interests, experience and what they hope to achieve from the experience. To get acquainted with the responsibilities and roles that are involved with being Youth Ambassadors, the group attended a week-long training session in Yellowknife earlier this month. Youth may also participate in subsequent Youth Ambassador assignments over the next six months and be encouraged to assist with leadership development initiatives afterwards.

More information on the Youth Ambassador Program can be found on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs’ website: www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

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2011-2012 Summary of Youth Ambassadors and Alumni

Youth Ambassador	Community	Region
Mariyah Snowshoe	Fort McPherson	Beaufort Delta
Jocelyn Blake	Fort McPherson	Beaufort Delta
Jennifer Greenland (Alumni)	Fort McPherson	Beaufort Delta
Karlie Robert	Inuvik	Beaufort Delta
Jerri Thrasher (Alumni)	Paulatuk	Beaufort Delta
Dawn Baptiste	Deline	Sahtu
Rodney Tutcho	Deline	Sahtu
Mary Masuzumi	Fort Good Hope	Sahtu
Cara Manuel	Fort Good Hope	Sahtu
Shelley Pierrot	Fort Good Hope	Sahtu
Sarah Rose	Norman Wells	Sahtu
Dakota Miller	Norman Wells	Sahtu
Laura Krutko	Tulita	Sahtu
Blake Andrew	Tulita	Sahtu
Twyla Etchinelle (Alumni)	Tulita	Sahtu
Fraser Goulet	N'dilo	North Slave
Bryan Nitsiza	Whati	North Slave
Alanna Williams	Yellowknife	North Slave

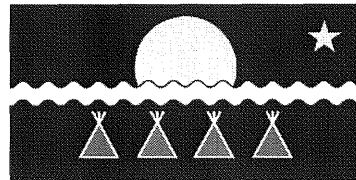
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Tyler Pilling	Fort Simpson	Deh Cho
Bhreagh Ingarfield (Alumni)	Nahanni Butte	Deh Cho
Shawna McLeod (Alumni)	Fort Providence	South Slave
Delanie Vail	Fort Smith	South Slave
Ashley Gillis	Fort Smith	South Slave
Iziah Faulkner	Fort Smith	South Slave
Ty Buchanan	Hay River	South Slave

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News Release

R(17)011

Premier appears at Tłı̄chǫ Assembly

BEHCHOKO (Nov. 21, 2011) – Premier Bob McLeod attended the Tłı̄chǫ Assembly Thursday, November 17 to discuss the government’s work and priorities with the leaders of the Tłı̄chǫ Government. This is the first time an NWT premier has appeared at the Tłı̄chǫ Assembly, and the third time Premier McLeod has met with Tłı̄chǫ leaders since being elected. The most recent meeting was on November 3.

“Our territory is strong, and we are even stronger when we work together,” Premier McLeod said through an interpreter. “We are taking our first steps toward a shared vision: a unified, sustainable and prosperous Northwest Territories. The Tłı̄chǫ Government is a key partner in this work. We must all share in the benefits and responsibilities of the territory we are building together.”

During the meeting, Tłı̄chǫ chiefs spoke about community concerns such as housing, health, education, community infrastructure and winter roads. Premier McLeod committed that senior-level staff would follow up to resolve these issues. Members of the Legislative Assembly have identified those issues as priorities and have already begun the early work that is required.

Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus said, “We appreciate this Premier’s commitment to work together with the Tłı̄chǫ Government, and we look forward to greater communication between our two governments on issues of mutual interest in the future. Greater communication can lead to greater collaboration, and we hope that by working together, we will avoid the difficulties that have affected our relationship in the past.”

MLA Jackson Lafferty was also in attendance.

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R(17)012

Grubstake Program to Provide More Support to Trappers

YELLOWKNIFE (November 22, 2011) The GNWT is doubling the number of fur pelts trappers can claim under the Grubstake program, from 200 to 400 pelts per trapper. This enables the most productive trappers to receive additional start-up funding in the fall of 2012.

“The increase to the pelt threshold is in direct response to requests from our productive trappers,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, David Ramsay. “Wild fur from the Northwest Territories is in demand from buyers around the world, and this increase will provide eligible trappers with funds to defray a portion of their start-up costs at the beginning of each trapping season. It will also stimulate increased production of wild fur.”

