

Northwest Territories Government News Releases | 2012

R(17)-	Jan. 09	Museum reopens NWT Archives, cleanup continues after fire
R(17)-	Jan. 11	Two New Community Centres Benefit Fort Resolution
R(17)-	Jan. 11	Arctic Air takes off with big-screen premiere tonight
R(17)-	Jan. 11	2012 Outstanding Volunteers Award Nominations Open
R(17)-	Jan. 11	Cabinet meets with Beaufort-Delta Regional Council
R(17)-	Jan. 16	Cabinet meets with Gwich'in Tribal Council
R(17)-	Jan. 16	First fur auction of the year sees price increases across the Board
R(17)-	Jan. 16	Souvenir NWT licence plates available through NWT Tourism
R(17)-	Jan. 17	Cabinet meets with Tlicho Government
R(17)-	Jan. 17	Premiers Announce Health Care Innovation Working Group
R(17)-	Jan. 23	Museum reopens to public, café closed until further notice
R(17)-	Jan. 30	Successful Justice and Public Safety ministers' meeting in Charlottetown
R(17)-	Feb. 06	Building the North through apprenticeships
R(17)-	Feb. 09	Minister of Finance introduces an Act to Amend the Borrowing Authorization Act
R(17)-	Feb. 10	NWT Housing Corporation providing funding to BETTY House
R(17)-	Feb. 14	Keeping Traditions Alive through Kayak-Making
R(17)-	Feb. 14	Stanton Territorial Health Authority Introduces a 100% Tobacco Free Grounds Policy
R(17)-	Feb. 22	Online Business Video Conference Sessions Available
R(17)-	Feb. 23	Federal Funding for Adult Literacy and Basic Education
R(17)-	Feb. 27	Invest NWT
R(17)-	Feb. 28	2011 Student Assessment Results
R(17)-	Feb. 28	Deh Cho Bridge Milestone Reached
R(17)-	March 5	GNWT receives PDR for the K'asho Got'ine District portion of the Mackenzie Valley Highway
R(17)-	March 6	Collective bargaining moves to the next phase
R(17)-	March 9	The Premier's Awards

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R(17)-	March 14	Hazard Alert – Natural Gas Forced Air Furnaces & Carbon Monoxide Risk
R(17)-	March 14	Minister Promotes NWT Mineral Potential in Toronto
R(17)-	March 15	Borrowing Limit Raised to \$800 Million
R(17)-	March 23	Seventh book released in The Land is Our Storybook series
R(17)-	March 23	Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC) today filed its first General Rate Application (GRA) in five years.
R(17)-	March 27	Minister meets with Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board
R(17)-	March 27	Seventh book released in The Land is Our Storybook series
R(17)-	April 1	Chipewyan Dictionary Launch
R(17)-	April 1	Dene languages apps
R(17)-	April 1	Long-term policing agreement reached
R(17)-	April 2	Colin Taylor appointed mediator for GNWT and UNW Negotiations
R(17)-	April 2	High demand, high prices for NWT furs
R(17)-	April 3	Three Territories to put a Pan-Territorial Focus on Infrastructure Needs
R(17)-	April 3	Inauguration du Secrétariat aux affaires francophones / Francophone Affairs Secretariat Officially Opens
R(17)-	April 13	New long-term care facility in Behchoko
R(17)-	April 16	Aviation career training opportunities continue to expand
R(17)-	April 16	Building for the Future – Northern Solutions for Northern Housing and new Public Housing Rent Scale
R(17)-	April 16	GNWT and UNW reach tentative agreement
R(17)-	April 17	A success for the GNWT/FFT Consultation/Cooperation Committee
R(17)-	April 18	Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo Supports Aboriginal Student Achievement Education Partnership Declaration
R(17)-	April 18	N.W.T.'s Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) rates decrease
R(17)-	April 19	Deputy Minister of ECE to Retire

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R(17)-	April 20	GNWT Marks the 20 th Anniversary of the Gwich'in Land Claim
R(17)-	April 23	Sharing Our Culture – Aboriginal Tourism Forum 2012
R(17)-	April 25	Report to the Hay River Town Council
R(17)-	April 25	Five-year agreement will expand opportunities for completing degrees at Aurora College
R(17)-	April 25	Reassignment of Portfolio Responsibilities
R(17)-	May 3	Ministers responsible for the Status of Women reaffirm their commitment to address priority issues for women: economic security, leadership, and ending violence.
R(17)-	May 4	Tentative Collective Agreement reached between the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association and the Government of the NWT.
R(17)-	May 4	WSCC Promotes NAOSH Week, the Safety Street Way
R(17)-	May 8	NWT film selected for screening at Cannes Film Festival
R(17)-	May 8	New Four-Year Contract for NWT Physicians
R(17)-	May 10	Mental Health For All
R(17)-	May 14	Recognizing the Importance of Tourism in the NWT
R(17)-	May 14	Ministerial Mandate Letters
R(17)-	May 15	New and Improved Features Highlight Opening of 2012 NWT Parks
R(17)-	May 18	GNWT Takes First Steps toward Child and Family Resource Centres
R(17)-	May 22	Aboriginal Participation in Devolution Grows: Sahtu Re-engage in Negotiations
R(17)-	May 22	Increased Investment and Development Benefit Alaska, Yukon and NWT
R(17)-	May 24	Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Celebrates One Millionth Visitor
R(17)-	May 24	Budget Protects Programs and Services and Rebuilds for the Future
R(17)-	May 29	NWT Educators Honoured at Hall of Fame Ceremony
R(17)-	June 6	Youth Programs Profiled for the United Nations International Year of Youth
R(17)-	June 7	Government of Northwest Territories Welcomes

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Changing Directions, Changing Lives: The Mental Health Strategy for Canada.

R(17)-	June 8	Premier's Awards Honour GNWT Employees and Partners
R(17)-	June 11	Aboriginal Engagement Strategy
R(17)-	June 12	A Shared Path Towards Wellness: The Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan, 2012-2015.
R(17)-	June 14	President of Aurora College resigns
R(17)-	June 14	Applications for aviation scholarships open; First Air becomes the newest program partner
R(17)-	June 15	GNWT Emergency Bulletin: Liard River (June 15, 5 pm)
R(17)-	June 18	NWT Antipoverty Steering Committee Formed
R(17)-	June 19	New Mandate and Name for Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Office
R(17)-	June 19	GNWT Emergency Bulletin: Laird River (June 19, 4:30 pm)
R(17)-	June 19	GNWT Reaffirms Commitment to Inclusive Schooling and Early Childhood Development
R(17)-	June 20	GNWT renews financial support for NWT tourism outfitters
R(17)-	June 26	Aurora College Interim President Announced
R(17)-	June 29	Drop the Pop Winners
R(17)-	June 29	Ministers of Sport Meet in Inuvik
R(17)-	July 3	Minister participates in Expressions of Reconciliation ceremony in Saskatoon
R(17)-	July 3	Tlicho Government and GNWT sign Memorandum of Understanding
R(17)-	July 3	Vision and anti-poverty priorities identified for a poverty-free NWT
R(17)-	July 5	25 Northerners Honoured with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal
R(17)-	July 10	NWT Film Commission officially launched its new website
R(17)-	July 11	30-Year Old Taicho Drum Songs Released on CD
R(17)-	July 18	Housing Choices Programs Accepting Applications for 2013/2014 Delivery Year
R(17)-	July 19	Premier McLeod meets with new Gwich'in Tribal Council Executive

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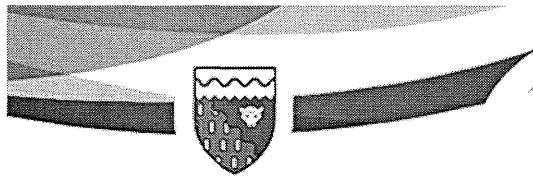
R(17)-	July 24	GNWT Announces 2012 Council of the Federation Literacy Award Recipient
R(17)-	July 27	Contractor Named for New Hay River Health Centre
R(17)-	July 30	2012-2017 Species Status Assessment Schedule Released
R(17)-	Aug. 2	Richard Hardy Receives the Diamond Jubilee Medal
R(17)-	Aug. 14	Aviation Scholarships Awarded
R(17)-	Aug. 15	Deputy Minister appointment
R(17)-	Aug. 15	Watch out! Bison season has begun
R(17)	Aug. 16	Gwich'in Forest Management Plan Signed in Fort McPherson
R(17)-	Aug. 17	Celebrating the life of Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier Lamoureux
R(17)-	Aug. 24	Deputy Minister Appointment
R(17)-	Aug. 28	Joint news release: Canadian Zinc and Government of Northwest Territories Advance Co-operation on Prairie Creek Mine Development
R(17)-	Aug. 29	Department of Transportation recognized for innovative Management
R(17)-	Aug. 29	Transitional Rent Supplement Program
R(17)-	Aug. 31	Premier Meets with Dehcho First Nations Grand Chief
R(17)-	Sept. 4	NTPC Takes Action on Yellowknife Power Outages
R(17)-	Sept. 5	Premier McLeod and Minister Miltenberger address Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy
R(17)-	Sept. 7	International FASD Awareness Day
R(17)-	Sept. 10	Call for Applications for the 2012 – 2013 Youth Ambassador Program
R(17)-	Sept. 10	Engaging Northerners in Tough Fiscal Choices
R(17)-	Sept. 13	Gwich'in Tribal Council Re-joins Devolution Negotiations
R(17)-	Sept. 14	Statement of Condolence to the family of Peter Lougheed, former Premier of Alberta, from Premier Bob McLeod
R(17)-	Sept. 14	Premier McLeod Promotes Chinese Investment in the NWT's Resources Industries
R(17)-	Sept. 17	New Agreement Provides \$6 Million Investment in NWT Agriculture

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R(17)-	Sept. 18	Premier McLeod Promotes NWT Tourism in China
R(17)-	Sept. 18	Territorial justice ministers work together on northern issues
R(17)-	Sept. 19	Minister Beaulieu returns from the Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder meeting
R(17)-	Sept. 20	Premier and NWT Business Representatives Explore Opportunities in China
R(17)-	Sept. 24	NWT Celebrates Literacy Week
R(17)-	Sept. 25	NWT furs achieve highest sales in over 20 years
R(17)-	Sept. 25	Celebrating the diversity of NWT art during Arts Week
R(17)-	Sept. 25	NWT recipients honoured during Literacy Week
R(17)-	Sept. 26	Coming Together to Prepare for Opportunities in the Sahtu
R(17)-	Sept. 27	Family violence front-line workers receive valuable training
R(17)-	Sept. 27	Reel improvement in film industry heralded at Yellowknife Film Fest
R(17)-	Oct. 2	Comprehensive curriculum first of its kind in Canada
R(17)-	Oct. 5	Second antipoverty roundtable held in Inuvik
R(17)-	Oct. 9	Colville Lake Celebrates Bigger and Better Airport
R(17)-	Oct. 10	Inuvik's East Three School Official Grand Opening
R(17)-	Oct. 10	Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk and Tuktoyaktuk Celebrate Completion of New Airport Terminals
R(17)-	Oct. 11	GNWT Exceeds Greenhouse Gas Emissions Target Release
R(17)-	Oct. 11	Homegrown success with bountiful harvests across the NWT
R(17)-	Oct. 11	2012 NWT Fire Service Merit Award Recipients
R(17)-	Oct. 15	Government of the Northwest Territories Selected as One of Canada's Top 100 Employers
R(17)-	Oct. 15	Small businesses make big contributions to the NWT economy
R(17)-	Oct. 15	Graduates from Recreation Leader Certificate Program Recognized
R(17)-	Oct. 15	GNWT and GTC sign agreements to formalize relationship
R(17)-	Oct. 17	NWT Residents Honoured at Minister's Cultural Circle Ceremony

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R(17)-	Oct. 31	Minister of Education, Culture and Employment calls for other jurisdictions to develop dedicated residential schools curriculum
R(17)-	Nov. 6	Deh Cho Bridge to open November 30
R(17)-	Nov. 6	Excellence in trapping recognized
R(17)-	Nov. 6	First Territorial Health Behaviours in School-Aged Children Report Released
R(17)-	Nov. 6	Planned approach to NWT HC-Held Homeownership Mortgages
R(17)-	Nov. 7	Longest-serving MLAs receive Diamond Jubilee Medals
R(17)-	Dec. 14	Department of Municipal and Community Affairs Launches New and Improved Website



Government of / Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories / Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NEWS RELEASE

Museum Reopens NWT Archives, Cleanup Continues After Fire

YELLOWKNIFE (January 6, 2012) – The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) reopened the NWT Archives yesterday after a chimney fire damaged a small area inside the building on Boxing Day.

Detected early in the morning on December 26, the fire was found in and around the chimney, resulting in damage to the mechanical and kitchen areas. The Fire Department responded immediately and contained the fire, lessening the impact to the rest of the Museum. The majority of the fire damage was limited to the Museum Café kitchen. Fire recovery teams have been working long days to ensure a comprehensive cleanup and that all affected areas are identified, from the basement to the roof. The exact cause of the fire is still unknown, pending further investigation.

All of the collections, artifacts, exhibits and climate controlled environments were undamaged and remain intact.

“We are very lucky that the fire was contained so quickly,” said Barb Cameron, Director of PWNHC. “The response time from the fire department, the diligence of the fire recovery teams, and all of the people working to help us have all made a very difficult situation much easier. We thank them, and will open our doors to the public when the building is ready.”

While the Fire Department made an initial estimate of the damage, an assessment is ongoing to identify the full cost of the damage.

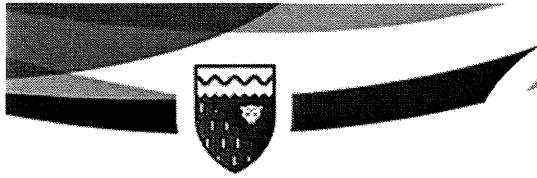
The first step towards normal operation begins Thursday, January 5, with the reopening of the NWT Archives for regular hours: 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday. Anyone visiting the Archives must sign in at the front desk, and access will be restricted to the Archives Reading Room and the washroom facilities. All other areas of the PWNHC will be closed until further notice.

The Archives houses the history of the NWT for safekeeping, including the oral tradition and history of NWT Aboriginal peoples, constitutional development in the NWT leading up to the creation of Nunavut, the activities of the Government of the Northwest Territories since 1967, the fur trade, aviation industry and the development of the mining industry.

Visit the [museum website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for regular updates.

For more information, contact:

Jacqueline McKinnon
Manager, Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
(867)920-6222



Two New Community Centres Benefit Fort Resolution

YELLOWKNIFE (January 10, 2012) – The Town of Fort Resolution had double cause for celebration last week as residents officially opened two community buildings. A new Youth Centre Complex and the retrofitted Antoine Beaulieu Hall will now provide opportunities for youth development and space for community gatherings.

“The Government of Canada is proud to be a partner in these wonderful projects in Fort Resolution that will help contribute to a healthy and vibrant community,” said the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for the Canada Northern Economic Development Agency. “Canada’s Economic Action Plan has helped to boost the economy and create jobs, while improving public infrastructure across Canada.”

“The new Youth Centre Complex provides opportunities for young people to pursue healthy activities and creates a new learning environment in the community,” said Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. “Retrofitting older buildings like the Antoine Beaulieu Hall can add new life to infrastructure and provide updated spaces where communities can come together.”

The new youth centre offers activities ranging from cultural and traditional games to computer classes, and includes space for recreational activities such as billiards. The total eligible cost was \$1.4 million. Federal funding was provided through the Provincial-Territorial Base Fund, which is part of the Building Canada plan.

Canada is providing the Northwest Territories a total of \$185.8 million under the Provincial-Territorial Base Fund. This funding has been fully committed toward 63 priority infrastructure initiatives worth over \$310 million.

The retrofitting of Antoine Beaulieu Hall, which included electrical and mechanical upgrades, has opened more space to accommodate large groups and community events. Antoine Beaulieu Hall benefitted from investments of \$250,000 from the Government of Canada. The Hamlet of Fort Resolution matched federal contributions with community public infrastructure funding provided by the GNWT. Federal support for this project came from the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, part of Canada’s Economic Action Plan.

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 worked with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities to ensure that infrastructure funds are delivered quickly and efficiently for priority initiatives throughout the territory.

For more information about infrastructure projects and initiatives that have been funded by the Government of Canada in the Northwest Territories, please visit infrastructure.gc.ca.

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

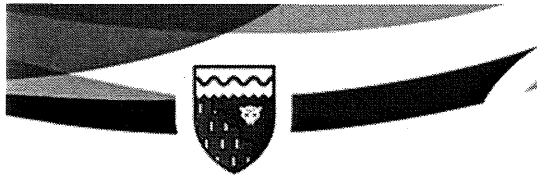
For more information, contact:

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Infrastructure Canada
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Government of the Northwest Territories
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NEWS RELEASE

Arctic Air Takes Off With Big-Screen Premiere Tonight

YELLOWKNIFE (January 10, 2012) -- CBC's newest television series, *Arctic Air*, will kick off tonight with a premiere screening event at Capitol Cinema in Yellowknife. Hosted by the Northwest Territories Film Commission in partnership with NWT Tourism and the City of Yellowknife, the event is a celebration of the hard work put in by those in the film and media arts industry who helped bring the production to life.

Arctic Air is a one-hour adventure series set in the Arctic about a maverick airline company and the family who runs it. Shooting for Season One of *Arctic Air* took place in Yellowknife, Behchoko, Fort Resolution, Dettah and N'dilo over the past few months.

"A show with the profile of *Arctic Air* that is set and partly shot in the NWT shows the huge potential of the film industry and really puts our territory on the map as a filming destination," said David Ramsay, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. "Film production companies that shoot here are also a huge benefit to our economy. They hire local residents, purchase from small businesses, and enjoy the hospitality at our hotels and restaurants."

The series is produced by Omni Film Productions (OFP) in association with CBC. Tonight's screening event is free but attendees were asked to RSVP. Event organizers are expecting a full house.

"A lot of work went into this production and we are glad to have the opportunity to celebrate at the premiere screening tonight," said Camilla MacEachern, Associate Film Commissioner. "It is also great to hear that OFP has been very pleased with the diversity of locations in the NWT and the resources and services they have been provided with during production by local film and media arts professionals, the service industry and various governments."

The NWT Film Commission has been working in partnership with the City of Yellowknife to provide OFP with in-kind support by:

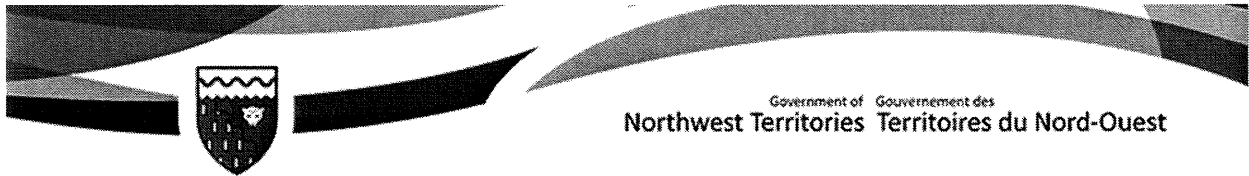
- providing direction on insurance and permit requirements,
- acting as a liaison with various governments,

- promoting the local film and media arts industry through the NWT Film Suppliers Guide, and
- providing support to cast and crew during pre-production and while on location.

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 by the 17th Legislative Assembly.

For more information, contact:

Alayna Ward
Manager, Public Affairs and Communications
Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories



NEWS RELEASE

2012 Outstanding Volunteers Award Nominations Open

YELLOWKNIFE (January 11, 2011) – Today the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), announced a call for nominations for the Northwest Territories (NWT) Outstanding Volunteer Awards. This year will mark the 21st year of this award, which recognizes the important contributions volunteers make in communities across the NWT.

Residents are encouraged to nominate a youth, elder, group or outstanding volunteer in their communities. This program recognizes those who donate their time and effort across our territory by presenting awards to individuals and organizations who have improved the quality of life for NWT residents through significant voluntary commitment.

“We have a strong volunteer sector with committed people doing great work in our communities,” said Minister McLeod. “The Government of the NWT supports volunteers and their work, and encourages more people to get involved. Strong volunteers build strong communities.”