Under the Grubstake program, a payment of \$5 per pelt of any fur-bearing species is paid to all trappers who ship at least 20 fur pelts to auction, now to a maximum of 400. This payment is in addition to the guaranteed advance and prime fur bonus that are paid to eligible trappers through the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs Program. Grubstake payments occur in the fall prior to the start of the new trapping season and are based on production from the previous year’s fur harvest.

Trapping season in the NWT runs from October to June, the period when fur is most market-ready. Trappers who participate in the program must have General Hunting Licenses or be land-claim beneficiaries. Fur can be brought to the wildlife officers at local Department of Environment and Natural Resources offices to be entered into the program.

Through the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs Program, the Government of the Northwest Territories works in partnership with NWT harvesters and the fur industry to support and

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promote the traditional fur economy. In the 2010/11 fiscal year, the program invested \$121,709 into the NWT trapping industry.

Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs Marketing Program

Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs Label

For more information, please contact:

Alayna Ward

Manager, Public Affairs and Communications

Industry, Tourism and Investment

Government of the Northwest Territories

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R(17)013

National Day of Remembrance

YELLOWKNIFE (November 22, 2011) -- Tomorrow is the National Day of Remembrance for victims of road crashes in Canada. Each day, an average of six people lose their lives due to collisions on Canada's streets and highways. Each year, an average of 3.5 people are killed on Northwest Territories roads, and for every person killed, 75 people were injured, many of them seriously. The Day is set aside to remember these victims and to consider ways we can reduce the number of collisions in the future.

"We should think every day about how we can help our friends and loved ones be safe," said David Ramsay, Minister of Transportation. "The National Day of Remembrance is set aside to consider the consequences when avoidable collisions, injuries, and deaths occur on our roads and trails."

At 861 collisions, 173 injuries, and four deaths, 2008 was the worst year for collisions in the Northwest Territories since 1992. The record has improved significantly since then. The 2010 NWT Traffic Collision Facts Report, which has just been released, reports that 585 collisions occurred in the NWT in 2010, the lowest number in more than 20 years. There were also 113 injuries and three fatalities in 2010. To this point in 2011, there have been no fatal collisions in the NWT.

Drive Alive, the GNWT's road safety information program, reminds residents that the proper use of seat belts, child car seats, and booster seats can reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our roads. This requires a community-wide effort to encourage friends and loved ones to protect their families by using occupant restraints. In 2013, as part of the Buckle Up NWT campaign, the community with the largest percentage of seat belt users will win \$5,000 for their fire department and an all-expenses-paid concert in the community with award-winning Aboriginal artist Leela Gilday.

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More information on the Day of Remembrance, including stories on six victims of road crashes from across Canada, can be found at www.rememberroadcrashvictims.ca. The Department of Transportation website has a link to the Drive Alive program at www.dot.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, please contact:

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Manager responsible for the Drive Alive program
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867-873-7712
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earl_blacklock@gov.nt.ca

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R(17)014

NWT Trappers Honoured

YELLOWKNIFE (Nov. 29, 2011) Trappers in each region of the Northwest Territories have been honoured for their achievements during last year's trapping season.

"NWT trappers work hard at their craft, and these awards recognize the invaluable contribution they make to our economy," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. "I want to offer my congratulations to all of them for their well-deserved awards."

Awards are given to the top trapper in each region in four categories:

- Highest sales – based on the cash value of harvested furs sold through the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs (GMVF) marketing program.
- Highest number of pelts sold.
- Senior Trapper – based on age and productivity in the GMVF Program.
- Youth Trapper – based on age and productivity in the GMVF Program.

A fifth award, *Youth Trapper NWT*, is presented to the most productive youth trapper.

Through the GMVF program, the GNWT works in partnership with NWT trappers, the fur industry, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to support the territory's traditional fur economy.

Marilyn Maring received the *Youth Trapper NWT* award for being the most productive youth trapper in the territory.

Through initiatives such as Trapper Recognition programs, the GNWT is taking steps to diversify the economy and provide all communities and regions with opportunities and choices, a key goal of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

For more information, please contact:

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Government of the Northwest Territories
Tel: (867) 920-8696

Trapper Recognition Awards 2010/11

Region	Highest Sales	Highest Pelts	Senior Trapper	Youth Trapper
South Slave	Devon Beck (Fort Resolution)	Jerry M. Beaulieu (Fort Resolution)	Fred Mandeville (Hay River)	Samuel Rymer (Fort Resolution)
North Slave	Jimmy Pierre Mantla (Behchoko)	Leon Ekendia (Behchoko)	Henri Apples (Behchoko)	Artie Les Franki (Behchoko)
Sahtu	Robert Kochon (Colville Lake)	Robert Kochon (Colville Lake)	Leon Modeste (Deline)	Branden Orlas (Colville Lake)
Dehcho	Charlie Tale (Wrigley)	Charlie Tale (Wrigley)	Frances Nahanni (Fort Simpson)	Eric Harry Moses (Fort Simpson)
Inuvik	James B Firth (Inuvik)	James B Firth (Inuvik)	Sam (Inglangasuk) (Inuvik)	Lennie Marilyn Maring (Inuvik) NWT

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R(17)015

Minister Ramsay Elected Vice President of PNWER

YELLOWKNIFE (Nov. 25, 2011) -- The Honourable David Ramsay, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, was elected vice president of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) during the PNWER winter meeting in Victoria on November 18.

“I am pleased to have been elected and look forward to advancing the interests and concerns of NWT residents and business owners,” said Minister Ramsay. “We have a lot in common with the jurisdictions in this region. By collaborating, we can promote economic growth, deal with cross-border issues, and lobby the federal governments in both Canada and the US on issues of mutual benefit.”

The PNWER organization is over 20 years old and the NWT became a member in July 2009. As the vice president, Minister Ramsay is also part of the executive committee, the decision-making body responsible for reviewing all activities of the organization.

“I want to recognize Premier Bob McLeod for his significant efforts to get the NWT into PNWER in 2009 and for raising the profile of the territory in this economic region,” said Minister Ramsay. “Membership enables the NWT to build on existing trading relationships and makes our economy stronger by creating relationships with business, political and non-profit leaders throughout the region.”

PNWER is recognized by both the United States and Canada as the model for regional and bi-national cooperation. Its goals are to promote greater regional collaboration, enhance the competitiveness of the region in domestic and international markets, leverage regional influence in Ottawa and Washington D.C., and achieve continued economic growth while maintaining the region's natural beauty and environment. Other members

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include British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

The Northwest Territories' participation in PNWER exemplifies the Legislative Assembly's goal: a strong north built on partnerships.

For more information, please contact:

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R(17)016

Corrections Northern Recruit Training Program Graduation

YELLOWKNIFE (Nov. 25, 2011) – Today, twelve northerners are ready to take their places in the workforce as they graduate from the Corrections Northern Recruit Training Program.

This six-week program gives NWT residents the technical and theoretical skills required to be successful in the Corrections Service.

“While many of the graduates are successful in obtaining positions within the GNWT, that isn’t the only place they can work,” said Minister of Justice, Glen Abernethy. “Today’s graduates will be ready for entry-level positions in our correctional facilities or security-oriented positions anywhere in the North. We are proud to build a trained Northern workforce.”

The program was developed in 2009 because the Corrections Service faced significant challenges recruiting northerners with the basic qualifications to work in the corrections field. Successful graduates will continue to the final part of their program: paid casual staff positions that include a workplace orientation where they obtain direct on-the-job experience. They will then have the skills and training to apply for permanent positions at youth or adult correctional facilities in the NWT or follow their own alternate career aspirations.

To date, 64 people have graduated from the Corrections Northern Recruit Training Program, and interest remains high. Graduates have successfully obtained GNWT positions in Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik and Yellowknife.

For more information, contact:

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Senior Communications Advisor
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867-920-3130

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R(17)017

Minister Beaulieu meets with Health Ministers

YELLOWKNIFE (Nov. 28, 2011) – Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu met with provincial, territorial and federal Ministers of Health and Wellness in Halifax, Nova Scotia November 24-25, 2011.