Awards are presented in the following categories:

- Youth Volunteer Award

- Elder Volunteer Award

- Outstanding Group

- Outstanding Volunteer

The deadline for nominations is March 30, 2012.

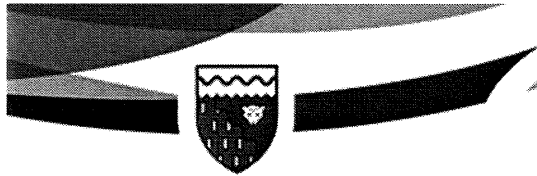
Supporting volunteers who build sustainable, vibrant, safe communities is an important part of Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners, as envisioned in the goals of the 17th Assembly of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

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

For more information, contact:

David Maguire

Communications and Web Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Government of the Northwest Territories
Phone: (867) 920-3092



Cabinet Meets With Beaufort-Delta Regional Council

INUVIK (January 11, 2012) -- The GNWT has concluded government-to-government meetings with the Beaufort-Delta Regional Council (BDRC).

All GNWT ministers were in attendance to speak to BDRC leaders about issues of mutual interest and concern, including the government-to-government relationship, devolution, energy initiatives, education, housing, and health and social services.

"These meetings are critical in developing and maintaining our government-to-government relationship," said Premier Bob McLeod. "My Cabinet colleagues and I are committed to developing a renewed relationship with Aboriginal governments and community leaders. They are our partners in almost all territorial initiatives, and we continue to work closely."

"The regional council meetings have been held over the past 20 years and we were pleased that all Cabinet members were able to attend and address our regional and community issues," said Nellie Cournoyea, CEO and Chair of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. "The Council, with the support of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, presented our research findings, recommendations and priorities to the Premier and his colleagues, with a view to working with the GNWT to improve the conditions in the communities, including education, housing, health, and strengthening our culture and language."

The Beaufort-Delta Regional Council's priorities are:

1. Addictions and mental health research
2. Social housing and income support
3. Education
4. Culture and language
5. Devolution and self-government

The GNWT's priorities are outlined under the theme *Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners*. They include making progress on improving our economy, making investments in infrastructure, creating employment opportunities for Northerners, balancing development with environmental stewardship, addressing the cost of living in all of our communities, ensuring that NWT residents have adequate housing and concluding devolution negotiations.

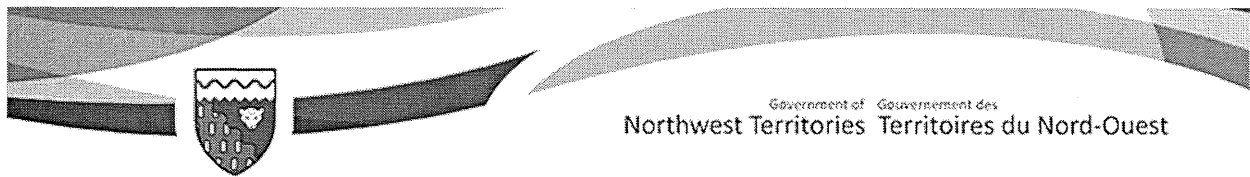
"We have made progress in our discussions because of our shared priorities," said Premier McLeod. "We agree that our priorities are interrelated: we cannot address social issues like poverty and dependence if we do not have a strong economy, and for a strong economy, we need healthy, educated people. Investments in the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highway will support sustainable development, and we agree on the need for a fibreoptic link to improve program and service delivery and increase economic opportunities throughout the valley."

All Cabinet ministers remain in Inuvik, attending government-to-government meetings with the Gwich'in leadership.

For more information, contact:

Bob Simpson
Regional Coordinator
777-7040

Megan Holsapple
Media Liaison, Premier and Cabinet
669-2302



NEWS RELEASE

Cabinet meets with Gwich'in Tribal Council

INUVIK (January 16, 2012) - The GNWT has concluded government-to-government meetings with the Gwich'in Tribal Council. All GNWT ministers attended these meetings and discussed issues of mutual interest and concern with Gwich'in leadership. The agenda included land claims implementation, infrastructure projects, building the economy, and devolution.

"Our government-to-government relationship is critical to maintaining and improving initiatives throughout the Gwich'in region," said Premier Bob McLeod. "My Cabinet colleagues and I believe in the importance of forums like this one. We can take the time to listen to each other and discuss regional issues in a collaborative environment. I was especially interested in the Gwich'in perspective on the relationship between health and justice, and have asked senior officials to follow up directly to complete this work. The leaders' proposal to develop a Beaufort-Delta Tourism Strategy has great potential to create jobs and show off our spectacular territory to the world. We also had encouraging talks about capacity building. We agree that governments need to invest in infrastructure and stimulate the private sector to create jobs. These are necessary steps toward our shared vision of a unified, sustainable and prosperous Northwest Territories."

The GNWT's priorities are outlined under the theme *Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners*. In the Gwich'in region, P3 investments for the Mackenzie Valley Fibreoptic Link will improve communications infrastructure, and the Shelter Policy Review will provide a long-term strategic framework for delivering housing.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple

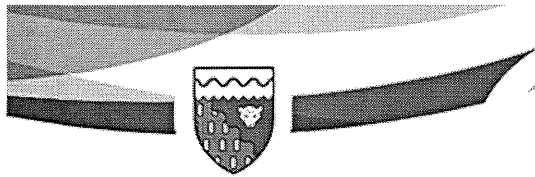
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NEWS RELEASE

First Fur Auction of the Year Sees Price Increases Across the Board

YELLOWKNIFE (January 16, 2012) -- Wild fur pelt prices in the Northwest Territories have surged up to 135% at the first wild fur sale of the season hosted by Fur Harvester's Auction Inc. in North Bay, Ontario on January 7, 2012.

The Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs (GMVF) program is a fur marketing service provided by the Government of the Northwest Territories. All proceeds from fur sold at auction through the program go directly to the hunter or trapper.

"NWT wild furs commanded exceptional prices at the first auction of the year and the market for our high-quality furs continues to grow," said David Ramsay, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. "The Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs program has been continuously recognized as a supplier of the finest northern Canadian wild fur, and our hunters and trappers should be commended for their ability to provide high-quality pelts for sale time and time again."

Notable pelt increases this year include cross fox, with an increase of 135%; red fox, with an increase of 120%; and beaver, with an increase of 105%. Increases were also seen in grizzly bear, muskrat, wolf and Arctic fox.

Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs' Arctic fox broke its previous record for top selling price, with a pelt going for the all-time high of \$200. Other pelts in high demand at auction were muskrat, where all pelts shipped to auction were sold, and beaver, where 95% of pelts shipped to auction were sold.

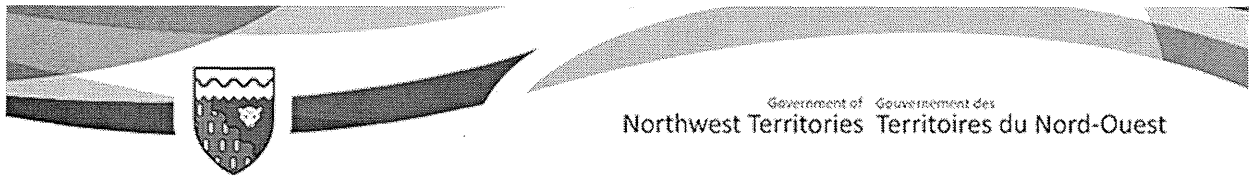
Total NWT sales at the auction totalled \$124,000 – the highest amount at this auction in recent years.

The next auction where Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs will be sold is the Fur Harvesters Auction on March 23, 2012 in Seattle, Washington.

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

For more information, contact:

Francois Rossouw
Traditional Economy and Fur Management
Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
(867) 873-7478



NEWS RELEASE

Souvenir NWT Licence Plates Available Through NWT Tourism

YELLOWKNIFE (January 16, 2012) -- Souvenir licence plates featuring new designs and the trademarked polar bear shape are now available through Northwest Territories Tourism (NWTT), which has been designated as the exclusive distributor of NWT souvenir plates around the world. The Government of Northwest Territories has designated the organization as the sole distributor of the plate to retailers, and members of the public can purchase individual plates through the NWTT website.

Transportation Minister and Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay says the new distribution agreement will benefit both the GNWT and NWT Tourism. "The polar bear licence plate is recognized around the world as a symbol of the Northwest Territories," he said. "This partnership with NWT Tourism will ensure that this souvenir plate will promote the Northwest Territories as a tourist destination in the years to come."

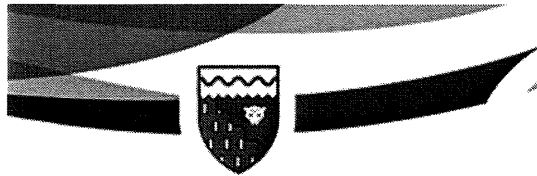
The Chair of NWT Tourism, Jenni Bruce, welcomes the opportunity to manage the souvenir plate program. "These beautiful souvenir plates support our tourism marketing brand and will draw more attention to our spectacular destination," remarked Ms. Bruce.

Distributors and individuals who wish to obtain an NWT souvenir plate can place an order on the [NWT Tourism site](#), contact the NWTT office at (867) 873-5007, or visit local retailers. For a complete list of retailers, please view the Special Orders tab of the webstore.

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NEWS RELEASE

Cabinet Meets With Tlicho Government

YELLOWKNIFE (January 17, 2012) – The GNWT and Tlicho have concluded government-to-government meetings. These were the first meetings with all GNWT Cabinet ministers and all Tlicho Government Executive Council members since the establishment of the Tlicho Government six years ago. While previous territorial governments met with the Tlicho leadership, this is the first time the Tlicho Government and entire GNWT Cabinet have met bilaterally to discuss how the two will work together. Senior officials of both governments have been directed to work together to develop a memorandum of understanding that will formalize the government-to-government relationship.

“This is an important development that sets the tone for our continued work toward a united and prosperous Northwest Territories,” said Premier Bob McLeod. “We have committed to bilateral meetings with the entire Cabinet and Tlicho Government leadership twice per year. A strong, independent north will be built on partnerships, and the GNWT is committed to working with the Tlicho Government as a key partner. I look forward to ongoing discussions with their leadership to determine a path forward for our shared and prosperous future.”

“I was pleased that our two governments could come together and discuss areas of mutual interest,” said Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus. “The dialogue about some challenging issues and our exchange of viewpoints was done with respect for each other and our mutual jurisdictions. I look forward to making progress where possible and to our future and regular intergovernmental forums.”

During the two-day meeting (January 12-13, 2012), the governments discussed a number of shared interests:

- Presentations about devolution were provided by both governments.
- The GNWT agreed to provide further information about the formula for funding community governments, and will consider establishing a Tlicho Government – GNWT Working Group to discuss options for improving the operation of Tlicho community governments.

- The GNWT will introduce a new *Wildlife Act*. The GNWT will convene a meeting of Aboriginal governments and continue to work with them through the *Wildlife Act Working Group*.
- The Tlicho Government and GNWT committed to continue to work together on caribou management, housing, roads and the Water Strategy. A Tlicho Government representative will serve on the Aboriginal steering committee on water.
- The Tlicho Government and GNWT will continue collaborative efforts to support healthy living and prevention.

The meeting was conducted in the Tlicho language and English using interpreters. This is the fourth time Premier McLeod has met with Tlicho leadership since being elected. The most recent meeting was on November 17, 2011, the first time an NWT Premier had attended the Tlicho Assembly.

For more information, contact:

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Media Liaison

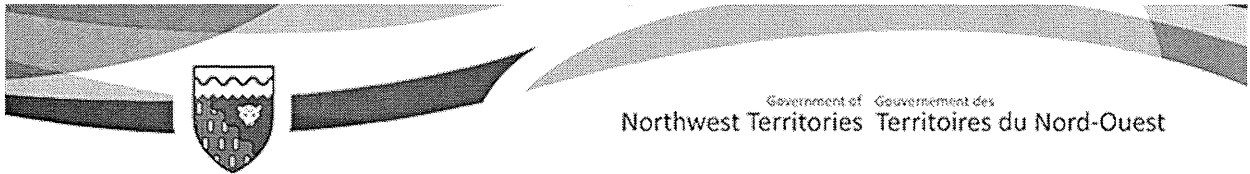
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Laura Duncan

Tlicho Government

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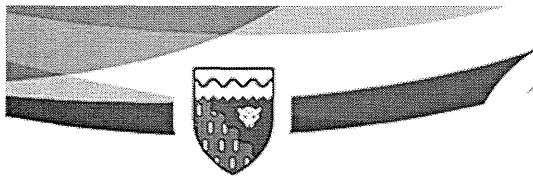
NEWS RELEASE

Premiers Announce Health Care Innovation Working Group

VICTORIA (January 17, 2012) – Premiers announced that Prince Edward Island Premier Robert Ghiz and Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall will co-chair a Health Innovation Working Group composed of all provincial and territorial health ministers. While acknowledging that Canada’s provinces and territories are pursuing innovation in their own jurisdictions, Premiers recognize that more can be done together.

Please visit the Council of the Federation’s website for the complete release.

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NEWS RELEASE

Museum Reopens to Public, Café Closed Until Further Notice

YELLOWKNIFE (January 23, 2012) – The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) reopened its doors to the public on Saturday. A chimney fire damaged a small area inside the building on Boxing Day.

“Our fire recovery teams and the Department of Public Works and Services technical services teams worked diligently to ensure we identified and cleaned all of the affected areas to the highest safety standards before we reopened to the public,” said Barb Cameron, Director of PWNHC. “We are extremely pleased with the thorough job everyone has done during this whole process, and invite people to come for a visit.”

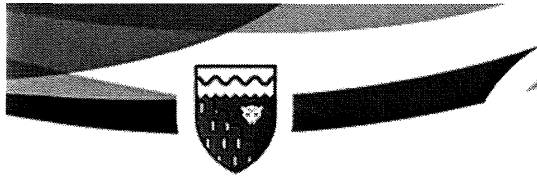
The Museum Café was the area most affected by the chimney fire, and is still under construction. The Café kitchen has a new wall and door separating the construction area from the rest of the museum, and will remain closed until further notice.

The first step towards normal operation began January 5, with the reopening of the NWT Archives, and this past weekend’s opening marks a return to regular hours for the public to visit the galleries and exhibits. The Museum is open daily from 10:30 to 5:00pm.

Visit the [Museum website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for regular updates.

For more information, contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

Successful Justice and Public Safety Ministers' Meeting in Charlottetown

YELLOWKNIFE (January 30, 2012) -- The federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) ministers responsible for Justice and Public Safety recently wrapped up their annual meeting in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

Yukon Justice Minister Mike Nixon, Northwest Territories Justice Minister Glen Abernethy and Nunavut Justice Minister Daniel Shewchuk met with their federal and provincial counterparts to talk about issues of particular concern to the North and committed to continue working with federal and provincial ministers to improve access to justice for marginalized individuals and communities.

Territorial ministers called on the federal government to expand support for drug treatment courts to include other therapeutic models. This would allow the courts to provide offenders with an alternative to incarceration by offering the opportunity to complete a drug or alcohol addiction program.

"Together with our justice counterparts in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut we can work towards alternative programs that address the underlying causes of criminal activity and focus on rehabilitation," Nixon said.

Nixon led a discussion on the impact of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) on the justice system. FPT justice ministers were unanimous in their agreement to continue moving forward on this priority issue, stressing the need to improve access to justice for disadvantaged people, including those with FASD.

Another issue of shared concern in the North that the territorial ministers addressed was the First Nations Policing Program.

"In the discussion on the First Nations Policing Program, all ministers recognized the importance of the program in addressing public safety challenges in First Nation and Inuit communities. Federal and provincial ministers also acknowledged the need for the expansion of the program to the North," Abernethy said.

"Our ministerial colleagues acknowledged the challenges and opportunities related to the administration of justice in northern and remote communities.

Federal, provincial and territorial ministers are committed to continuing to advance these discussions," Shewchuk said.

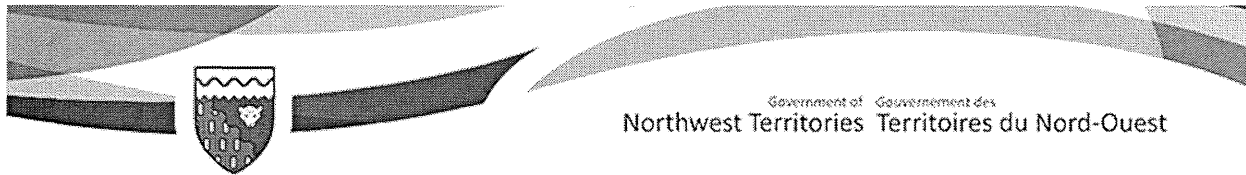
The next FPT Justice ministers' meeting will be held this fall in Regina.

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NEWS RELEASE

Building the North Through Apprenticeships

YELLOWKNIFE (February 6, 2012) – The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, has declared February 6th to 10th, 2012 as Apprenticeship Week in the Northwest Territories.

“Apprenticeships and occupational certifications have moved to the forefront of the economy in the Northwest Territories,” said Minister Lafferty. “The 2012 theme *Get With Apprenticeships* is especially appropriate this year as the government works with industry and educational institutions to ensure the territory develops a work force ready to take advantage of job opportunities that result from emerging industries.”

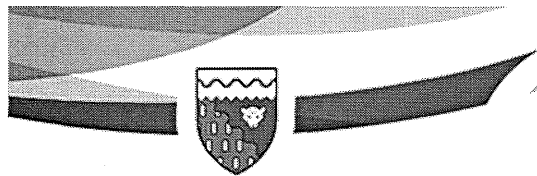
In the NWT there are 53 designated trades and 25 occupations that employ over 400 men and women. Aurora College offers technical training in Fort Smith and Inuvik for five trades, including plumber, carpenter, electrician, heavy equipment technician and housing maintainer.

“With the unique needs of our region, we rely heavily on trades,” said Minister Lafferty. “Our region requires that we have certified people available to help us with our frozen pipes and furnaces, constructing our buildings, and ensuring that we are able to function no matter where we are or the season we’re in. With our partners, Aurora College, Skills Canada, and the Mine Training Society, it is imperative that we provide education, certification and opportunity for those individuals wanting to explore a trade.”

The Apprenticeship Top Marks Awards are planned in selected communities during the week, as well as special events and activities. For more information, visit [the Department of Education, Culture and Employment’s website](#).

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NEWS RELEASE

Minister of Finance Introduces An Act to Amend the Borrowing Authorization Act

YELLOWKNIFE (February 9, 2012) -- Minister of Finance J. Michael Miltenberger introduced *An Act to Amend the Borrowing Authorization Act*. When passed, the Act will increase the amount the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is allowed to borrow under the *Borrowing Authorization Act* from \$175 million to \$275 million.

The GNWT has two borrowing limits. The first, set under the territorial *Borrowing Authorization Act*, limits the amount the GNWT can borrow over the short term and was set by the GNWT itself. This is the limit that will change after the passage of the *Act to Amend the Borrowing Authorization Act*. The second, imposed by the Government of Canada under the *Northwest Territories Act*, sets an overall limit that includes the short-term borrowing under the territorial *Borrowing Authorization Act*. This federally imposed limit is currently \$575 million.

The current limit under the *Borrowing Authorization Act* has not been changed since 1995. During this period, government revenues and operations have grown, and the limit no longer provides the flexibility that is needed to manage the GNWT's day-to-day cash requirements. Increasing the limit will mean the Government will be better able to manage its cash.

"Our strategy of supporting the NWT economy during the fiscal crisis has left our cash reserves low," said Minister Miltenberger. "While the increase will allow the GNWT to carry more short-term debt, our current fiscal strategy will see us recovering our cash over the next few years. With increased cash reserves, the need to incur short-term debt to manage cash flow will be reduced."

The increase in the short-term borrowing limit will not affect the GNWT's credit rating or discussions with Canada to increase the long-term borrowing limit.