Ministers renewed their commitment to focus on common issues affecting provinces and territories, including accelerating innovation to improve care for patients and families and promoting healthy living. Agenda items at the meeting included a general discussion about the renewal of the 2004 Health Accord, shared priorities related to healthy living, and a presentation from the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

“At the meetings, I highlighted for other Health Ministers our current social conditions and their influence on our health status, as well as the continued need for investment in other factors that influence population health, such as housing, employment and education,” said Minister Beaulieu.

At the meeting, Minister Beaulieu spoke about the importance of suicide prevention in NWT communities and the need for continued investment and partnership with the federal government and non-government organisations. “We need to talk about suicides, continue to invest in community-based solutions, and understand contributing issues that lead to suicides, like mental health and addictions,” he said. The federal, provincial and territorial governments agreed to explore further opportunities to work together on this critical issue.

The Ministers endorsed a report on childhood obesity, which includes joint activities they will be undertaking to tackle this issue. “Childhood obesity is a growing problem that is reaching epidemic proportions in Canada,” said Minister Beaulieu. “In the NWT, we need to encourage families to move away from processed foods and promote a healthy diet based on traditional foods, while we continue our efforts to get northerners to be more physically active.”

For more information, please contact:

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R(17)018

**GNWT receives the Project Description Report
for the Tulita District portion of the planned Mackenzie Valley Highway**

Norman Wells (November 30, 2011) – Minister of Transportation David Ramsay today received the completed Project Description Report (PDR) for the portion of the planned Mackenzie Valley Highway going through the Tulita District of the Sahtu Settlement Area.

The PDR was presented to the Minister by Ethel Blondin-Andrew, the President of 5658 NWT Ltd., an Aboriginal organization established by the Tulita Land Corporation, Norman Wells Land Corporation, Fort Norman Metis Land Corporation, and Tulita Dene Band. This marks another milestone in the Mackenzie Valley Highway project from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk.

The PDR provides a summary of information required to proceed to the environmental review phase of the project relative to the Tulita District. Minister Ramsay says the PDR work demonstrates the value of partnerships with Aboriginal organizations.

“The decision to partner with Aboriginal organizations along the proposed right-of-way helps ensure that local knowledge contributes significantly to the final report,” said Minister Ramsay. “This approach helps ensure that the concerns and interests of the people in the Tulita District of the Sahtu Settlement Area are taken into account.”

“I believe the completion of the PDR by the 5658 NWT demonstrates the ability of aboriginal organizations to fully participate in the planning of major public infrastructure projects such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway,” said Ethel Blondin-Andrew, President of 5658 NWT.

This is the third PDR that has been completed for the Mackenzie Valley Highway to Tuktoyaktuk. Another two PDRs for the project are in the final stages of preparation.

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When all the PDRs are complete, they will be combined into a single Project Description Report for use in the project's preliminary environmental screening.

For more information, please contact:

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Ethel Blondin-Andrew
President, 5658 NWT Ltd.
867-587-4433

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R(17)019

2011 NWT Fire Service Merit Award Recipients

YELLOWKNIFE (December 5, 2011) – Individuals from fire departments across the NWT work tirelessly to protect our communities. The NWT Fire Service Merit Awards, announced by Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, recognize those individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty while protecting residents across the territory.

“Firefighters undertake important, and sometimes dangerous, work in all of our communities to ensure our families, friends, neighbours, and properties are protected,” said Minister McLeod. “When they are not working to fight fires in and around our communities, they are educating residents on fire prevention and safety and acting as great role models to all NWT residents.”

NWT Fire Service Merit Awards are provided each year, based on nominations from community members and fire chiefs, to honour and recognize individuals and community fire departments for their significant contributions to fire safety and fire service across the territory.

The 2011 award recipients are:

- Individual Award – Rene Camsell - Behchokò Fire Department
- Individual Award – Kirk Hughes - Délı̄ne Fire Department

Fire departments are a key component of protecting residents and communities across the NWT. A dedicated and educated fire service helps ensure safer communities.

For more information about the NWT Fire Service Merit Awards, please visit the [MACA website](#) or contact:

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R(17)020

Minister Ramsay Appointed Chair of Committee on Internal Trade

YELLOWKNIFE (December 6, 2011) Minister David Ramsay has taken over as Chair of the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) for the next year.

“There has been significant momentum on reducing barriers to interprovincial trade over the last few years and I will ensure this momentum continues as I take on the role of Chair,” said Minister Ramsay. “I want to thank the Government of Prince Edward Island for all of their efforts and progress as Chair this previous year.”

The Government of the Northwest Territories will host the annual CIT Ministers’ meeting in June of 2012.

CIT includes trade representatives from the federal, provincial and territorial governments. It was established through the Agreement on Internal Trade, an intergovernmental trade agreement signed by Canadian First Ministers that came into force in 1995. Its purpose is to reduce and eliminate, to the extent possible, barriers to the free movement of persons, goods, services, and investment within Canada and to establish an open, efficient, and stable domestic market.

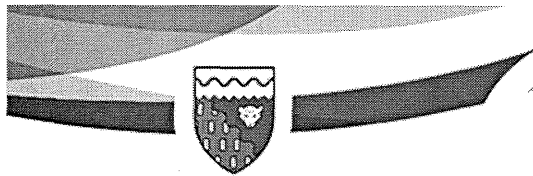
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Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

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Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9
Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111



NEWS RELEASE

Governor General of Canada to Open New Exhibit at Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
December 8, 2011 – Their Excellencies the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, and Mrs. Sharon Johnston will be at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre today to open the *Hunters of the Alpine Ice* exhibit.

The exhibit opening will occur as part of Their Excellencies' official visit to the Northwest Territories from December 7-11. This is their first official visit to the NWT since His Excellency's swearing-in as Canada's 28th Governor General in October 2010 and will include Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Hay River and K'at'l'odeeche First Nation.

"I am thrilled to have the Governor General of Canada experience some of our Northern lifestyle and culture," said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "To have Their Excellencies open this exhibit at our museum is tremendous, and provides the opportunity for us to share a piece of important cultural history with them."

Archaeologists from the museum worked with Tulita elders to document high alpine ice patches that have been used by *Shut'aot'ine*, or Mountain Dene hunters, for thousands of years. While hunting caribou on the ice patches, hunters left behind parts of their hunting equipment, which were preserved in the ice for hundreds of years. This ice is now melting, exposing the fragile artifacts to the elements and putting them at risk of destruction. The work is critical, and the team must visit the sites each year to monitor them for new discoveries.

Hunters of the Alpine Ice opens at 3:00pm in the Museum Café. A public presentation on the NWT Ice Patch Study will be held at 7:00pm on December 8th in the museum auditorium.

For more information, please contact:

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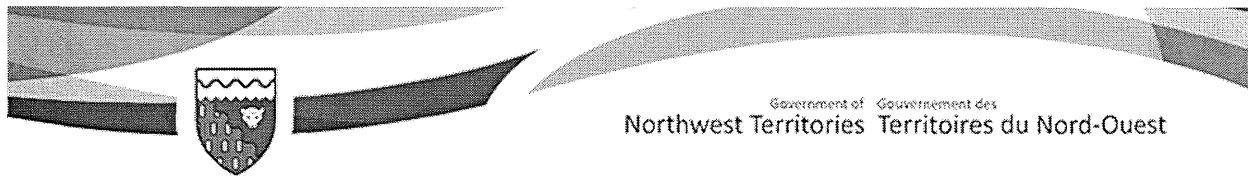
Barb Cameron

Director

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

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NEWS RELEASE

High Performance Athlete Grants Awarded

December 9, 2011 – Recipients of the 2011-2012 High Performance Athlete Grant Program were announced today by the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, and Richard Daitch, President of the Sport North Federation.

The grants provide funding to high performance athletes from the Northwest Territories to assist with the expenses of training and competing. Each recipient is awarded funding based on athletic achievement and recognition on the national and international level. A list of athletes who are being supported in 2011-2012 is attached.

"These recipients are role models for youth and bring pride to communities across the Northwest Territories," said Minister McLeod. "It's great to see so many northern athletes doing so well on the national and international level. We are all proud of these athletes and happy to support them as they work towards their goals."

"The Sport North Federation is a proud supporter of the High Performance Athlete Grant program," said Richard Daitch. "The program helps highly committed athletes reach their goals and represent the North all over the world. Sport North wishes to congratulate these athletes on their success and achievements."