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NWT Housing Corporation providing funding to BETTY House

YELLOWKNIFE (Feb. 10, 2012) – The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWTHC) is pleased to announce today that it will be providing \$2.3 million toward the construction of transitional housing for single women and women with children. This contribution to the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition and YWCA Yellowknife for the construction of this housing project supports a critical shelter need in the NWT.

The Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister Responsible for the NWTHC, announced the funding in the Legislative Assembly earlier today. The Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition is spearheading fundraising and construction of the project; YWCA Yellowknife will be the owner and operator when the building opens.

The working name for this new facility is BETTY House (Better Environment to Transition in Yellowknife). It will be located on 54 Street, opposite Aurora College. The building will offer approximately 30 suites in a variety of sizes at affordable rental rates.

Women and children who need support while they re-establish homes will live at BETTY House for up to three years. Those women may have been living in an emergency shelter or may have recently arrived in Yellowknife and have nowhere else to go.

“The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is pleased to participate in this essential project to support women and children in need of transitional housing. Contributing to the completion of Betty House forms a fundamental part of the Housing Corporation’s overall priority of strengthening its approach to homelessness” says Minister McLeod.

Mayor Gordon Van Tighem shares his enthusiasm, “It is indeed exciting to hear the announcement by the Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation that they are committed to a substantial financial contribution to the Betty House. This moves our Homelessness Coalition a great leap forward in meeting their current highest priority to provide women and women with children in transition a hand up toward a brighter future.”

“BETTY House will extend the continuum of services to single women and women with children, filling a long-standing gap,” says Lyda Fuller, executive director of YWCA Yellowknife.

“It requires the cooperation of many partners to make a housing project like Betty House a success. We appreciate the important contribution of the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition and YWCA toward strengthening individuals and families through the work that each of these organizations provides to address homelessness in Yellowknife” adds Minister McLeod.

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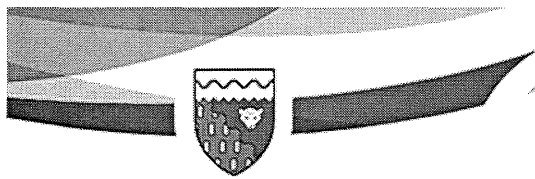
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About the NWT HC: NWT HC provides various programs and services to make affordable, suitable and comfortable housing more obtainable for NWT residents; leading to the improvement of health and education of NWT residents and the development of sustainable, thriving and safe communities in the territory.

About the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition: The Coalition was formed in 2000 in response to the Federal government’s homelessness initiative and call for a community plan. As a result of that plan, two housing projects were constructed; one in N’dilo and one in Dettah, operated by the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. In addition, the Coalition provided funding toward the construction of an 8-plex building operated by the North Slave Housing Corporation. These units have been providing shelter to those at risk of being homeless. In 2004, the Coalition envisioned what later came to fruition as Bailey House. This project served to fill an identified gap in transitional housing for men. With the successful partnership of the federal and territorial governments as well as private business and community citizens, the newly constructed 32 unit men’s transitional home was completed in 2008.

About YWCA Yellowknife: YWCA Yellowknife is the largest community-based non-profit agency in Yellowknife, with a 46 year history of providing housing in the north. YWCA Yellowknife’s housing programs include Alison McAteer family violence shelter, the emergency and transitional housing program for families at Rockhill and residential and in-home support for clients with mental health and developmental disabilities.



Government of Gouvernement des
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NEWS RELEASE

Keeping Traditions Alive Through Kayak-Making

TUKTOYAKTUK (February 14, 2012) -- A traditional sealskin kayak constructed by the students of the Mangilaluk School is the newest display at the Tuktoyaktuk airport.

Construction took place over the past several months and local Tuktoyatuk resident Darrel Nasogaluak led the project. Mr. Nasogaluak is a strong supporter of incorporating traditional knowledge into local schools and taught the students how to build the kayak using traditional tools and materials.

"I am pleased to see a significant and growing interest from youth around the territory in traditional projects and activities such as kayak-making," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, David Ramsay. "I want to congratulate the high school students at the Mangilaluk School for their hard work completing the kayak, and a special thanks to Darrel Nasogaluak. I look forward to my next visit to Tuktoyaktuk to see it for myself."

This initiative took place through the Take a Kid Trapping program. The program introduces NWT youth to the traditional harvesting practices of hunting, trapping, fishing and outdoor survival. In 2011/12, the Take a Kid Trapping program hosted 49 projects in regions throughout the NWT, with over 2200 youth participants.

The program is delivered through schools and Aboriginal organizations and administered by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment in co-operation with the Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs and Environment and Natural Resources.

For more information, contact:

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Stanton Territorial Health Authority Introduces a 100% Tobacco Free Grounds Policy.

YELLOWKNIFE (February 14, 2012) Stanton Territorial Health Authority (STHA) is joining a growing number of hospitals and healthcare facilities across Canada that are challenging the way we think about healthcare – and the role of healthcare facilities.

Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the Northwest Territories. The NWT has one of the highest rates of tobacco use in the country - at 36% it is double the National average. As the largest healthcare facility in the Territory, STHA has an opportunity to make a strong statement about the dangers of tobacco use and the health risks associated with even minimal exposure to second-hand smoke. It has a responsibility to encourage a culture of healthy living, within the institution and greater community. By going 100% tobacco free STHA hopes to support other health centres, clinics, and facilities in the North that are considering similar strategies.

STHA does recognize the highly addictive nature of nicotine and has developed supports to make their patients feel as comfortable as possible. Nicotine Replacement Therapies (NRT's) will be offered to all patients. If this policy encourages patients to tackle their tobacco addiction, resources and support will also be available.

“I understand that this will be a challenging change for all of us. However, I think we can agree that this is a move in the right direction. We are doing a great job at treating diseases caused by tobacco, but what are we doing to prevent them? The new policy sends a clear message that tobacco use has no place in an institution dedicated to healing. I ask for your support to make this as easy a transition as possible.” Kay Lewis, CEO

For more information please contact:

Kay Lewis,
CEO STHA
(867) 669-4224



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ONLINE BUSINESS VIDEO CONFERENCE SESSIONS AVAILABLE

YELLOWKNIFE (February 22, 2012) - Residents of the Northwest Territories (NWT) can now learn valuable business skills online in the comfort of their own home. The Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation (BDIC) in partnership with Canada Business NWT has announced online business webcasts that broadcast live video conference learning sessions to Northerners.

Content for these learning sessions is provided by The Alberta Business Link and includes a variety of different subjects such as, preparing a business plan, secrets to successful selling, small business accounting basics, and much more.

David Ramsay, Minister Responsible for the Business Development and Investment Corporation said "Having access to business learning sessions can greatly increase the success of first time business owners and entrepreneurs across the NWT. The continued education of our business owners contributes to a strong sustainable North."

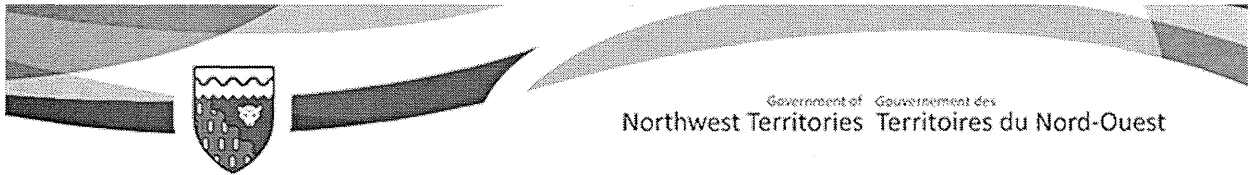
NWT residents interested in participating in these online business webcasts can visit the BDIC's website for details. Televised video conference sessions are available free of charge at the BDIC.

A list of upcoming video conferences and registration details can be found at www.bdic.ca/canada-business-nwt/video-conference-sessions/

For more information, please contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

Federal Funding for Adult Literacy and Basic Education

YELLOWKNIFE (Thursday, February 23, 2012) – The Government of Canada’s Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) has approved significant new funds for adult education in the Northwest Territories as part of a five-year Pan-Territorial project.

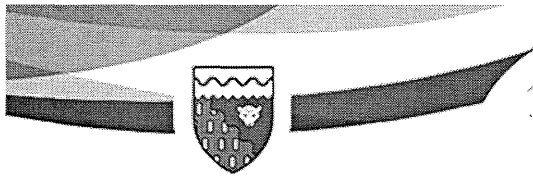
“Education is a lifelong process and is key to our success as a territory,” said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE). “The Department of Education, Culture and Employment invests in and provides education opportunities for adult learners at all levels. We are committed to ensuring that our residents have the opportunities they need to achieve their education and training goals in order to lead successful and prosperous lives.”

The enhanced funding for the NWT will allow for expanded adult basic education programming and supports. ECE provides \$5 million annually to Aurora College to deliver Adult Literacy and Basic Education in the Northwest Territories. ECE also provides additional funding to various non-government organizations including the NWT Literacy Council, the Native Women’s Association and the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre to provide educational opportunities for NWT adults.

“Adult basic education opens doors to self-reliance, stronger families and improved citizenship. It lays the foundation for success in building a strong workforce and healthy communities,” said Aurora College Interim Board Chair, Sydney O’Sullivan. “Funding provided by CanNor will allow Aurora College to improve its delivery of adult basic education, as well as develop new programs to better serve students.”

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Government of Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NEWS RELEASE

Invest NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (February 27, 2012) -- A new website aimed at attracting outside investment and business to the NWT has recently been launched. The site highlights the territory's economic potential, the benefits of doing business in the Northwest Territories, and identifies prime areas for investment.

The website, www.investnwt.ca, was developed in partnership with the Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, the NWT Chamber of Commerce, the NWT Construction Association, the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, and the Conseil de développement économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (CDETNO).

"Investment is crucial to sustain our economy and expand our service base," said Minister of Industry, Tourism, and Investment, David Ramsay. "Entrepreneurs exploring joint ventures with Aboriginal business partners, organizations seeking opportunities to develop sustainable businesses or industries in the NWT, or even those simply looking to make connections in the business community can turn to www.investnwt.ca as an important resource."

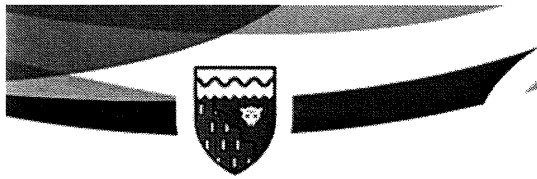
The site contains an overview of important economic sectors in the NWT, such as manufacturing, fur, agriculture and fisheries, mining, oil and gas and more. Potential investors can find information on the territory's business incentives, workforce and infrastructure. The site also features news for the business community, including upcoming events and new investment initiatives.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Development is working with CDETNO on the French version of the site, which is scheduled to launch this spring.

By actively pursuing investment opportunities that will benefit local businesses and residents, www.investnwt.ca supports the 17th Legislative Assembly's goal of a diversified economy that provides all communities and regions with opportunities and choices.

For more information, contact:

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2011 Student Assessment Results

YELLOWKNIFE (February 28, 2012) – The Northwest Territories results for the 2011 Alberta Achievement Tests (AAT), Functional Grade Levels (FGL) and attendance were released today.

“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. “We are able to spot areas of concern and address them.”

The results indicate that attendance must continue to be an area of focus. For the 2010-11 school year, average attendance was 84.3% across grades K to 12. Attendance affects how students perform in the education system and provides a strong foundation for learning and success. During the Aboriginal Student Achievement forums, Aboriginal leaders, education leaders, community members and youth consistently identified attendance as an area of concern. In 2011, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment launched a campaign throughout the NWT school system, focusing on rewards for attendance. The feedback from schools has been favourable, and a number of schools have continued the campaign for the 2011-12 school year.

There is a promising increase in both the FGLs and AATs over the last few years in English Language Arts, however, increases and decreases can fluctuate from year to year without being statistically significant. Variables like population, cultural and language disparities, and differing support structures can affect a student’s developmental level, which requires a greater focus on the early years, and endorses the concept of education as a shared responsibility.

Literacy is a key area of focus to improve student success. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is providing funding and professional development for literacy coaches in each region of the NWT as part of the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative. In August 2011, Minister Lafferty tabled the Aboriginal Student Achievement Education Plan, which details how the territory is working to improve educational outcomes.

While there are some areas for improvement, there are noteworthy successes, such as the marked increases in graduation numbers from the secondary school system. To ensure that success is built upon, tools like the AATs and FGLs will continue to provide overall information on the education system, which will help identify opportunities for improving the outcomes and making the education system both accessible and rewarding for students of all ages.

To review the 2010 AAT and FGL results, see the [attached backgrounder](#).

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Backgrounder

2011 Student Assessment Results

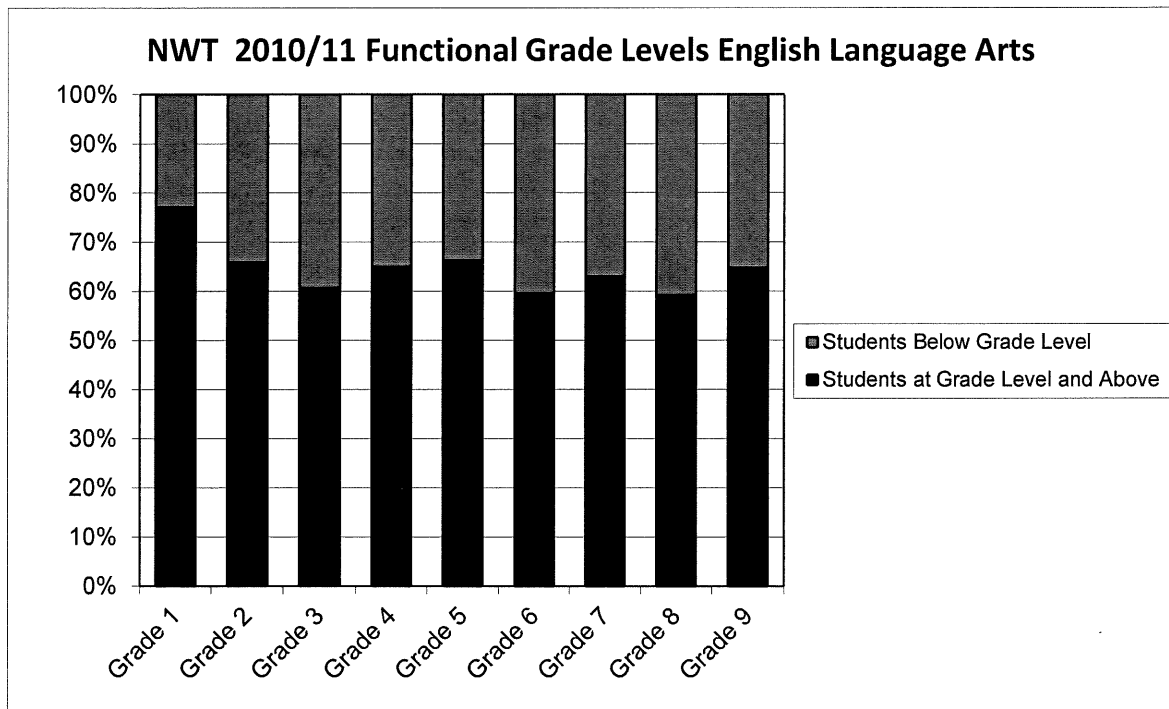
- 2011 results for the Alberta Achievement Tests (AAT), Functional Grade Levels (FGL), and attendance data.
- 2011 was the seventh year that students of the NWT have written the AATs. In addition, FGL data which is collected in May of each school year has been released for the NWT.
- Reporting FGL and AAT results provide an indication of NWT student performance.
- AATs are standardized tests that measure student performance in NWT curriculum in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. Students in grades 3, 6 and 9 wrote the tests in May and June, 2011. The AATs provide a “snapshot” 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 for the majority of the school year in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Reporting is based on a variety of classroom assessment methods 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.
- 2011 is the fifth year of full reporting.
- Also released, for the fourth year, is information regarding student attendance. Average attendance dropped from 86.1% in 2010 to 84.3% in 2011.

A summary of 2011 Alberta Achievement Test, Functional Grade Levels, and attendance results for the NWT is attached.

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 a 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 77% of students are able to work on Grade 1 curriculum. Overall, an average of about 65% of students are working at the appropriate grade level for their age in English Language Arts. In Mathematics, approximately 82% of grade one students are able to work on grade one curriculum and approximately 63% of students are working at the appropriate grade level of curriculum for their age.

English Language Arts

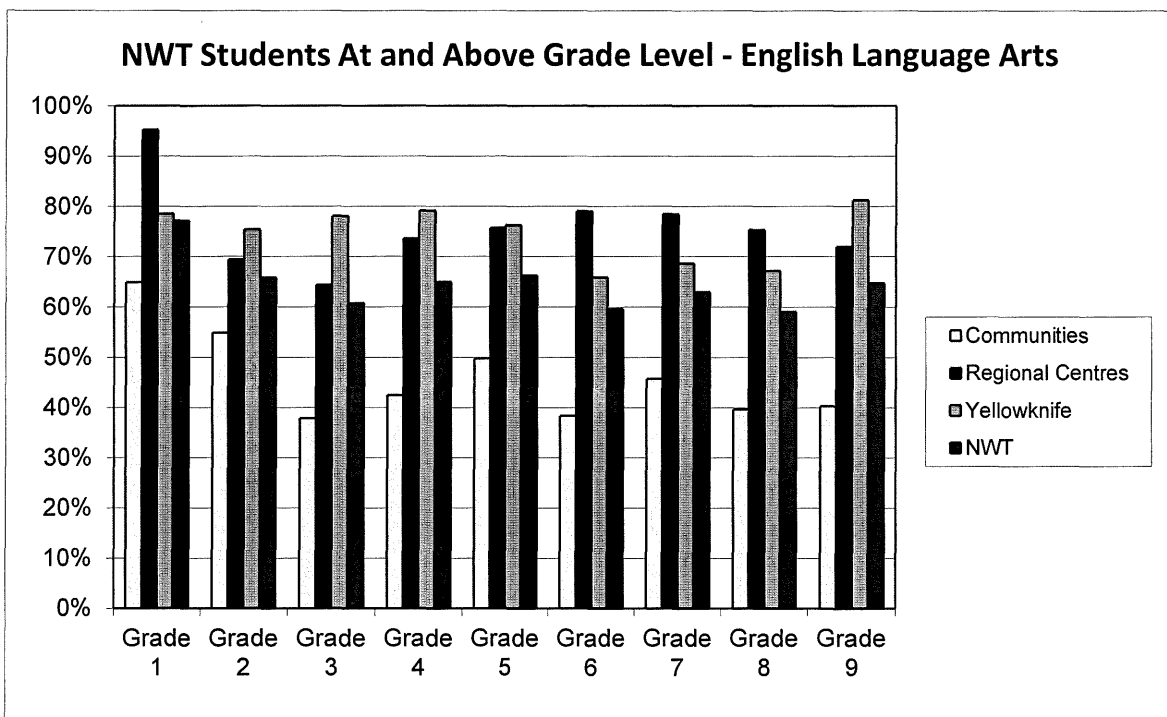


English Language Arts 2010/11

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Students at Grade Level and Above	77%	66%	61%	65%	66%	60%	63%	59%	65%
Students Below Grade Level	23%	34%	39%	35%	34%	40%	37%	41%	35%

Proportion of NWT Students At and Above Grade Level in English Language Arts 2010/11