Through its investment in the High Performance Athlete Grant program, the Government of the Northwest Territories is promoting healthy, active living among all NWT residents. Providing options for healthy activities gives northerners more opportunities to make healthy choices.

More information on the High Performance Athlete Grant program can be found on the [Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' website](#).

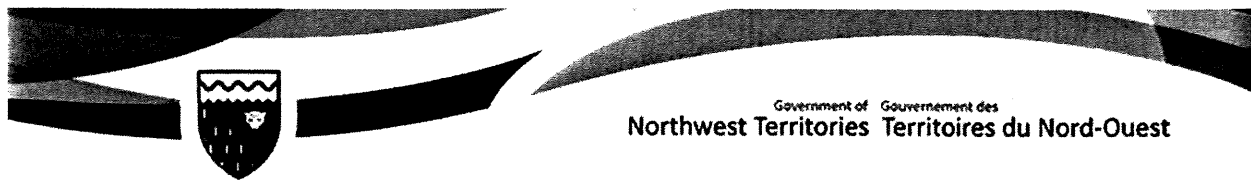
For more information, contact:

David Maguire

Communications and Web Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
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Phone: (867) 920-3092

Melanie Kornacki

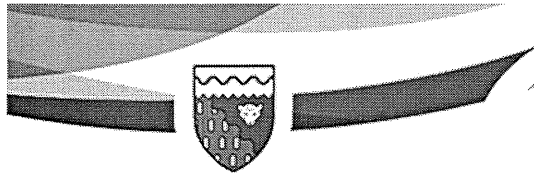
Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Sport North Federation
Phone: (867) 669-8378



NEWS RELEASE

The recipients for the High Performance Athlete Grant for 2011-2012 are:

Athlete	Sport	Home Community
Brendan Green	Biathlon	Hay River
Michael Gilday	Speed Skating	Yellowknife
Denise Ramsden	Cycling	Yellowknife
Andrew Matthews	Snowboarding	Yellowknife
Gabrielle Desforges	Judo	Yellowknife
Thompson D'Hont	Cross Country Skiing	Yellowknife
Molly Milligan	Snowboarding	Yellowknife
Stefanie Miklosovic	Rowing	Yellowknife
Jessie Loutitt	Rowing	Fort Simpson
Stephen Giovanetto	Swimming	Yellowknife
Sarah Cannell	Soccer	Yellowknife
Kathleen O'Brien	Hockey	Yellowknife
Colton Yee	Swimming	Hay River
Pooja Chugh	Tennis and Squash	Yellowknife
Hailey Lyons	Athletics	Hay River
Liam Coedy	Soccer	Yellowknife
Michelle Daigneault	Hockey	Hay River
Elizabeth Mawdsley	Biathlon	Fort Smith
Adrienne Schmalz	Soccer	Yellowknife
Brandon Thompson	Volleyball	Fort Smith
Chelsea Comeau	Basketball	Yellowknife
Arran Ferguson	Soccer	Yellowknife
Jan Barbier	Soccer	Yellowknife
Chad Hinchey	Volleyball	Yellowknife
Shaun MacPherson	Hockey	Fort Smith
Hazem Shoblak	Athletics	Yellowknife
Jayde Lafferty	Hockey	Yellowknife
Tehinille Gard	Hockey	Yellowknife
Tyler Comeau	Volleyball	Yellowknife
Coady Duncan	Badminton	Hay River
Caitlyn Pyke	Hockey	Yellowknife
Gillian Waugh	Badminton	Yellowknife
Shawn Coady	Hockey	Yellowknife
Iлона Gyapay	Cross Country Skiing	Hay River



Government of / Gouvernement des
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NEWS RELEASE

Active After School Funding Announced

December 15, 2011 - Physical activity programs offered in the after school time period are being supported with \$615,000 in Government of the Northwest Territories funding announced by Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA). The programs, delivered by schools throughout the territory, are supported by the department through the Active After School program.

“Creating opportunities for our youth to choose to be active after school is an important step in increasing their physical activity,” said Minister McLeod. “It is a fact that time after school is increasingly being spent watching television, playing video games or using the computer. Providing options for more physical activity will help reverse this trend and support our youth in making healthy choices from an early age.”