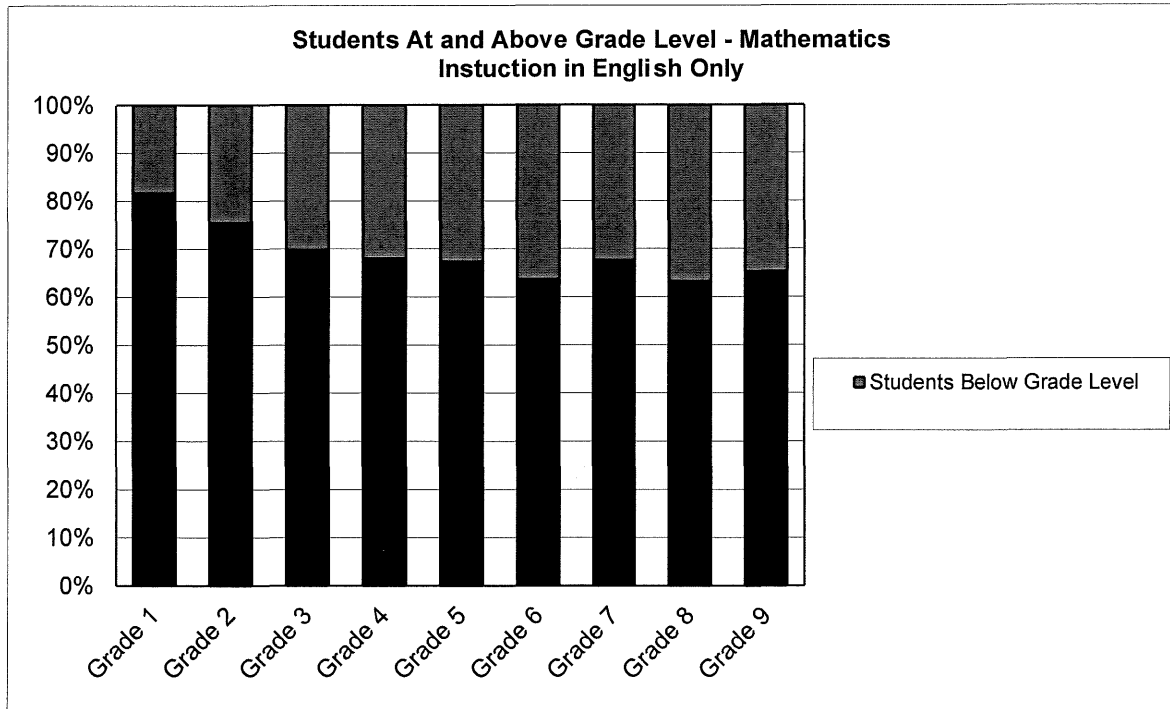
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Communities	65%	55%	38%	42%	50%	38%	46%	40%	40%
Regional Centres	95%	69%	64%	74%	76%	79%	78%	75%	72%
Yellowknife	79%	75%	78%	79%	76%	66%	69%	67%	81%
NWT	77%	66%	61%	65%	66%	60%	63%	59%	65%



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%
2010/11	77%	66%	61%	65%	66%	60%	63%	59%	65%

Mathematics

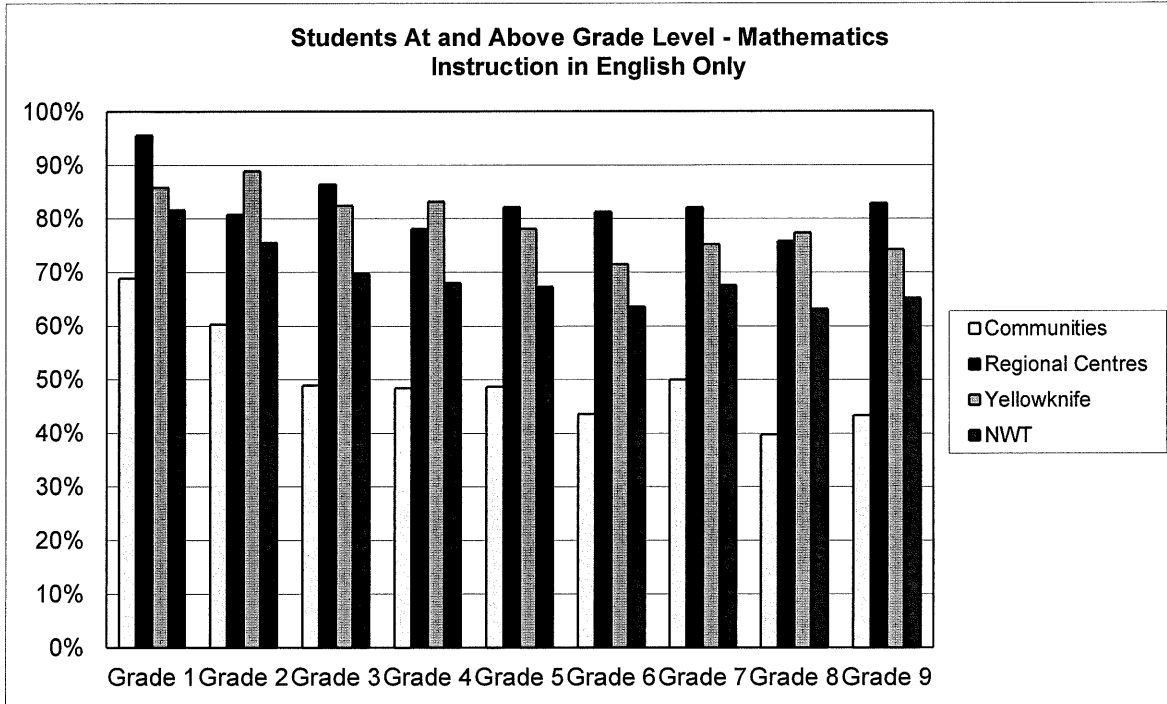


Proportion of NWT Students At or Above Grade Level in Mathematics 2010/11

	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%	76%	70%	68%	67%	64%	68%	63%	65%
Students Below Grade Level	18%	24%	30%	32%	33%	36%	32%	37%	35%

Proportion of NWT Students At or Above Grade Level in Mathematics 2010/11

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Communities	69%	60%	49%	48%	49%	44%	50%	40%	43%
Regional Centres	96%	81%	86%	78%	82%	81%	82%	76%	83%
Yellowknife	86%	89%	82%	83%	78%	72%	75%	77%	74%
NWT	82%	76%	70%	68%	67%	64%	68%	63%	65%

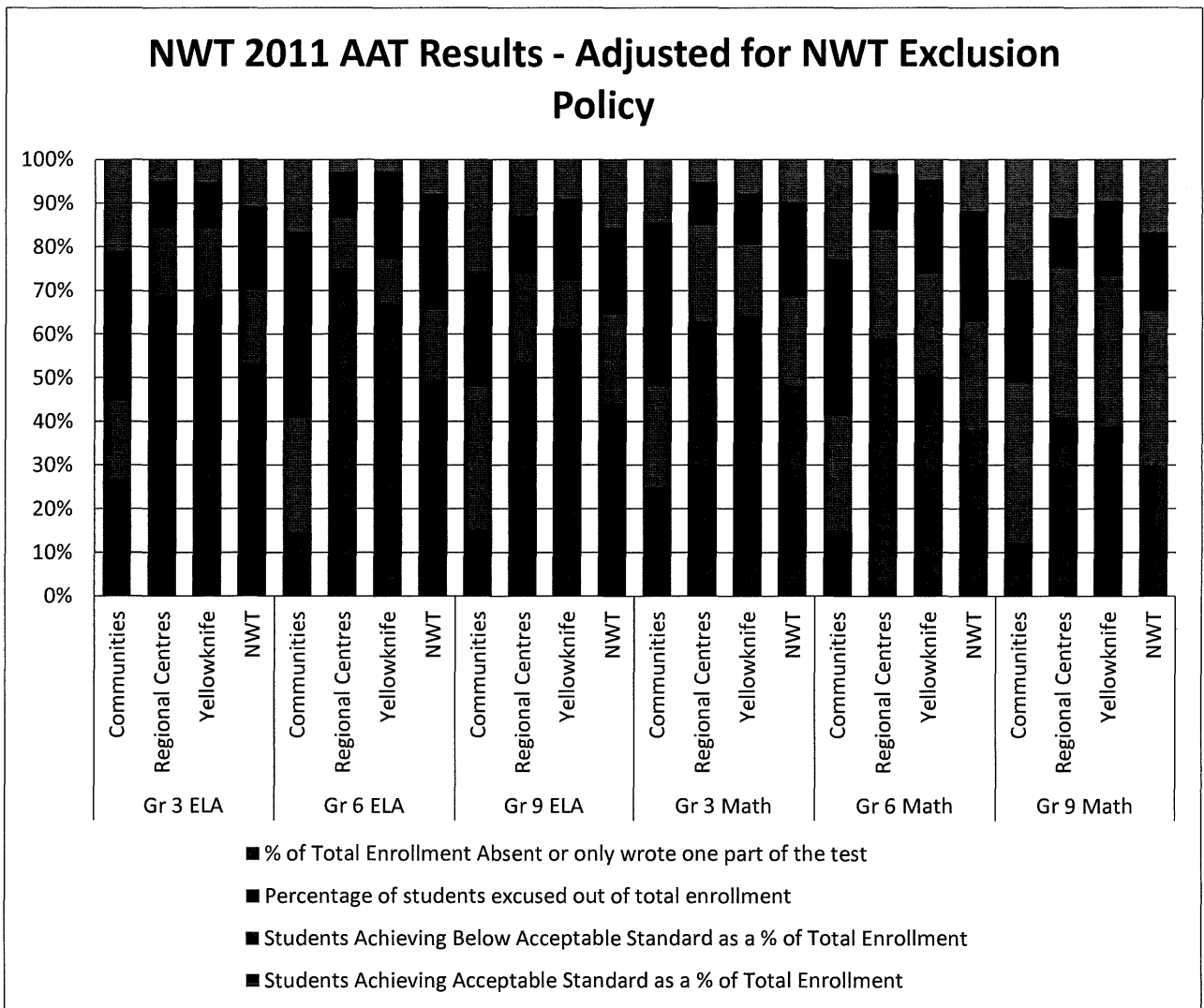


Historical FGL Information – Proportion of NWT Students At and Above Grade Level in Mathematics

	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%
2010/11	82%	76%	70%	68%	67%	64%	68%	63%	65%

Alberta Achievement Test Results

Commencing in 2007 with changes to the NWT AAT/PAT 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.

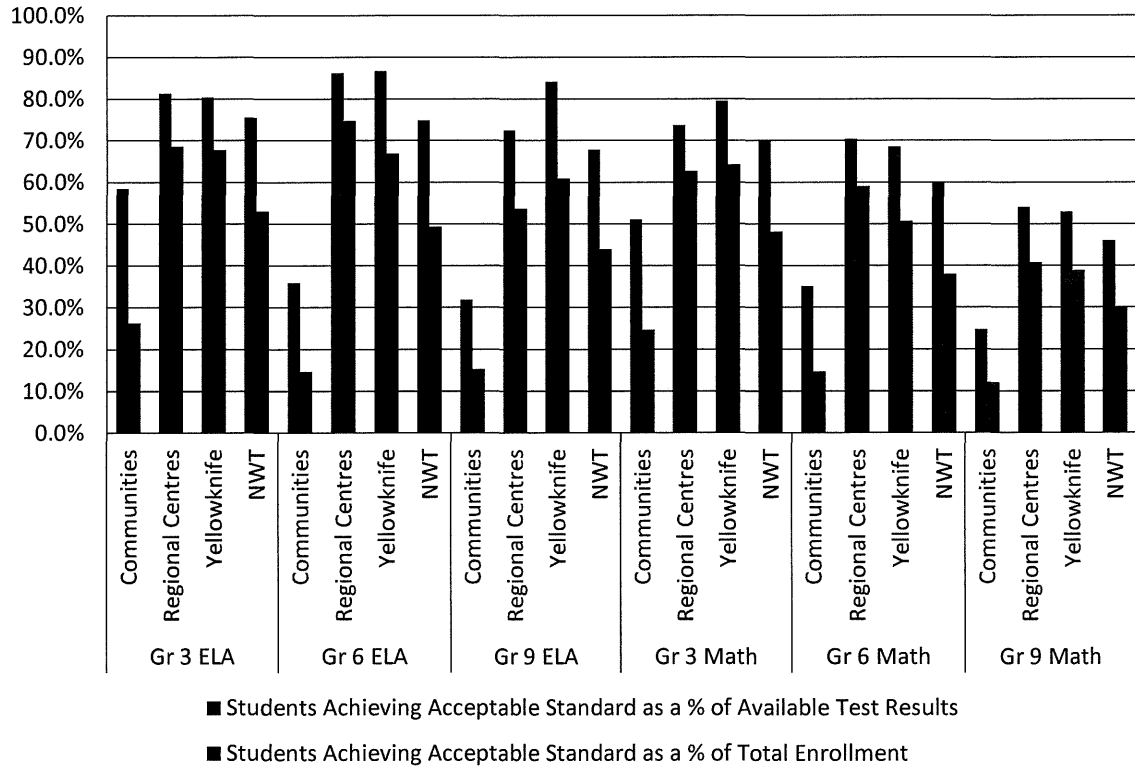


2011 NWT Results on AATs - adjusted for NWT exclusion policy

Alberta Achievement Test	Community Type	% of Total enrollment where test results are available	% of Total Enrollment Absent or only wrote one part of the test	Percentage of students excused out of total enrollment	Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Available Test Results	Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Total Enrollment	Students Achieving Below Acceptable Standard as a % of Available Test Results	Students Achieving Below Acceptable Standard as a % of Total Enrollment
Gr 3 ELA	Communities	45.1%	20.9%	34.1%	58.5%	26.4%	41.5%	18.7%
	Regional Centres	84.3%	4.9%	10.8%	81.4%	68.6%	18.6%	15.7%
	Yellowknife	84.4%	5.4%	10.3%	80.4%	67.9%	19.6%	16.5%
	NWT	70.3%	10.8%	18.9%	75.6%	53.1%	24.4%	17.1%
Gr 6 ELA	Communities	40.8%	16.5%	42.7%	36.0%	14.7%	64.0%	26.1%
	Regional Centres	86.7%	2.8%	10.5%	86.3%	74.8%	13.7%	11.9%
	Yellowknife	77.2%	2.7%	20.1%	86.7%	67.0%	13.3%	10.3%
	NWT	66.0%	7.9%	26.2%	74.9%	49.4%	25.1%	16.6%
Gr 9 ELA	Communities	47.9%	25.8%	26.3%	31.9%	15.3%	68.1%	32.6%
	Regional Centres	74.1%	12.9%	12.9%	72.5%	53.7%	27.5%	20.4%
	Yellowknife	72.5%	8.9%	18.6%	84.2%	61.0%	15.8%	11.4%
	NWT	64.7%	15.5%	19.7%	67.9%	44.0%	32.1%	20.8%
Gr 3 Math	Communities	48.4%	14.3%	37.4%	51.1%	24.7%	48.9%	23.6%
	Regional Centres	85.1%	5.3%	9.6%	73.8%	62.8%	26.3%	22.3%
	Yellowknife	80.8%	7.7%	11.5%	79.6%	64.3%	20.4%	16.5%
	NWT	68.8%	9.8%	21.4%	70.2%	48.3%	29.8%	20.5%
Gr 6 Math	Communities	41.7%	22.9%	35.3%	35.2%	14.7%	64.8%	27.1%
	Regional Centres	84.0%	3.2%	12.8%	70.5%	59.2%	29.5%	24.8%
	Yellowknife	74.1%	4.8%	21.2%	68.6%	50.8%	31.4%	23.3%
	NWT	63.2%	11.8%	25.0%	60.1%	38.0%	39.9%	25.2%
Gr 9 Math	Communities	48.9%	27.5%	23.6%	24.7%	12.1%	75.3%	36.8%
	Regional Centres	75.4%	13.4%	11.3%	54.2%	40.8%	45.8%	34.5%
	Yellowknife	73.4%	9.4%	17.2%	53.0%	38.9%	47.0%	34.5%
	NWT	65.5%	16.7%	17.8%	46.1%	30.2%	53.9%	35.3%

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

2011 NWT Results for AATs



Historical Alberta Achievement Test Information

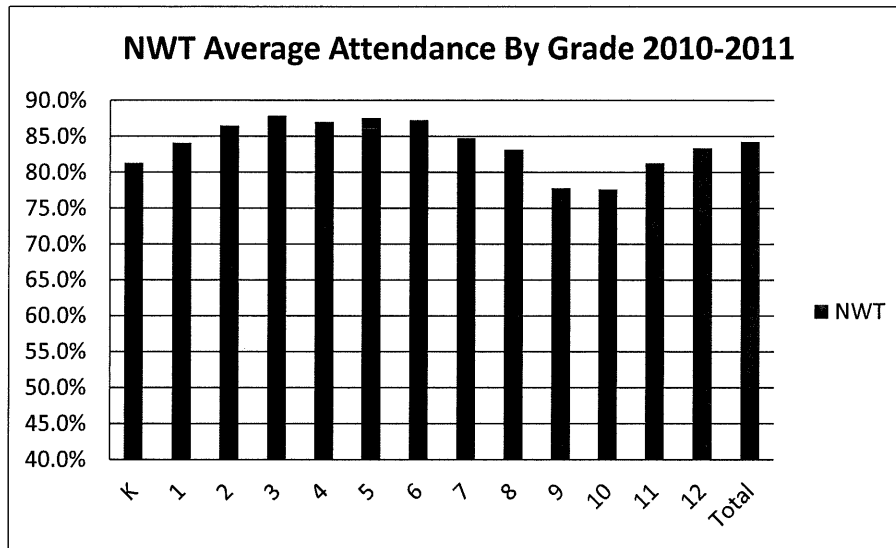
NWT Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Total Enrolment - AFTER Adjustments for NWT Exclusion Policy					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Grade 3 ELA	53.5%	47.6%	46.0%	48.6%	53.1%
Grade 6 ELA	48.1%	44.5%	46.5%	49.3%	49.4%
Grade 9 ELA	36.4%	35.5%	36.5%	38.4%	44.0%
Grade 3 Math	56.8%	48.4%	49.1%	*	48.3%
Grade 6 Math	38.4%	36.0%	40.9%	*	38.0%
Grade 9 Math	28.9%	25.7%	23.0%	*	30.2%

* The 2010 AAT results for math were not released due to the implementation of new curriculum.

2010 AAT Results for French Immersion

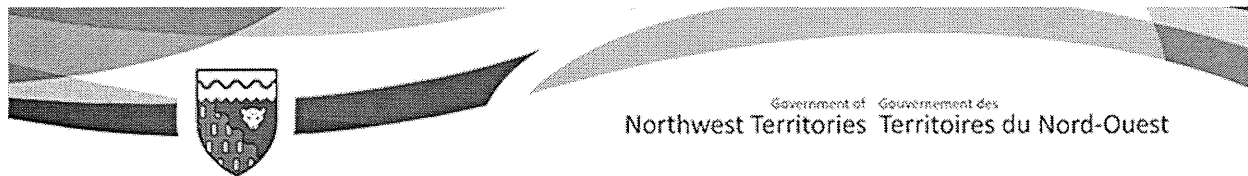
	Grade 3 French Language Arts	Grade 6 French Language Arts	Grade 9 French Language Arts	Grade 3 Math (French)	Grade 6 Math (French)	Grade 9 Math (French)
Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Available & Reportable Test Results	78.5%	86.3%	97.4%	79.1%	86.0%	90.7%
Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Total Enrolment	71.8%	81.5%	92.7%	79.1%	81.1%	86.7%

Attendance 2010/11



	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Communities	77.8%	81.0%	83.9%	85.7%	84.6%	85.3%	85.7%	82.9%	82.2%	76.9%	77.4%	81.9%	83.0%	82.3%
Regional Centres	85.5%	87.2%	90.2%	89.5%	88.5%	89.4%	87.6%	87.0%	83.8%	83.0%	77.7%	77.8%	76.4%	85.4%
Yellowknife	90.6%	93.1%	93.4%	94.2%	94.8%	94.1%	92.6%	90.3%	86.8%	78.2%	79.5%	81.9%	90.4%	90.4%
NWT	81.3%	84.1%	86.5%	87.9%	87.0%	87.6%	87.3%	84.8%	83.2%	77.8%	77.7%	81.3%	83.4%	84.3%

For the 2010/11 school year, the average attendance for students enrolled in the NWT was 84.3%. The 2010/11 average is slightly below the average for the 2009/10 school year which was 86.1%.



NEWS RELEASE

Deh Cho Bridge Milestone Reached

Fort Providence (February 28, 2012) – Canada’s largest river, the Mackenzie, has now been spanned. Truss sections connecting the north and south sections of the Deh Cho Bridge came together on Sunday, February 26. Work crews shook hands across the newly connected trusses, marking a crucial milestone in the construction of the bridge.

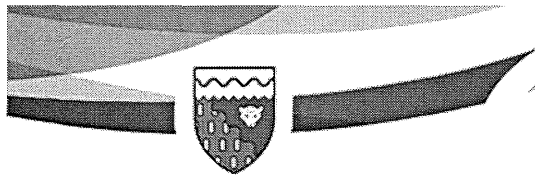
Minister of Transportation David Ramsay thanked the crews, engineers, and department staff responsible for the joining of the two sides. “Our staff and contractors have worked through the winter to connect the north and south sections of the bridge, sometimes in unpleasant and difficult conditions,” he said. “This connection will allow the next phases of work to take place.” These works include the erection of the remaining A-pylon and cables, and the placement of deck panels.

Once the deck panels and A-pylons are in place, grouting and paving of the driving surface are expected to occur over the summer. Work on the abutments and the placement of the guardrail will follow, likely in the fall of 2012.

The Deh Cho Bridge is the first permanent structure across the Mackenzie River and is expected to be completed in the late fall of 2012, depending on construction progress on the remaining work.

For further information:

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



NEWS RELEASE

GNWT receives PDR for the K'asho Got'ine District portion of the Mackenzie Valley Highway

Yellowknife (March 5, 2012) - At a handover ceremony at the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, March 1, Minister of Transportation David Ramsay received the completed project description report (PDR) for the K'asho Got'ine District portion of the planned Mackenzie Valley Highway (Got'ine means people).

The Minister accepted the PDR from Edwin Erutse, the President of the K'asho Development Foundation (KDF). Also attending from the KDF were Vice President Joseph Kochon, Secretary Treasurer William McNeely and Chief Richard Kochon. Chief Wilfred McNeely joined the presentation via teleconference due to a prior commitment. The K'asho Development Foundation represents approximately 1000 people who reside in the K'asho Got'ine District of the Sahtu Settlement Area. The PDR is a summary of information required to proceed to the environmental review of the highway project from the Tulita District to the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Minister Ramsay says the PDR reflects the views and values of the people in the K'asho Got'ine District. "This PDR is a thoughtful examination of the important issues that must be addressed for this portion of the Mackenzie Valley Highway," he said. "It lays an important foundation for a project that will contribute to the sustainability of the K'asho Got'ine and their way of life."

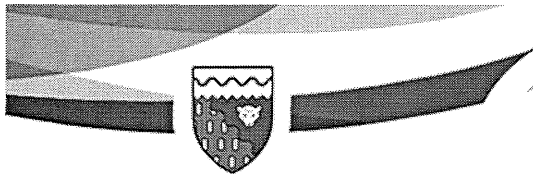
"We have learned from the past that governments need to work closely with the people most affected by the project and plan together," says KDF President Erutse. "Our involvement in the creation of this PDR will help to make this project a success."

All of the PDRs for the Mackenzie Valley Highway have now been completed. They are to be combined into a single project description report for use in the project's preliminary environmental screening. Funding for this work was cost-shared between the Government of Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada Northern Economic Development Agency.

For more information, please contact:

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

Edwin Erutse
President
K'asho Development Foundation
867- 598-2548



Government of / Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories / Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NEWS RELEASE

Collective Bargaining Moves to the Next Phase

Yellowknife (March 6, 2012) – The third round of collective bargaining between the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Union of Northern Workers (UNW) concluded on March 1st. Since December, 2011, the parties have been negotiating the renewal of the collective agreement that expires March 31, 2012.

While significant progress has been made on a number of issues, the parties were unable to reach an overall tentative agreement through negotiations. As a result, the GNWT and UNW will be seeking the assistance of a mediator with the aim of concluding an agreement in the near future.

The GNWT remains committed to respecting and supporting its employees and the overall sustainability of the public service, while also maintaining the quality programs and services it provides to NWT residents. The government is doing this while continuing to manage its limited resources within the current fiscal environment.

The GNWT values its employees and believes this was demonstrated at the negotiating table by offering increases in compensation. While modest, the proposed compensation increases reflect the GNWT's current fiscal environment. Since 1999, the GNWT has supported a 38% increase in total compensation, compared to a 28% increase in cost of living over that same timeframe.

The GNWT continues to plan for next steps and remains optimistic that a tentative agreement can be reached with the assistance of a mediator.

For more information, contact:

Cathy Jewison
Manager of Policy and Communications
Department of Human Resources
(867) 873-7971

Sharon Smith

From: Messenger Service
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 3:33 PM
Subject: The Premier's Awards

Expires: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 12:00 AM

April 10, 2012 is the deadline for nominations to be submitted for The Premier's Awards for Excellence and the Dave Ramsden Career Excellence Award.

The categories are:

The Premier's Award for Excellence recognizes the outstanding achievements of individual Government of the Northwest Territories' employees or teams of Government of the Northwest Territories' employees who continue to strive for excellence, best practice management and improvements in the workplace.

The Premier's Award for Collaboration recognizes the outstanding achievement of Government of the Northwest Territories' employees in teams who work in partnership with other government and non-government employees to improve services to Northwest Territories' residents.

The Dave Ramsden Career Excellence Award recognizes the outstanding achievements of individuals in the Northwest Territories who have served 20 years or more in the Government of the Northwest Territories' public service. The goal of this award is to recognize individuals who have made a commitment to their careers in the public service.

Information, criteria and electronic nomination forms are available through the Department of Human Resources' website at:

<http://www.hr.gov.nt.ca/awards/>

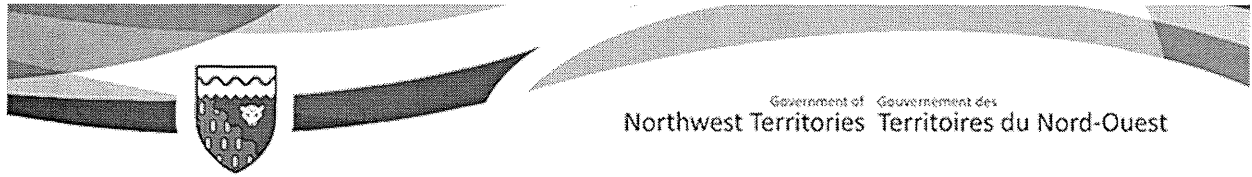
THE NOMINATION DEADLINE IS: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 5 p.m.

If you have questions, require assistance or have not received verification within one working day of submitting a nomination, please contact Nancy Gardiner, Programs Officer, Department of Human Resources at 867-920-6937 or by email at nancy.gardiner@gov.nt.ca

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Messenger is an e-mail distribution service only and questions or comments should be directed to the contact person identified in the message.

Messenger Service is administered by Corporate Communications and Protocol, Department of Executive. Government departments, boards or agencies may use Messenger to distribute information about their programs or activities to GNWT employees. Please contact your departmental communications staff if you would like to send a Messenger message.



NEWS RELEASE

Hazard Alert - Natural Gas Forced Air Furnaces & Carbon Monoxide Risk

March 14, 2012 - The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) has identified a concern with a number of natural gas-burning forced-air furnaces that have the potential to introduce carbon monoxide fumes into the living environment.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless, tasteless, and toxic gas that is a product of incomplete combustion.

Please see the [attached alert](#) from the Office of the Fire Marshal.



OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL
HAZARD ALERT

ISSUE DATE: MARCH 14, 2012

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) has identified a concern with a number of natural gas-burning forced-air furnaces that have the potential to introduce carbon monoxide fumes into the living environment.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless, tasteless, and toxic gas that is a product of incomplete combustion.

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:

1. Tiredness or lack of energy (drowsiness)
2. Pink discoloration of the skin
3. Headache
4. Nausea (sometimes referred to as flu-like symptoms)

The OFM is working with other regulatory agencies to determine the extent of this problem as quickly as possible.

All residential building owners with forced air natural gas furnaces should:

1. Install a functioning Carbon Monoxide Alarm in your home in the vicinity of a heat register/supply duct. (If one exists, recommended replacement is about 5-10 years- verify with manufacturer)
2. Have a qualified furnace service person inspect your furnace.
3. If the inspection reveals that the furnace is defective, repair or replace immediately
4. Contact the supplier of your furnace for warranty or replacement information.



Nature of Problem:

On inspection, a number of furnaces have shown significant cracks and breaching of the heat exchanger. The furnaces in question may also show evidence of cracks and degradation of the combustion chamber.

ALL RESIDENCES THAT CONTAIN A FUEL-FIRED APPLIANCE SHOULD CONTAIN A WORKING CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR

Cracks and breaching of the primary heat exchanger may introduce toxic carbon monoxide fumes into the living environment.

The OFM is working with a number of agencies to determine the cause of the failures.

IF YOUR CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR GOES INTO ALARM, OR IF YOU EXPERIENCE THE ABOVE SYMPTOMS, EVACUATE THE BUILDING TO FRESH CLEAN AIR IMMEDIATELY AND CALL THE LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT.

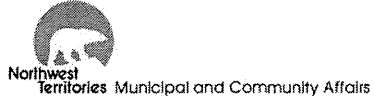
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO INSPECT OR REPAIR THE FURNACE YOURSELF! GET THE ASSISTANCE OF A QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL FURNACE REPAIR PERSON.

DO NOT RE-OCCUPY THE BUILDING UNTIL THE HAZARDOUS CONDITION HAS BEEN CORRECTED.

For the latest updates and more information please visit www.maca.gov.nt.ca

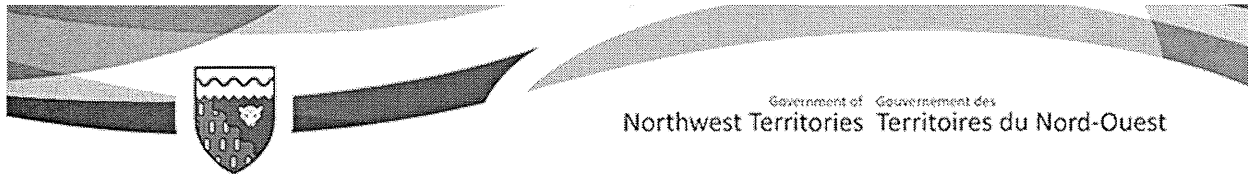
Please report all defective furnaces to the Office of the Fire Marshal at:

Municipal and Community Affairs
Public Safety Division
600, 5201 – 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S9
Ph: (867)873-7469
Fax: (867)873-0260
Email: fire_marshall@gov.nt.ca



If you are a representative of the media looking for information please contact:

David Maguire
Communications and Web Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Government of the Northwest Territories
Phone: 867-920-3092
Email: david_maguire@gov.nt.ca



NEWS RELEASE

Minister Promotes NWT Mineral Potential in Toronto

YELLOWKNIFE (March 14, 2012) - Promoting the NWT's vast mineral base and highlighting opportunities for prospecting and investment in the NWT mining sector was the focus for Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay last week at the 2012 Prospectors and Developers Convention (PDAC) in Toronto.

Minister Ramsay was accompanied by Nahendeh MLA Kevin Menicoche and Hay River North MLA Robert Bouchard. He met with potential investors and companies currently exploring or seeking approvals to develop new mines in the NWT.

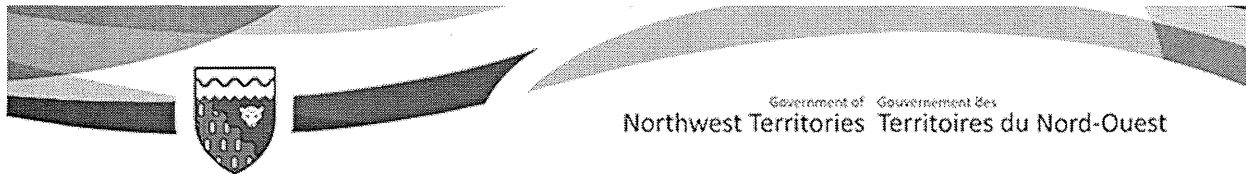
"The NWT is rich in mineral resources," said Minister Ramsay. "We are open for business and interested in attracting investors. We support the sustainable development of our mineral resources, which could result in new mines and ultimately benefit NWT residents."

The convention is now in its 80th year and attracts investors, analysts, mining executives, geologists, prospectors and international government delegations from all over the globe. Over 30,000 people attended this year, and the Trade Show and Investors Exchange featured over 1000 exhibitors.

The Government of the Northwest Territories' participation in PDAC 2012 is an example of the actions being taken to strengthen and diversify our economy, a key priority of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

For more information, please contact:

Alayna Ward
Manager, Public Affairs and Communications
Industry, Tourism and Investment
867-920-8696



NEWS RELEASE

Borrowing Limit Raised to \$800 Million

YELLOWKNIFE (March 15, 2012) – The federally imposed borrowing limit has been raised to \$800 million from \$575 million.

The increase represents the successful discussions between the federal Minister of Finance, the Honourable James Flaherty, and the three territorial Ministers of Finance about the definition and adequacy of the territorial borrowing limits.

“The new limit will help the GNWT to fund infrastructure priorities identified by the 17th Legislative Assembly and still manage its finances responsibly,” Minister Michael Miltenberger said. “In these times of fiscal uncertainty with very real risks posed by external economic threats and internal cost pressures, the extra buffer between the borrowing limit and GNWT debt is welcome. I would like to thank Minister Flaherty for recognizing our ability to manage the increased borrowing capacity. This concludes one of our government’s top federal-territorial priorities.”

The increased borrowing limit does not change the GNWT’s current fiscal strategy, which is governed by the *Fiscal Responsibility Policy*. That strategy is to pay down increased short-term borrowing incurred to support the NWT economy over the next two years. This will allow the GNWT to resume a more active infrastructure investment program in the last two years of the 17th Assembly while maintaining programs and services.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple
Media Liaison
Office of the Premier/Cabinet
Government of the Northwest Territories
Phone: (867) 669-2302

NTPC files General Rate Application

March 23, 2012 – Yellowknife, NT – Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC) today filed its first General Rate Application (GRA) in five years.

NTPC is seeking Public Utilities Board approval for increases of seven percent effective April 1 in each of 2012, 2013 and 2014 and a five percent increase April 1, 2015. The proposed rates reflect increases in the cost of generating and distributing electricity that have occurred in the five years since the last GRA, including costs arising from the natural gas situation in Inuvik. NTPC is proposing that the rate increases be phased in over four years to help reduce the immediate impact on NWT residents.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will make a contribution of \$33.8 million over three years to NTPC to allow it to phase in the proposed rate increases. GNWT contributions will be \$17.6 million in 2012/13, \$11.4 million in 2013/14 and \$4.8 million in 2014/15. Rates will be sufficient in 2015/16 to cover NTPC's revenue requirements and GNWT contributions will no longer be needed.

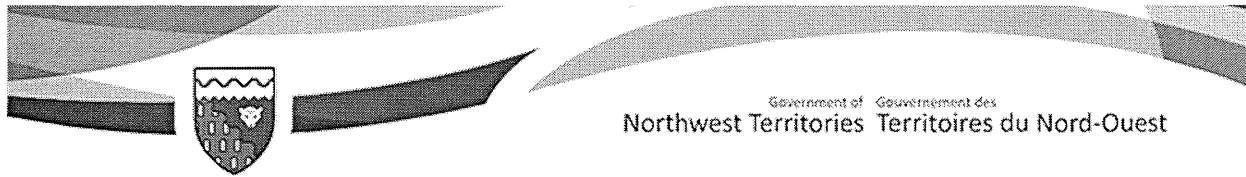
"This is a significant application for the Corporation and our customers for the next four years," Chairman of the NWT Power Corporation Brendan Bell said. "We encourage customers and communities to make their views known through the public hearing process."

The general public can receive information and make presentations to the Public Utilities Board and through the hearing process. Interveners can question NTPC's witnesses about the forecasts and analysis contained in the GRA.

More information is available from the Public Utilities Board through its website: www.nwtpublicutilitiesboard.ca.

For further information contact:

**Brendan Bell, Chairman
Northwest Territories Power Corporation
Phone: (867) 766-5081
Email: bbell@ntpc.com**



NEWS RELEASE

Minister meets with Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board

YELLOWKNIFE (March 27, 2012) – The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, met with representatives of the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board last week.

“It is imperative that we continue our work to preserve and revitalize our languages,” said the Minister. “We are beginning to see some progress in the awareness, interest, and resources available for language teachers and learners, due in no small part to the work of the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board. The work required to ensure the future of our languages is critical, and with the help of this Board, we are confident we will be successful.”

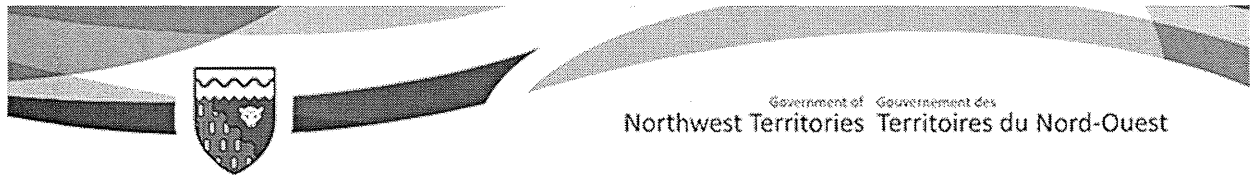
The *Official Languages Act* mandates the board to provide the Minister with advice and recommendations for the maintenance, promotion and revitalization of the nine official Aboriginal languages of the Northwest Territories.

“We are pleased to be working to revitalize the languages of the NWT,” said Acting Chair Dora Grandjambe. “We are working closely with the language communities, youth, elders and invested partners to provide pathways for learning and teaching, and we believe that our collective experience can provide direction and strong recommendations on how best to achieve our goals.”

The Minister and the board discussed the need for more interpreters and translators, terminology development, languages training, recruitment and retention of language practitioners and instructors, the importance of elders in supporting the languages, community workshops, and orientations for board members.

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NEWS RELEASE

Seventh book released in The Land is Our Storybook series

YELLOWKNIFE (March 23, 2012) – At the Heart of It, the seventh book in The Land is Our Storybook series, was launched at the Prince Of Wales Northern Heritage Centre with authors Mindy Willett and Raymond Taniton.

The Land is Our Storybook series includes books for children that feature stories and culture from each of the traditional language groups in the Northwest Territories. Yellowknifer Mindy Willett has worked with storytellers, Elders and cultural leaders in communities across the Northwest Territories, as well as photographer Tessa MacIntosh, highlighting richly textured pictures of life in the North today. At the Heart of It was produced with former Grand Chief Raymond Taniton, and tells the story of the Sahtuot'ine, the people of Great Bear Lake.

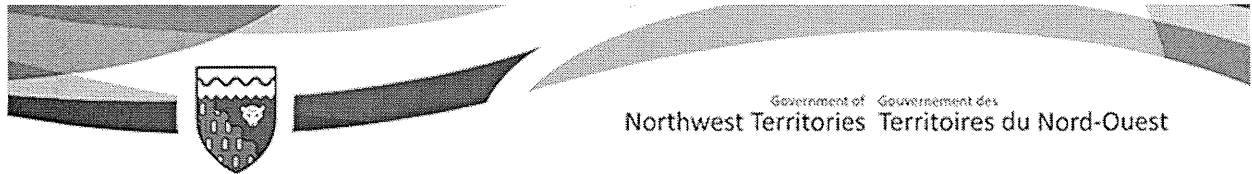
“Ms. Willett and her co-authors have produced a tremendous series of books for children that showcase the Aboriginal cultural groups of the Northwest Territories,” said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

“Projects of this nature help revitalize our many languages and cultures, and contribute to our efforts to maintain and preserve our traditional lifestyles for future generations.”

At the Heart of It is available in the Yellowknife Book Cellar, along with the other books in the series.

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NEWS RELEASE

Chipewyan Dictionary Launch

FORT RESOLUTION (March 30, 2012) – Elders stood proudly in the gymnasium of Deninu School with dozens of hardcover English/Chipewyan dictionaries on Monday, March 26.

Students addressed the crowd in Chipewyan during the launch, welcoming community members and thanking Elders for their contributions to the dictionary project.