The Active After School program supports schools in creating or expanding programs that provide opportunities for school-aged children and youth to engage in physical activity. Governments across Canada have identified the after school time period as a key focus area where youth physical activity can be greatly increased. Programs like Active After School are consistent with this national focus and support the goal of reducing childhood obesity and building healthy communities across our territory.

A list of 2011-2012 funding recipients is attached.

Part of the Healthy Choices Framework, the Active After School program supports the 17th Legislative Assembly’s goal of healthy, educated people by investing in prevention and building education and awareness around health related issues.

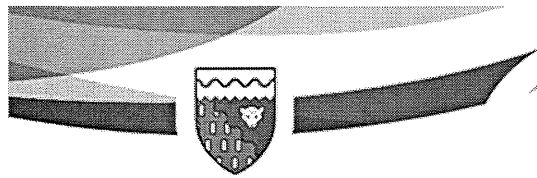
Click [here](#) for more information on the Active After School program.

For more information, contact:

David Maguire

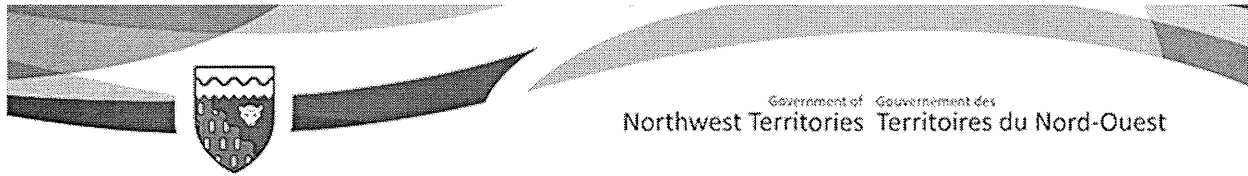
Communications and Web Advisor
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The recipients for the Active After School funds for 2011-2012 are:

Region	School / Organization	Community
Inuvik	Moose Kerr School	Aklavik
	Chief Julius School	Fort McPherson
	Samuel Hearne Secondary School	Inuvik
	Sir Alexander Mackenzie School	Inuvik
	Angik School	Paulatuk
	Inualthuyak School	Sachs Harbour
	Chief Paul Niditchie School	Tsiigehtchic
	Mangilaluk School	Tuktoyaktuk
Sahtu	Helen Kalvak Elihakvik	Ulukhaktok
	Colville Lake School	Colville Lake
	Chief T'Selehye School	Fort Good Hope
	Mackenzie Mountain School	Norman Wells
	Chief Albert Wright School	Tulita
North Slave	Chief Jimmy Bruneau Regional High School	Behchoko
	Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary	Behchoko
	Kaw Tay Whee School	Dettah
	Jean Wetrede Gameti School	Gameti
	Lutsel K'e Dene School/Recreation Dept	Lutsel K'e
	Mezi Community School	Whati
	Ecole Allain St-Cyr	Yellowknife
	Ecole JH Sissons School	Yellowknife
	NJ Macpherson School	Yellowknife
	Mildred Hall School	Yellowknife
	Ecole St. Joseph School	Yellowknife
	Ecole St. Patrick High School	Yellowknife
	Ecole William McDonald Middle School	Yellowknife
Weledeh Catholic School	Yellowknife	
Dehcho	Echo Dene School	Fort Liard
	Bompas Elementary	Fort Simpson
	Thomas Simpson Secondary	Fort Simpson
	Louie Norwegian School	Jean Marie River
	Charles Yohin School	Nahanni Butte
	Sambaa K'e Dene Band	Trout Lake
	Chief Julian Yendo School	Wrigley
South Slave	Deh Gah Elementary	Fort Providence
	Deninu School	Fort Resolution
	Ecole Boreale	Hay River
	Diamond Jenness Secondary School	Hay River
	Princess Alexandra School	Hay River
	Chief Sunrise Education Centre	K'atlodeeche



NEWS RELEASE

Joe Handley Appointed as Stanton Public Administrator

December 16, 2011 – Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu has appointed former Northwest Territories Premier Joseph L. Handley as Public Administrator for the Stanton Territorial Health Authority (STHA) effective December 1, 2011.