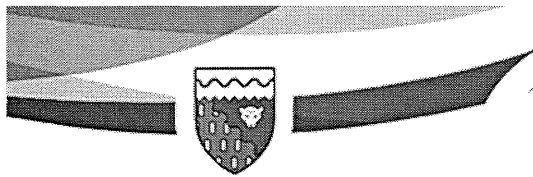
“The Dene Suline (Chipewyan) language revitalization efforts are strong and with the release of this language resource, we are one step closer to ensuring the future of the Chipewyan language,” said Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. “Supporting language revitalization will strengthen our communities, ensuring our children grow up ‘strong like two people,’ ready to lead productive lives while retaining their heritage.”

For more than two years, Fort Resolution Elders worked tirelessly on this project, in partnership with the South Slave Divisional Education Council and the Yamozha Kue Society. The project also involved collaboration from dozens of community members, including several youth. This dictionary is a full-colour, 369-page resource documenting thousands of Chipewyan words, phrases and sentences, arranged both alphabetically and topically. It also includes a searchable CD with MP3 files linked to each word and phrase. Users can see the language and hear it as spoken by a fluent speaker.

“We are very proud of this dictionary,” said Tom Beaulieu, MLA for Tu Nedhe. “When we began, the Elders on the project had one condition: that they would work in the schools, so students could ask questions. I’ve recently had students speaking with me in Chipewyan, which means that our efforts and approaches are working. Our community members must be commended for taking on such a complex and important project.”

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NEWS RELEASE

Dene Languages Apps

YELLOWKNIFE (March 28, 2012) – The first Dene languages apps for iPhones and similar devices will be available for free download on the iTunes store in late April.

“I am very pleased to be announcing the launch of this important tool,” said Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. “We must ensure that our languages are preserved and revitalized for generations to come. Engaging our youth in learning their traditional languages through this new technology is a progressive and encouraging step.”

In early 2011, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment partnered with the Yamoza Kue Society to develop the Dene Language Media applications for the five Dene languages. There were several other groups involved, including the Tlicho Community Services Agency, the Goyatiko Language Society, the Gwich'in Teaching and Learning Centre, the Dehcho Divisional Education Council Teaching and Learning Centre, the Sahtu Divisional Education Council Teaching and Learning Centre, and Paul William Kaeser High School.

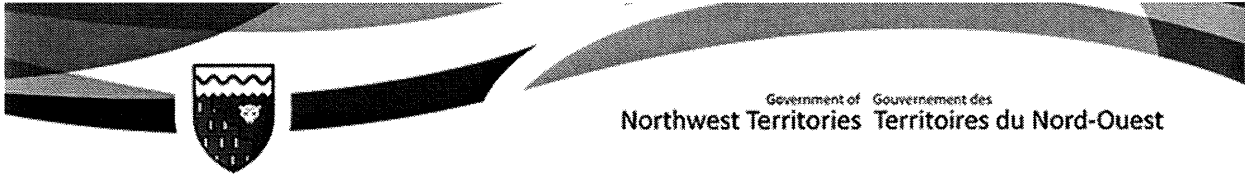
“We are so pleased to see the results of such commitment from so many invested groups,” said Raymond Sonfrere, Executive Director of the Yamoza Kue Society. “We try to work closely with the Dene languages communities with all of our projects, including the development of these tools, and we feel that the digital delivery method of making these available through an interactive app will help us engage our youth and family audiences.”

The five Dene languages available in these apps are Tlicho, North Slavey, South Slavey, Gwich'in and Chipewyan. The apps are available for the touch-screen technology platforms and have language learning components, games and quizzes. Categories include family, actions, commands, food, animals, trapping and hunting. The next language apps to be developed will be in Cree, Inuvialuktun and Inuinnaqtun.

Please see the [attached backgrounder](#) for more details.

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NEWS RELEASE

Backgrounder: Dene Languages Apps

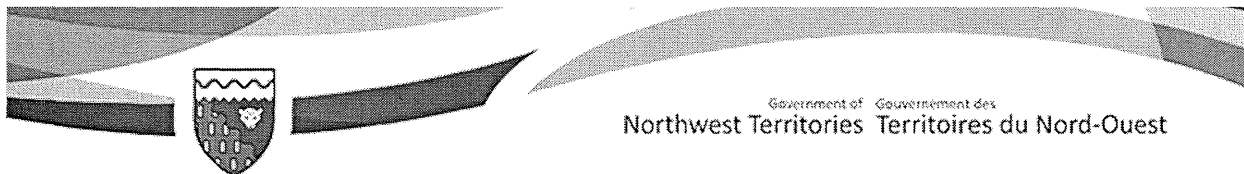
March 28, 2012

- Aboriginal languages in the NWT have suffered a tremendous decrease in inter-generational transmission within the past few decades.
- Teaching and Learning Centres, schools, Aboriginal governments and community language groups have developed many resources to aid in teaching and learning Aboriginal languages.
- As most Aboriginal languages are traditionally orally transmitted, there is a gap in resources for teachers.
- Electronic games and digital media are a way to reach youth who have grown up with technology at their fingertips.
- Early Childhood and School Services (EC&SS) has been developing a Dene Language Curriculum Teacher Implementation Guide (DLCTIG) to assist teachers with instructing the Dene languages following the Dene Kede curriculum.
- To assist with the DLCTIG, in early 2011, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) partnered with Yamoza Kue Society (YKS) to develop Dene Language Media applications (apps) for the five Dene Languages.
- The Dene language applications have been developed as games in the Dene languages and are at a basic introductory language level. They will be distributed through the Apple Store, free of charge for use on touch screen platform hardware.
- The Touch games have a language learning component, games and quizzes. Categories include family, actions, commands, food, animals, trapping and hunting, among others.

- The following Dene Language Specialists from the five Dene languages contributed to the development of these applications by working on content, translation and recordings:
 - Rosa Mantla, Tlicho Community Services Agency
 - Mary Rose Sundberg, Goyatiko Language Society
 - William Firth, Gwich'in Teaching and Learning Centre
 - Andy Norwegian, Dehcho Divisional Education Council Teaching and Learning Centre
 - Gladys Norwegian, ECE
 - Jessie Campbell, Sahtu Divisional Education Council Teaching and Learning Centre, and
 - Eileen Beaver, teacher, Paul William Kaeser High School.
- Work on similar digital media applications will begin in April for the Inuvialuktun, Inuinnaqtun and Cree languages.

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NEWS RELEASE

Long-term policing agreement reached

YELLOWKNIFE (March 29, 2012) -- The Northwest Territories has reached a final agreement with the federal government for the renewal of the Territorial Police Services Agreement.

The current agreement expires on March 31. The new agreement has a 20-year term and features historic changes to management and financial transparency provisions. The agreement also continues to support local detachments working with communities to ensure an effective police force reflecting the diversity and needs of the people they serve.

“Through this new agreement, communities and people of the Northwest Territories will be better served,” said Glen Abernethy, Minister of Justice. “It maintains effective policing services while using resources as effectively as possible. We look forward to working in close partnership with the RCMP for the next 20 years.”

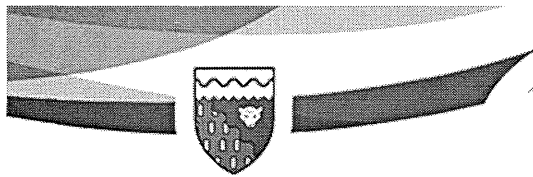
With the formation of a new contract management committee, the Government of the Northwest Territories, together with other provinces and territories, will have influence over cost and service decisions in an ongoing and co-ordinated way throughout the life of the new contract.

“Today is a significant milestone for RCMP Contract Policing,” said Vic Toews, Canada’s Public Safety minister. “I am very pleased to announce that the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories have reached an agreement that will continue the relationship between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the people of the NWT for the next two decades.”

The agreement will support continued progress in enhancing public confidence in police and marks a higher standard of accountability to the Northwest Territories. This new relationship is one of the important steps in creating more transparency and accountability for the RCMP as the Territorial Police Service.

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Government of / Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories / Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NEWS RELEASE

Colin Taylor Appointed Mediator for GNWT and UNW Negotiations

YELLOWKNIFE (April 2, 2012) -- Colin Taylor, a mediator with more than 30 years of experience, will be assisting the Government of the NWT and the Union of Northern Workers as they work towards a new collective agreement.

The GNWT and the Union have been negotiating a new collective agreement since December 19, 2011. After three rounds of negotiations, agreement was reached on a number of items. However, on March 1, 2012, the parties agreed to go to mediation to resolve the remaining issues.

“The GNWT is optimistic that a negotiated agreement can be reached with the UNW,” says Sheila Bassi-Kellett, Deputy Minister of Human Resources. “Mediation is the next phase of this process. Mr. Taylor brings considerable experience in mediation, including public sector mediation, and we look forward to working with him and the union to reach an agreement.”

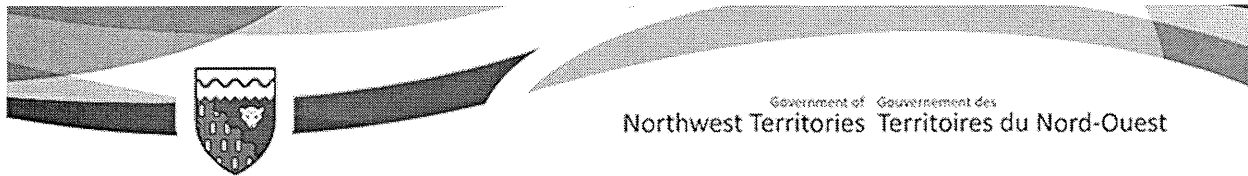
Mr. Taylor earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Alberta, and holds a Ph.D. in political science. A former law professor, his Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) practice has taken him across the country. He is a Chartered Mediator and Chartered Arbitrator (ADR Institute of Canada).

The schedule for mediation sessions will be set soon.

The collective agreement between the Government of the NWT and the Union of Northern Workers expired on March 31, 2012. Current terms and conditions of employment will remain in place during mediation.

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NEWS RELEASE

High Demand, High Prices for NWT Furs

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON (April 2, 2012) -- Over \$880,000 worth of Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs (GMVF) were sold at a wild fur sale hosted by Fur Harvester's Auction Inc. on March 22, 2012, bringing total GMVF sales this year to over one million dollars.

Demand for NWT furs increased again this year, particularly from buyers in Russia and China. An NWT marten pelt went for an unprecedented \$380 and a lynx for \$400, the top auction prices for these species against all others from across Canada and the Northern US.

Average prices for all species increased by an average of 50-60% over last year, with beavers leading the way at 110%.

"NWT wild furs continue to be in high demand from buyers around the world, who have proven they will pay top dollar for the high-quality furs that NWT trappers continue to supply," said David Ramsay, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. "With these high sales, our trappers and their communities will continue to benefit."

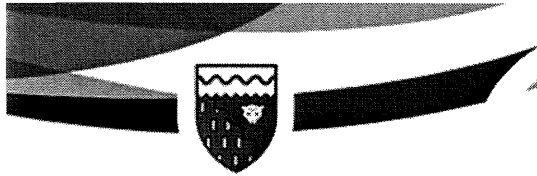
GMVF wild furs will be sold at a Seattle auction again on May 20, and the final sale of the season will take place on June 21 in North Bay, Ontario.

The GMVF program is a GNWT fur marketing service for hunters and trappers in the NWT. All proceeds from fur sold at auction through the GMVF program go directly to the hunter or trapper.

By actively supporting the harvesting and marketing of wild fur through the GMVF program, the GNWT is taking action to diversify the economy and provide all communities and regions with opportunities and choices, key goals of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

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Three Territories to put a Pan-Territorial Focus on Infrastructure Needs

YELLOWKNIFE (April 3, 2012) – Ministers from Nunavut, Yukon, and the Northwest Territories have agreed to support a coordinated approach to working with the Government of Canada and highlighting shared challenges in infrastructure development. Together the territories will advocate for infrastructure programs that address the unique realities of building and maintaining infrastructure in the North.

All provinces and territories are working with Canada and with other jurisdictions in discussing what future infrastructure programs should look like. This partnership between the three Territories is not intended to work outside of that consultation process, but instead is intended to demonstrate the common issues that are faced in the three territories that are not experienced in the provinces.

“Working together to focus on shared priorities with Yukon and Nunavut is important in securing the future of infrastructure across the north,” said Northwest Territories Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Robert C. McLeod. “Having infrastructure that is well maintained and meets standards is a step towards the Government of the Northwest Territories goal of building sustainable, vibrant, safe communities.”

“By using a unified voice all three territories will be able to bring our infrastructure priorities to the forefront when working with our federal counterparts,” said Nunavut Minister of Community and Government Services, Lorne Kusugak. “The unique infrastructure needs in the North will be better addressed by all parties working together.”

“Predictable and sustainable long-term infrastructure support for our northern territories is essential,” said Yukon Minister of Community Services, Elaine Taylor. “We share similar challenges in developing and maintaining community-based infrastructure in the North and will be looking for innovative ways to overcome these through the development of Canada’s new long-term infrastructure plan.”

The realities of building, repairing, and operating infrastructure in Canada’s North are unique and costly. The reality of small remote communities which make up Canada’s North is that they are spread over a vast landscape and require complex logistics. The high construction and maintenance costs coupled with the continued economic growth are all factors that reflect some of the on-going pressures facing northern community infrastructure. These parallel challenges continue to be addressed through innovative means of optimizing federal funding dollars. Through partnerships between the territories, it is hoped that future federal infrastructure programs are flexible to meet unique northern needs while building a stronger more sustainable north.

Recent federal infrastructure programs like the Building Canada Plan and the Gas Tax Fund have had significant positive impacts and are prime examples of how the Government of Canada and each territory have been able to work together to meet national program objectives and northern needs. Working together the three territories hope to help shape the permanent Gas Tax Program, which will succeed the current agreement that expires in 2014, and the programs that succeed the Building Canada Plan, scheduled to end in 2016.

Collectively the territories see an opportunity to continue with a funding model that meets the challenges of the North, and through partnerships with the Government of Canada will work to create jobs and boost the economy while making significant investments that will help communities improve their infrastructure.

For more information, contact:

Nunavut

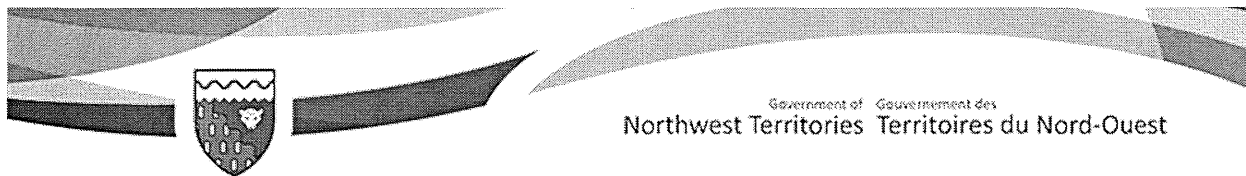
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NEWS RELEASE

Francophone Affairs Secretariat Officially Opens

YELLOWKNIFE (April 3, 2012) – The Department of Education, Culture and Employment officially opened the Francophone Affairs Secretariat this morning at its location in the Diamond Plaza.

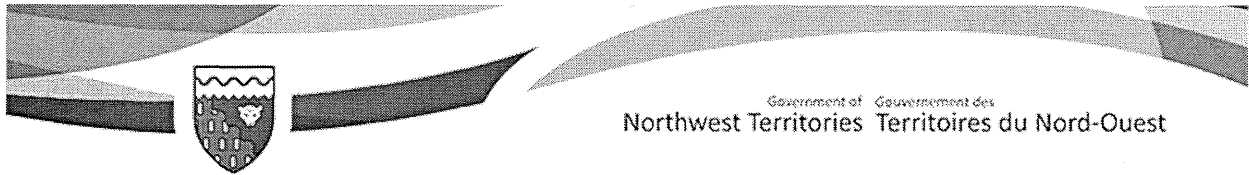
As part of the new Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Strategic Plan on French Language Communications and Services, the Secretariat provides advice and support to GNWT departments and agencies to develop plans on French language services and to adopt or provide programs, policies and services that reflect the needs of the Francophone community. It also develops orientation programs for French Language Service Coordinators and, in cooperation with these Coordinators, for employees of government institutions with respect to their obligations under the *Official Languages Act* of the Northwest Territories.

“Today celebrates the steps taken toward dedicated government services for the NWT francophone community,” said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. “As one of our official languages, it is important for the francophone community to have the Secretariat to better serve the needs of the community.”

The Secretariat also liaises with the Francophone community on a regular and ongoing basis regarding the provision of French language communications and services and manages Services TNO, the one-stop shop that brings together government services, or information about them, to members of the French community.

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NEWS RELEASE

New Long-Term Care Facility in Behchoko

YELLOWKNIFE (April 13, 2012) - The planned construction of a new long-term care facility was announced yesterday at a ground breaking ceremony in Behchoko, Northwest Territories. The new facility will replace the Jimmy Erasmus Seniors home and will provide services to 18 NWT long-term care residents.

"This new 18-bed long-term care facility will increase our system's capacity to offer the necessary supports and services to NWT residents as close to home as possible," said Minister of Health and Social Services, and Minister Responsible for Seniors Tom Beaulieu.

"By building facilities that are long-lasting and energy efficient, the GNWT is making sure that the needs of our residents will be met for years to come" said Minister of Public Works and Services, and Monfwi MLA Jackson Lafferty.

The Department of Public Works and Services awarded a design-build contract on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services in December 2011. Construction of the new facility will begin in April 2012 and is scheduled for completion in September 2014.

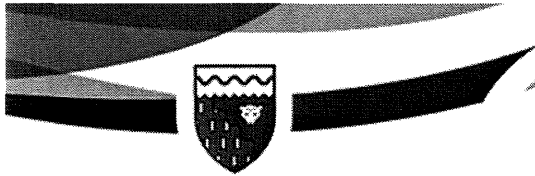
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NEWS RELEASE

Backgrounder: Behchoko Long-term Care Facility

The Behchoko Long-term Care Facility will replace the Chief Jimmy Erasmus Centre, which will remain operational during the first phase of the project until the first nine bed wing is complete.

The project was approved in the 2012/13 GNWT Capital Estimates.

The Department of Public Works and Services (PWS) awarded a negotiated design-build contract to Tli Cho Construction Ltd. in December 2011 for \$11,980,621.

The project will be completed in two phases: construction to begin April 2012, phase one to be completed August 2013, phase two completed in September 2014.

Phase one includes nine beds, living space, adult day program, rehab space and core building services.

Phase two will provide the remaining nine beds and living space.

Once completed, the facility will be 1935 m² in size, and will provide 18 long-term care rooms.

The single storey facility will include an envelope with thermal resistance insulation that meets the GNWTs Good Building Practice for Northern Facility guidelines.

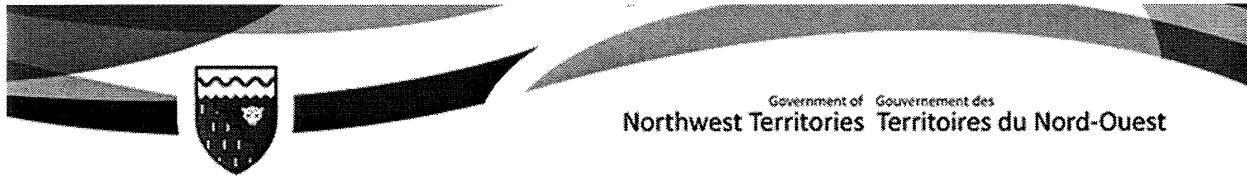
The facility will be designed with barrier free access in mind to accommodate equipment and the mobility needs of residents, this includes wider hallways and accessibility ramps.

Design features include: visitor and staff parking, a lobby designed to accommodate activities and gatherings that will incorporate traditional and cultural aspects of the community, gardens, landscaping and an emphasis on natural light which is featured throughout the facility.

This is a facility to serve all NWT communities.

Admission of residents to the new facility will be determined by the Territorial Admissions Committee (TAC).

Energy efficiency features include low volume flush plumbing fixtures, a system that will recover heat from ventilation exhaust that will reduce building heating costs, and the ability to connect to the community's central biomass system.



NEWS RELEASE

Aviation Career Training Opportunities Continue to Expand

YELLOWKNIFE (April 16, 2012) - Residents of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut who are interested in careers in the northern aviation industry will be able to access scholarships and training opportunities under the Aviation Career Development Program (ACDP).

The newest scholarship provider is North-Wright Air. North-Wright joins current aviation partners Discovery Air, Adlair Aviation, and Keewatin Air, with each company providing a \$5,000 scholarship. The governments of Nunavut (four scholarships) and the Northwest Territories (six scholarships) provide the remainder of the 14 available scholarships.

"The skills these young northerners acquire will benefit all Nunavummiut and support our aviation industry," said Peter Taptuna, Minister of Economic Development & Transportation with the Government of Nunavut. "We look forward to having more of our pilots, aircraft mechanics, airport managers, and airline staff coming from this territory."

This was the first year that ACDP scholarships were awarded to residents of Nunavut. Recipients of the scholarship in 2011-2012 were Raven Beardy and Clayton Tartak from Rankin Inlet and Brent Crooks, Junior of Iqaluit.

NWT Transportation Minister David Ramsay praised the commitment of ACDP's airline partners to the training of tomorrow's northern aviation employees. "Flying and maintaining aircraft and the management of airline and airport operations are essential to the sustainability of northern communities," he said. "The contributions from our airline partners demonstrate a strong commitment to northern economic development and our northern way of life."

NWT scholarship recipients for 2011-2012 are Brandon Drost from Fort McPherson, Joseph Villeneuve from Inuvik, Larisa Doyle from Fort Smith, and Adam Ahenakew, Adam Jensen, Bryce Styan, Kyla Zenko, Jennifer Waugh, and Josh Lippert from Yellowknife.

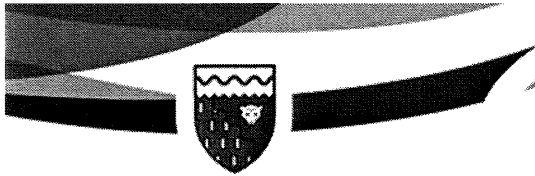
The intake for applications for a \$5,000 ACDP scholarship begins on June 1 of each year and closes on the last Friday of July.

For more information about the ACDP program scholarships, please visit the [Department of Transportation's website](#), or contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

Building for the Future – Northern Solutions for Northern Housing and New Public Housing Rent Scale

Yellowknife (April 16, 2012) - The Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) today announced the release of *Building for the Future - Northern Solutions for Northern Housing*, the NWT HC's new strategic framework for housing delivery in the Northwest Territories. This strategic framework is the result of the recently completed Shelter Policy Review carried out by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT.) The Review was led by the NWT HC and the Department of the Executive and involved an extensive examination of housing need across the NWT.

"The NWT HC is pleased to share this long-term strategic framework that will guide the way forward in delivering housing programs and services to residents in need across the NWT," said Minister McLeod. "We look forward to implementing the actions outlined in the strategic plan, with some of the actions described in *Building for the Future - Northern Solutions for Northern Housing* being implemented during this fiscal year."

The strategic framework builds on the success of existing housing programs and services, incorporates changes where they are needed, and proposes new programming and services where gaps were identified in meeting the housing needs of NWT residents across the spectrum, from homelessness to homeownership. The feedback and input by NWT residents was very important to the review process and impacted the strategic direction that is outlined in the strategic framework.

Many common themes came out of the Shelter Policy Review process, one of the most critical was the call for a revised Public Housing Program rent scale. The NWT HC is also introducing a new public housing rent scale that will be implemented on July 1, 2012. The new rent scale is based on making rents simpler and more predictable, with increased fairness. The rent scale is designed to support self-reliance and strengthen the Public Housing Program.

The new rent scale will apply to approximately 2,400 public housing units currently operated by the NWT HC. "The change in the public housing rent scale is significant and I believe it addresses the concerns that residents have expressed for many years, including that the previous approach to calculating rent contributed to dependency and led to a disincentive to work," said Minister McLeod. The new public housing rent scale is described in the attached overview.

The change to the public housing rent scale is one element of the strategic priorities outlined in *Building for the Future - Northern Solutions for Northern Housing*. The priority areas include the following.

- Strengthening Public Housing
- Improving Homeownership Supports

- Increasing Housing Options in Non-Market Communities
- Improving Housing Services
- Strengthening the Approach to Homelessness and Transition Housing
- Addressing Housing Challenges for the Working Poor
- Developing Infrastructure Solutions Based on Individual and Community Needs
- Addressing Declining Federal Funding

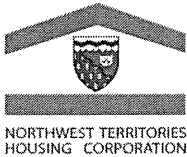
“We recognize that a one-size fits all approach does not always address the individual needs of residents and their communities and the priorities outlined in the NWTHC’s new strategic framework strengthens self-reliance and support for NWT residents to meet their varied housing needs,” said Minister McLeod. “The actions set out in this strategic plan forms the foundation on which we can continue to build and strengthen the delivery of housing programs, services and supports to those in need, not only under this 17th Legislative Assembly, but also over the long-term.”

For more information or to obtain a copy of the *Building for the Future - Northern Solutions for Northern Housing* document, please visit NWTHC’s website: www.nwthc.gov.nt.ca.

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OVERVIEW OF NEW PUBLIC HOUSING RENT SCALES

- On July 1, 2012 the NWT Housing Corporation will implement new rent scales for public housing in the Northwest Territories.
- Rent will be based on the total monthly income of all residents of the household. All households will pay rent based on the following table.

Public Housing Rent Scale

Monthly Rent, by Gross Household Income

Monthly Income	Monthly Rent		
	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C
< \$1,667	\$80	\$75	\$70
\$1,667 - \$2,499	\$160	\$150	\$140
\$2,500 - \$3,749	\$365	\$345	\$325
\$3,750 - \$4,999	\$610	\$580	\$555
\$5,000 - \$6,674	\$890	\$845	\$790
\$6,675 - \$8,333	\$1,295	\$1,230	\$1,155
\$8,334 or More	\$1,625	\$1,545	\$1,445

Zone A Communities: Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson

Zone B Communities: Detah/N'dilo, Hay River Reserve, Enterprise, Behchoko, Fort Liard, Fort Providence, Kakisa, Jean Marie River, Nahanni Butte, Fort Resolution, Gameti, Whati, Trout Lake, Wekweeti, Wrigley

Zone C Communities: Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic, Tulita, Lutselk'e, Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, Deline, Fort Good Hope, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Ulukhaktok, Colville Lake

- The zone where each community is included is based on their market conditions and Statistics Canada's Living Cost Differentials.
- All sources of income will be included in determining monthly rent. Seniors will receive a \$1,000 exemption in determining their monthly income.
- Tenants will also be responsible for paying 9 cent per kwh for their electricity use.



Key Questions and Answers Related to *Building for the Future*

What are the goals of the NWT Housing Corporation's Building for the Future strategic framework?

The goals of this strategic framework are:

- strengthening Public Housing,
- improving homeownership supports,
- increasing housing options in non-market communities,
- improving housing services,
- strengthening the approach to homelessness and transition housing,
- addressing housing challenges for the working poor,
- developing infrastructure solutions based on individual and community needs, and
- addressing the declining federal funding.

The NWT Housing Corporation's approach will be to build on the successes and progress over the last several years; to strengthen self-reliance and support for residents to meet their own shelter needs; and to recognize the difference between market and non-market communities in designing Northern solutions.

How does the NWT Housing Corporation plan to strengthen Public Housing?

The NWT Housing Corporation will be implementing a new rent scale that makes public housing rents simpler and more predictable, with increased fairness. It will also help address disincentives to work.

Rent will be based on gross income of all household residents. We will also introduce new minimum and maximum rents which will mean that every tenant will pay between 4.2% and 19.5% of their gross income, much lower than the national standard of 30% of income before affordability problems. Rent will also be assessed less frequently which will minimize drastic changes in rents and will support self-reliance.

Additionally, we will plan to address adequacy and quality issues with public housing and continue modernization of our public housing stock. The NWT Housing Corporation will target incremental investment in major retrofits and replacement of older public housing units. There will be an emphasis on the development of multi-family units along with targeting the needs of elders and single people.

What do you mean by "disincentives to work"?

The NWT has heard a common concern that the current rent scale discourages some public housing tenants from working because it is perceived that any increase in employment income is offset by high increases in rent. This new rent scale will help decrease the disincentive to work and help tenants become more self-reliant.



How will homeownership supports be improved?

The NWT Housing Corporation will be making changes to homeownership programs to provide homeownership supports in a manner that supports community sustainability, expands the pool of potential clients, while ensuring support focuses on those with good chance of success as homeowners.

We will be also be expanding the availability and targeting of repair programs to help homeowners address the high rate of adequacy problems in homes. That is, the need for repairs to their homes. The approach that we are taking with this programming will reflect the capacity, cost of living and other factors that apply to each community and support homeowners in fulfilling their responsibility to maintain their homes,

What do you plan to do to increase housing options in non-market communities?

The NWT Housing Corporation plans to expand the availability of housing options in non-market and emerging market communities. Development of additional multi-family rental properties in these communities will be a priority. The focus will on communities with high demand for housing for teachers, nurses and other GNWT staff, although units will also be available for rent by any resident including staff of the federal, community or Aboriginal governments. There may be opportunity for the NWT Housing Corporation to partner with developers in this regard or for the NWT Housing Corporation may develop and operate these units as part of its market housing portfolio.

What is the NWT Housing Corporation's plan to improve housing services?

A key result of the Shelter Policy Review engagement process was a strong view among NWT residents that there is a need to improve overall awareness, skills, and opportunities for residents to support their own shelter needs. The NWT Housing Corporation plans to expand its existing programming to improve access to broader based education and advice on home maintenance and repairs and on budgeting and other shelter issues. The Corporation will also improve communication activities to increase awareness among residents of the role and programs of the NWT Housing Corporation.

Options will be examined for making materials and housing supplies available to residents in non-market communities. Additionally, the NWT Housing Corporation will be developing options related to providing housing assessments for homeowners in non-market communities to support better involvement of residents in the shelter needs. The NWT Housing Corporation is developing a pilot program to provide opportunities for residents to reduce arrears while supporting community or other shelter needs.

Additionally, the NWT Housing Corporation will be examining how it organizes the delivery of housing programs and services in communities to ensure delivery is arranged in a way that supports residents in meeting their housing needs.

How will you strengthen the approach to homelessness and transition housing?

The NWT Housing Corporation will ensure there is coherence and balance in the GNWT approach to homelessness and support for transition housing. The goal is to achieve a more integrated case



management approach across departments dealing with homelessness, and ensure consistency in the approach to transition housing and improve coordination within the GNWT for agencies that provide services on behalf of multiple departments. As part of the effort, the NWT Housing Corporation will develop approaches for a more balanced approach to homelessness services and transition housing in communities outside of Yellowknife, and make investments to strengthen supports for critical services associated with homelessness.

How does the NWT Housing Corporation plan to address housing challenges for the working poor?

There is a significant program delivery gap in the housing continuum related to affordability challenges for lower income households in market rentals. Overall, some 548 households in core need are households with less than \$60,000 annual income living in market rental units (20% of all core need). The NWT Housing Corporation is looking at introducing programming that would provide support to these households. For instance, it would provide considerable support for young people starting out, lone parent families and recent migrants to a community.

How will you develop infrastructure solutions based on individual and community needs?

The NWT Housing Corporation's emphasis will be to ensure a Northern approach to home design, while still controlling costs. Providing homeowners with more input into their dwelling design and incorporating design elements to support seniors aging in place and persons with disabilities will also be included in the development of infrastructure solutions to meet the needs of individuals and communities.

The NWT Housing Corporation is also working to support approaches that allow development of housing infrastructure to provide training and education opportunities. It is important to recognize the role of housing infrastructure in supporting economic development and business opportunities. Additionally, the NWT Housing Corporation is working to support actions that ensure there is an adequate supply of lands to support housing infrastructure.

What will the NWT Housing Corporation's approach to addressing the declining federal funding?

The NWT Housing Corporation will be developing approaches to provide for an adequate and stable level of funding for the delivery of the Public Housing Program. Additionally, the NWT Housing Corporation will work with the federal government and other provinces and territories to develop a sustainable approach to funding social housing. Investments will be required to offset the reduced funding in the short-term.

The NWT Housing Corporation is also looking at other initiatives including reducing public housing stock in market communities, reducing operating costs through multifamily construction and energy efficient upgrades. As well, the NWT Housing Corporation is taking steps to increase revenues, including from other sources like the market rental program.



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
HOUSING CORPORATION



What will the next steps be for NWT Housing Corporation with Building for the Future?

The NWT Housing Corporation is currently are working on detailed implementation plans and schedule for activities to be undertaken during 2012-13.



Key Questions and Answers Related to the Changes in the Public Housing Rent Scales

Why Changes Are Being Made to the Rent Scales for Public Housing?

- During engagement on the Shelter Policy Review, we repeatedly heard that people wanted us to change the rent scales to be simpler, more predictable, and fairer. They also wanted us to address the disincentive to work that many felt was a result of our old approach to rent.
- The new approach reflects what we heard from residents and addresses concerns that were raised. Tenants will clearly know the rent that they will be charged at different income levels.
- With the introduction on a new minimum and maximum rent, rent staying the same within income ranges, and a more gradual increase in rent as income increases many of the components that contributed to the disincentive to work have been eliminated.

What Are Some Of The Impacts On Tenants Of The New Rent Scales?

- With the new rent scales, some households will see rent increases and some will see declines in rent.
- Overall there are about 2,400 public housing units. Based on the past year, we expect that 675 households will see their rent decline by more than \$100 per month. Some 262 households will see rent increases of \$100 or more.
- We plan to introduce the new rent scales on July 1, 2012. This gives us time to communicate with our tenants so they are aware of the changes that are coming. We will use a variety of approaches to get this information widely disseminated so no one is caught by surprise when the new rent scales are introduced.

Are There Other Changes That Will Impact Public Housing Tenants?

- The other change that is being made is to increase the overall responsibility that public housing clients have for electricity for their units.
- Currently tenants pay 6 cents/kwh for electricity and the NWT Housing Corporation pays the rest. Many residents felt this high level of subsidy provide little incentive for tenants to conserve energy.
- On July 1, 2012 the portion of electricity costs that the tenants will be responsible for will increase to 9 cents/kwh.

What Are Some Of The Overall Benefits Of The New Rent Scales?

- For tenants there will be a number of benefits:



- increased certainty for their rent when planning their family's budget,
 - the ability to earn additional income without necessarily having a rental increase,
 - the 675 household where rent will decline by more than \$100 per month will have a significant improvement in cost of living and the sustainability of our territorial communities, and
 - the introduction of a new minimum rent will mean that every tenant will pay between 4.2% and 19.5% of their income in rent. This is much lower than the national standard of 30% of income before affordability problems.
- For the NWT Housing Corporation the benefits are a simpler rental system with increased fairness and transparency. Average operating costs for public housing units are approximately \$1,400 per month. For tenants paying minimum rent the subsidy will be about \$16,000 per year, while those at maximum rent will be on average receiving no subsidy on the operating costs.
 - For the GNWT:
 - the new approach to the rent scales means a fairer and more transparent system for subsidizing housing through the public housing program,
 - setting rents at a broader zone rather than community by community approach represents a significant effort to address cost of living in communities with very high cost of living,
 - the rent reduction of more than \$100 per month for about 675 modest income households is a significant contribution to the overall anti-poverty efforts of government and increases the sustainability of living in many of our smaller and remote communities, and
 - by addressing issues related to the disincentive to work a significant barrier to employment for many living in smaller NWT communities has been removed.

Are There Households Where Rents Will Increase?

- There are households where rent will increase, with about 262 households expected to have a rental increase of more than \$100 per month.
- The introduction of a new minimum rent of about \$70-\$80 per month is an increase from the current minimum rent of \$32 per month or \$0 rent in the case of Seniors that reside in public housing units without other adults.

Does This Mean Seniors Will Now Pay Rent?

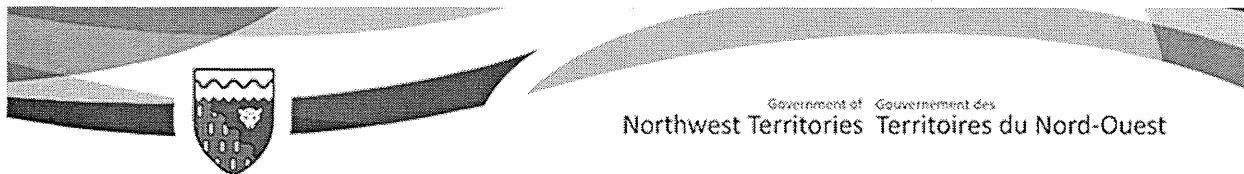
- The new rent scales set rent based on household income. For all households with income under \$20,000 per year, rent will be \$70-\$80 per month depending on the community.
- Many public housing units where Seniors reside are in this income category and will pay \$70-\$80 per month in rent. Some Seniors, however, have much higher incomes and can afford to pay higher rents.
- Based on our information on public housing, 90% of units where one or more Seniors live alone (without younger adults) will pay the minimum rent.



- During discussions with Northerners as part of the Shelter Policy Review, the issue of fairness in the rent scale and Seniors paying \$0 rent was often raised. Many also spoke of fairness and ensuring that housing is affordable for all residents.
- We have offset the impact of this change by providing a \$1,000 per month income exemption for Seniors. This will have the impact of lowering rent for households with Seniors and ensuring that many public housing units with Seniors as tenants will pay the minimum rent.
- It shouldn't be forgotten that for a household paying the minimum rent, the government will be subsidizing the cost of their shelter by an average of about \$16,000 per year and this value is higher in remote communities where operating costs are higher.

When Will The Changes To The Public Housing Rents Come Into Effect?

- The new rent scales will come into effect July 1, 2012.
- Significant communication activities are planned over the next several months. A variety of approaches will be used to ensure tenants are aware of the changes in the rent scales and the impact on their households.



NEWS RELEASE

GNWT and UNW Reach Tentative Agreement

YELLOWKNIFE (April 16, 2012) – The Union of Northern Workers (UNW) and the Government of the Northwest Territories have reached a tentative agreement for a new four-year collective agreement.

If ratified, the new collective agreement will be effective April 1, 2012 and will apply to the almost 4,000 UNW members employed by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) across the Northwest Territories, as well as employees with the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission in the NWT and Nunavut.

"I'm happy that both teams showed such strong commitment to find solutions to the complexity of the issues. I look forward to the opportunity to rebuild our working relationship," says Todd Parsons, UNW President.

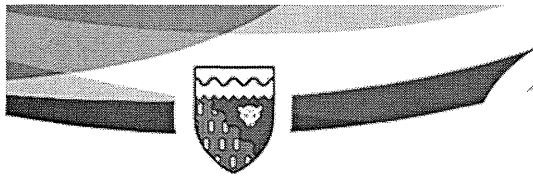
"We are very pleased that an agreement has been reached," says Sheila Bassi-Kellett, Deputy Minister of Human Resources. "The UNW and the GNWT have collaborated to address the interests of both parties, despite the challenges of the current fiscal environment."

Both parties will be sending the tentative agreement for ratification.

For more information, contact:

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Sheila Bassi-Kellett
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Department of Human Resources
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NEWS RELEASE

A success for the GNWT/FFT Consultation/Cooperation Committee

YELLOWKNIFE (April 17, 2012) -- On Wednesday, April 4th, 2012, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Fédération franco-ténoise (FFT) Consultation/Cooperation Committee successfully concluded the initial draft of the Strategic Plan on French Language Communications and Services (the Strategic Plan).

The mandate of the Consultation/Cooperation Committee is to facilitate consultation on the GNWT's drafting, implementation, administration and promotion of the Plan under the *Official Languages Act*.

"I am pleased with the conclusion of the discussions with the Fédération franco-ténoise on the Strategic Plan," said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "We can now move forward with the implementation."