“I welcome Mr. Handley into the position of Public Administrator,” said Mr. Beaulieu. “He brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise both from within the GNWT and as a leader. I look forward to working with him and supporting his role as Public Administrator.”

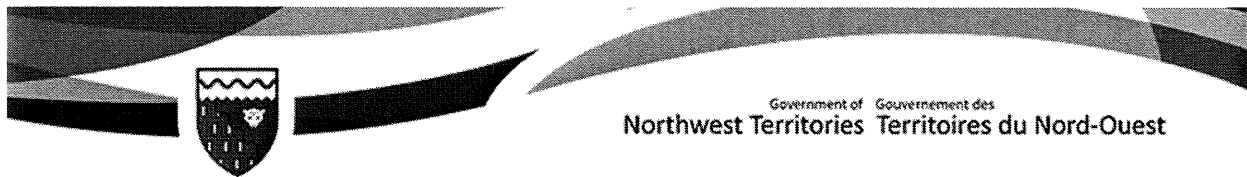
Mr. Handley was Premier from 2003-2007. Prior to that, he held the positions of Deputy Minister in a wide range of portfolios, including Education, Renewable Resources, Transportation and Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. After becoming MLA for Weledeh in 1999, Mr. Handley became Minister of Finance, Chairman of the Financial Management Board, Minister Responsible for the Workers’ Compensation Board, Minister of Transportation and Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

The role of the Public Administrator is to assume the responsibilities of a governing body with respect to the operations and finances for the Health Authority.

For more information, contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

Collective Bargaining Begins Between GNWT and UNW

December 19, 2011 – Today, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) begins negotiation of a new collective agreement with the Union of Northern Workers (UNW).

“The GNWT public service is one of our most valued resources and consistently delivers high-quality programs and services to NWT residents,” says Sheila Bassi-Kellett, Deputy Minister of Human Resources. “Throughout the collective bargaining process, the GNWT will continue to support a sustainable public service which balances investment in our employees with fiscal responsibility and good governance.”

The GNWT’s initial proposal will focus on:

- ensuring that the GNWT is fiscally sustainable in the long term;
- continuing to ensure equity and fairness for all employees;
- simplifying the collective agreement so that it is clear and concise for employees and managers; and
- increasing flexibility in work scheduling to support more effective program delivery.

The GNWT and UNW meet December 19-22 to begin negotiations, with negotiations continuing in the New Year. The GNWT will be accountable and transparent throughout the bargaining process, with proposals and updates available to the public on the GNWT website at <http://www.hr.gov.nt.ca/bargaining/default.htm>.

For more information, please contact:

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Deputy Secretary, Corporate Communications and Protocol
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NTPC to Restrict Natural Gas Use in Inuvik, NT

Yellowknife (December 20, 2011) —The Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC) announced it will be switching almost entirely to diesel fuel generation in Inuvik, starting early in the new year. The move, made with the support of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), will benefit all gas customers in the Town of Inuvik, extending Inuvik Gas' rapidly dwindling capacity to meet the town's needs.

"NTPC and the GNWT came together quickly to address the issue," says Brendan Bell, Chairman of NTPC. "Together, I think we've been able to develop a plan that meets the needs of the people of Inuvik while keeping the cost of electricity stable."

Currently, Ikhil Joint Venture is contracted to supply NTPC with natural gas from the nearby Ikhil well to produce electricity. In the fall, Ikhil announced that the gas field could be empty in less than two years. The move to diesel is expected to double the life of the gas field, increasing the amount of time residents will have access to natural gas.

The Government of the Northwest Territories will contribute funds to cover the difference in cost between diesel fuel and natural gas for power generation.

"Given the NWT-wide electricity rate pressure we will be facing in the near future, we felt we needed to insulate rate payers from additional unforeseen increases," says Michael Miltenberger, Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. "This move will stabilize the situation and allows us more time to find a long-term solution for the residents of Inuvik."

In addition to the production of electricity, more than 80 per cent of homes in Inuvik rely on natural gas for heating. Denny Rodgers, Mayor of Inuvik, believes that the transition to diesel for power generation is the right move until a longer term solution can be found.

"Anything that can be done to give residents longer access to natural gas for heating will have a positive impact on the community. We appreciate NTPC's willingness to be flexible and work with us on this issue."

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