Richard Létourneau, President of the FFT and Co-chair of the Committee said, "The community recognizes the efforts made by the GNWT to ensure fulfillment of its legal obligations under the *Official Languages Act* of the NWT. We are pleased with the results of this productive collaboration and hope that the next stages in the process allow us to establish a long-term partnership that will benefit not just the francophone community but all residents of the NWT."

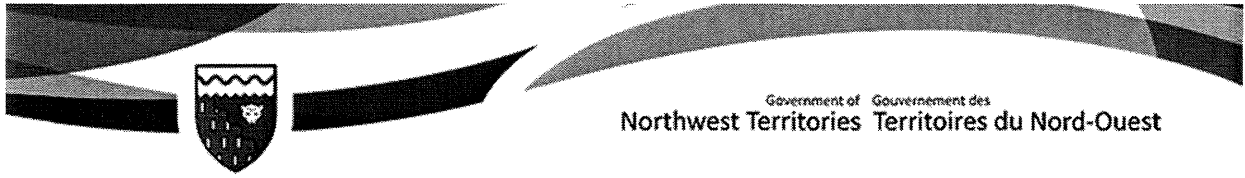
The Consultation/Cooperation Committee comprises five members of the FFT: Richard Létourneau, President of the FFT; Claire Beaubien, Executive Director of the FFT; Michel Bastarache, Expert; Dyane Adam, Expert; and Léo-Paul Provencher, consultant to the FFT. The three representatives of the GNWT include Dana Heide, Associate Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services; Sheila Bassi-Kellett, Deputy Minister of Human Resources; and Dan Daniels, Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

The Consultation/Cooperation Committee will carry out its next work in the implementation, administration and promotion of the Plan.

For more information, please contact:

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Richard Létourneau
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La Fédération franco-ténoise
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COMMUNIQUÉ

Un événement important pour le Comité de consultation et de coopération du GTNO et de la FFT

Yellowknife, le 16 avril 2012 – Le mercredi 4 avril 2012, le Comité de consultation et de coopération formé du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) et de la Fédération franco-ténoise (FFT) a mis la touche finale à l'ébauche du Plan stratégique sur les communications et les services en français (le Plan stratégique).

Le mandat du Comité de consultation et de coopération est de faciliter les consultations sur l'ébauche, la mise en œuvre, la gestion et la promotion du Plan stratégique en vertu de la *Loi sur les langues officielles*.

« Je suis satisfait de l'issue des discussions avec la Fédération franco-ténoise en lien avec le Plan stratégique, affirme Jackson Lafferty, ministre de l'Éducation, de la Culture et de la Formation. Nous pouvons maintenant aller de l'avant avec l'étape de la mise en œuvre. »

De son côté, Richard Létourneau, président de la FFT et coprésident du Comité, signale que « la communauté reconnaît les efforts déployés par le GTNO pour s'assurer de respecter ses obligations légales en vertu de la *Loi sur les langues officielles* des TNO. Nous sommes heureux des résultats de cette collaboration fructueuse et souhaitons que les étapes suivantes nous permettent d'établir un partenariat à long terme dont pourront bénéficier autant la communauté francophone que l'ensemble des Ténos ».

Le Comité de consultation et de coopération est formé de cinq membres de la FFT : Richard Létourneau et Claire Beaubien, respectivement président et directrice générale de la FFT; Michel Bastarache et Dyane Adam, experts; ainsi que Léo-Paul Provencher, consultant de la FFT. Les trois représentants du GTNO sont Dana Heide, sous-ministre déléguée du ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, Sheila Bassi-Kellet, sous-ministre des Ressources humaines et Dan Daniels, sous-ministre de l'Éducation, de la Culture et de la Formation.

Le Comité de consultation et de coopération se consacre maintenant aux étapes de la mise en œuvre, de la gestion et de la promotion du Plan stratégique.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec :

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Richard Létourneau

Président
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Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo Supports Aboriginal Student Achievement Education Partnership Declaration

YELLOWKNIFE, NT (April 18, 2012) – The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), received support from the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo for the Aboriginal Student Achievement (ASA) Education Plan.

“Creating and supporting partnerships is the key to building stronger minds and a stronger north,” says Minister Lafferty. “After the historic signing of the Declaration in July 2011 by all of the education and Aboriginal leaders in the Northwest Territories, we are delighted that National Chief Atleo supports this important initiative and is willing to become a signatory on the Declaration.”

Since 2009, when the Department of Education, Culture and Employment began to develop the ASA initiative with its partners, there have been numerous forums held in various communities for community leaders, residents, and youth across the NWT. Feedback received at the forums confirmed the need to focus on critical priority areas: early childhood development and child care, student and family support, Aboriginal language and culture curriculum and resource development and literacy.

“To date, we have implemented a number of activities outlined in the ASA plan,” said Minister Lafferty. “We are supporting literacy development in partnership with our education authorities; we have implemented the Early Development Instrument and revised the kindergarten curriculum; we continue our work with languages and culture, with one of our recent successes being the launch of the Dene digital languages apps; we have programs and training in place for learners of all ages; and we continue to engage students in the importance of staying in school, and parents with the importance of being involved in their children’s education. These are but a few of our activities designed to increase awareness, opportunity, and build foundations for Northerners to lead healthy productive lives. With National Chief Atleo’s endorsement of our Aboriginal Student Achievement Education Plan, our goals are closer to being realized.”

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

Office of the Press Secretary • Premier/Cabinet
Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9
Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111

“I would like to thank the Dene Leadership, the school boards and Minister Lafferty and the Government of Northwest Territories for all the good work done in building a foundation to not only reform but fundamentally transform education for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples,” said Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo. “We must act today across the country so that our children have the same educational opportunities as other children while respecting the importance of our languages and cultures. We have demonstrated the success that can be achieved, if fully supported and enabled, right across this country. A new generation of young leaders is emerging and this is a new dawn of tremendous hope and opportunity for all of our people and for all of Canada.”

The Aboriginal Student Achievement Education Plan was tabled during the August 2011 Session, and is available for download at www.ece.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, please contact:

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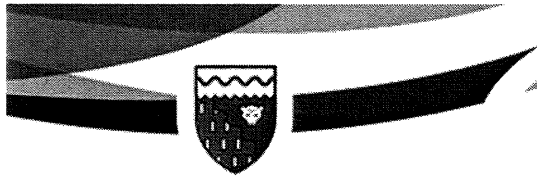
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NWT's Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Rates Decrease

YELLOWKNIFE (April 18, 2012) Finally, the NWT is seeing a reduction in STIs. The NWT has seen a drop in the number of cases for Gonorrhoea. Gonorrhoea (also known as "The Clap") is a common STI that can be cured with antibiotics. However, if not treated early, it can seriously affect your health and may cause sterility.

The *Report on Sexually Transmitted Infections in Canada: 2009* found Gonorrhoea rates in the NWT drop by 20.1% from 2008 to 2009.

"This is an important milestone for us. For the first time ever, the NWT is seeing a drop in sexually transmitted infection rates," said Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu. "It is through the good work of many people – public health officials, community governments, non-government organizations and our residents – that we have seen a downward trend. However, sexually transmitted infections continue to be a serious and ongoing health problem. We will continue to work with our partners and residents to bring these rates down even more."

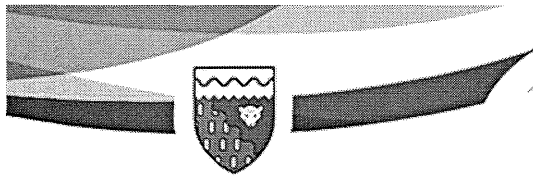
Tackling STI rates in the NWT must be done using several approaches. This is especially true when targeting youth and young adults as they have the highest rates. Some of the approaches used by the Department of Health and Social Services are having health officials visit the communities and schools to raise awareness of STIs using tools like the youth sexual health website respectyourself.ca and the *Kiss Me Deadly* comic book. It is also through the work of partners like the Community Action Research Team (who raised STI awareness by doing door-to-door campaigns) in the Tlicho, nurses on the frontline who did 100% follow-up for individuals who tested positive, and community residents who took the initiative to get tested that the NWT has begun to see a decrease in rates.

"Raising awareness of STIs using several different approaches is working," said Acting Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Kami Kandola. "We have seen a drop in not only Gonorrhoea, but also Chlamydia, which is the most commonly reported STI in Canada. We have found that the rates for Chlamydia dropped by 5.9% and Gonorrhoea dropped by 52.7% from 2008 to 2011. We will continue our efforts as we are making a difference."

For more information about STIs visit www.respectyourself.ca.

For more information, contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

Deputy Minister of ECE to Retire

YELLOWKNIFE (April 19, 2012) – Premier Bob McLeod is today announcing the retirement of Mr. Dan Daniels as Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE).

Mr. Daniels was born and raised in the Northwest Territories and is the Government of the Northwest Territories' longest-serving Aboriginal Deputy Minister. He was appointed Deputy Minister of ECE in April 2006 and was formerly the Assistant Deputy Minister, Advanced Education and the Assistant Deputy Minister, Education and Culture. Mr. Daniels was also Campus Director at Aurora College and has held several senior positions within the department.

In his time as Deputy Minister, Mr. Daniels has been responsible for overseeing the ongoing implementation of reforms to income security programs designed to help NWT residents achieve greater self-reliance, implemented initiatives to improve French-language services, including Services TNO and the recently-opened Francophone Affairs Secretariat, led the development of the Aboriginal Languages Plan to help strengthen Aboriginal languages, and led the development of the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative intended to help close the education gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students.

"I would like to thank Mr. Daniels for his years of dedicated service to the people of the Northwest Territories," said Premier Bob McLeod. "His leadership and commitment have been instrumental to the success of Education, Culture and Employment, ensuring that NWT residents have access to educational opportunities and the supports they need to make productive choices and that our arts and culture continue to flourish."

Mr. Daniels will retire effective May 11, 2012 and will spend the next few weeks transitioning his responsibilities to Ms. Gloria Iatridis, who will be Acting Deputy Minister until further notice.

For more information:

Megan Holsapple

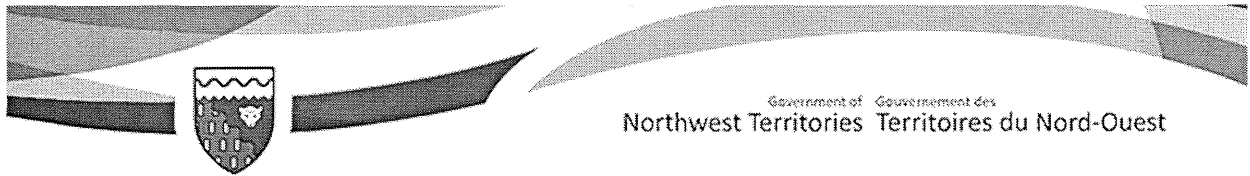
Media Liaison

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NEWS RELEASE

GNWT Marks the 20th Anniversary of the Gwich'in Land Claim

YELLOWKNIFE (April 20, 2012) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) joins with the Gwich'in and all the people of the Northwest Territories to mark the 20th anniversary of the signing of the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*. Premier McLeod offered his congratulations to the Gwich'in Tribal Council at Dene Leadership Meetings in Inuvik earlier this week.

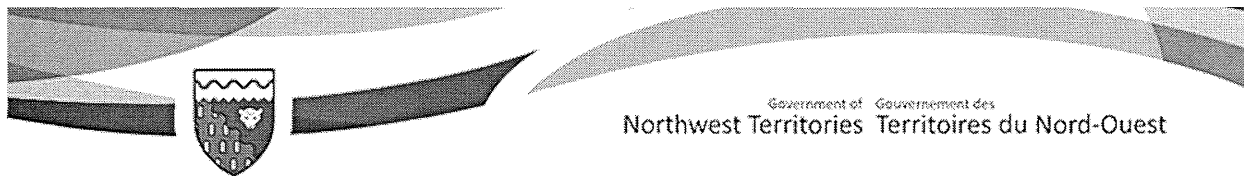
The *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* was signed by the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Gwich'in Tribal Council on April 22, 1992. The Agreement was established to recognize and encourage the Gwich'in way of life and enhance their ability to participate fully in all aspects of the economy. The Agreement provides the Gwich'in with defined rights and a voice in decision making related to land, water, and wildlife harvesting and management within the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

"The *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* was one more step to self-sufficiency and gave the Gwich'in greater ability to control their future," said Premier Bob McLeod. "Building a strong, prosperous and sustainable territory is a priority for the Government of the Northwest Territories. We remain committed to working closely with the Gwich'in and all Aboriginal governments to realize this vision on behalf of all our residents."

Minister Robert C. McLeod will represent the Government of the Northwest Territories at 20th anniversary celebrations being held in Inuvik.

For more information:

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NEWS RELEASE

Sharing Our Culture – Aboriginal Tourism Forum 2012

DETTAH (April 23, 2012) -- Over 70 tourism operators, entrepreneurs, government representatives, guest speakers and industry stakeholders attended the Aboriginal Tourism Forum to define, set priorities, and set the stage for future community engagement in the development of an Aboriginal tourism sector in the NWT.

The two-day industry forum was hosted by the Aboriginal Tourism Champions Advisory Council (ATCAC) and sponsored by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Participants shared best practices, experiences, and information about Aboriginal tourism products.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay looks forward to working with the Aboriginal Tourism Champions Advisory Council on this important initiative. "The GNWT remains committed to the growth of our spectacular tourism industry, and the opportunities to expand and advance our economy at its very roots," he said. "Of all sectors, tourism presents the greatest likelihood of creating economic opportunities in each community, especially our smaller communities. It creates jobs and businesses, and it promotes our culture and uniqueness to the world."

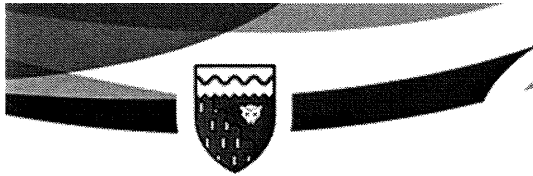
The co-chair of the Aboriginal Tourism Champions Advisory Council, Ria Letcher, says it is important that all parties work with Aboriginal operators and stakeholders as they define and develop an authentic Aboriginal tourism product in the NWT. "Engaging communities will ensure that there is ownership and pride in the sharing of our land, culture and traditions," she noted.

Co-Chair Jenni Bruce, Chairperson of NWT Tourism, says input from the forum will lead and guide members of the Champions Advisory Council. "The potential and capacity that already exists within the NWT is already energizing many people who are interested in promoting and advancing their cultures, customs and traditions in a manner that will grow awareness, understanding and sustainability," she said.

Support for the tourism industry is a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable economic development strategy, promotes the traditional economy, and provides all communities and regions with opportunities and choices – key goals of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

For more information, contact:

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Policy, Legislation and Communications
Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories
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drew_williams@gov.nt.ca



NEWS RELEASE

Report to the Hay River Town Council

YELLOWKNIFE (April 25, 2012) - On April 23, 2012, representatives from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs presented Hay River Town Council with a report detailing the results of the investigation into the concerns raised by former mayor Kelly Schofield about the town's operation. While the report points to a number of issues regarding the town's operation, there was no evidence that there has been any misappropriation or other wrongdoing.

"After our investigation, we have concluded that there was no criminal wrongdoing by the council or administration of the Town of Hay River," said Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. "MACA has worked directly with the town and has provided 18 recommendations. The department will continue to support the town in the implementation of these recommendations if requested."

"I am quite satisfied with the report. It puts to bed the idea that there were wrongdoings occurring at Town Hall," said Hay River Mayor Ken Latour. "The findings and recommendations would be typical for many municipalities. The report does not say things are broken, it says there is room for improvement, and we are aware of that. Since this investigation was initiated two months ago, we have already made many improvements, and Council, administration and I will continue on this path. We appreciate the recommendations from MACA as well as their commitment to assisting us in implementing them."

On February 27, 2012, Mayor Kelly Schofield resigned his position on the town council. In his resignation letter, he stated four reasons: 1) misappropriation of municipal expenditures, 2) incomplete council-directed tasks, 3) breach of confidentiality within council, and 4) lack of support by majority of council. While the last three issues are internal to the operation of the town and its council, the first was a serious allegation. Mr. Schofield then asked the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs to review the conduct of the town's council and administration.

The Minister responded by assigning MACA staff to investigate. MACA staff conducted two on-site visits and interviewed a number of people involved in the town's operation, including town staff, the former mayor, the acting mayor and the town's auditors. The following conclusions were reached:

At no point in the investigation did the team find any evidence that the SAO had done anything that was criminal or dishonest so that he would personally benefit from the resources of the Town. Given the team's understanding of what has transpired over the past 18 months, the allegation that there has been "misappropriation" is not founded.

What the team heard was that there was poor communication, inadequate consultation, weak inter-personal skills and lack of procedure followed. In response to this there was a general willingness from staff and Council to move forward to accept responsibility for past errors, and to seek more positive relationships.

There are eighteen recommendations in the report, focusing on addressing some of the operational issues that were discovered. The recommendations are operational in nature and range from supporting the development of the administration and council through training and professional development to updating bylaws and policies to better reflect the current circumstances of the town. In particular, bylaws related to council procedures and procurement processes could be updated.

MACA staff were pleased by the level of cooperation they received and by the efforts they saw to improve the relationships within the administration and between the administration and the council. The department will be available to assist the town in implementing recommendations if requested.

For more information, contact:

David Maguire
Communications & Web Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Government of the Northwest Territories
p. 867-920-3092

Summary Report

Investigation into concerns of former Hay River mayor

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) recognizes and respects the authority and autonomy of community governments. In rare cases where a municipal government is suspected of not providing responsible and responsive government to its citizens, MACA has a duty to investigate, take any necessary remedial actions and make recommendations for improvement.

Situation

On February 27, 2012, the mayor of the Town of Hay River, Kelly J. Schofield, delivered a letter of resignation to his council. On February 28, 2012, the Minister of MACA, Robert C. McLeod, received correspondence from the former mayor, together with a copy of his letter of resignation. In his letter to the Minister, the former mayor made the following request:

As outgoing Mayor, I respectfully request the support of your department for three things.

- 1) A comprehensive review of events of the past year that have undermined the operations of our Council and Mayor.
- 2) Until such time as an independent review has taken place a moratorium on any major decisions regarding operations or capital expenditures.
- 3) Your department's support in helping the Town assess options and directions to move forward regarding such things as the time of an election etc

MACA's Response

MACA determined an investigation was warranted due to the serious implications made by the former mayor in his letter of resignation. Of particular concern was his statement regarding "misappropriation of municipal expenditures".

By definition, misappropriation is:

Generally, the use of funds or property for a wrongful purpose. The term is commonly used in relation to persons who, while acting in a fiduciary capacity –e.g. as a banker, trustee, director of a corporation, etc.- misapply funds intended for another purpose or who convert another's funds for their own benefit."

Canadian Law Dictionary

- i) a dishonest use of something as one's own.
 - ii) any act of putting something to a wrong use.
- The Gage Canadian Dictionary*ⁱ

In response to these concerns, a team of MACA representatives completed a number of on-site visits and interviewed members of the town council and administration.

Outcome of Investigation

From the interviews, the team determined that there was no misappropriation of municipal funds by the SAO. None of the people interviewed made any allegations that the SAO personally benefited from any of the procurement decisions that were made.

In light of the lack of criminal wrongdoing, there were no grounds to impose a moratorium on major decisions. There is no authority under the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*ⁱⁱⁱ to impose this restriction without also placing the town under the control of a supervisor or administrator. Unless there is evidence of chronic mismanagement by the Senior Administrative Officer, the council, or both, these matters are left to the council.

Over the course of the investigation a number of concerns were raised. In response to these issues, the department has provided the town with recommendations ranging from encouraging professional development and training to improving communication and transparency.

MACA has also offered to continue to assist the Town of Hay River in implementing these recommendations and will continue to support the development of sustainable, capable, and accountable community governments across the territory.

ⁱ *Canadian Law Dictionary, Fourth Edition*, John A. Yogis Q.C., 1998, Barron's Educational Series, Inc., p. 169.

ⁱⁱ *The Gage Canadian Dictionary*, W.S. Avis et al., 1973, Gage Educational Publishing Limited, p. 720.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Cities, Towns and Villages Act, S.N.W.T. 2003, c. 22*



Reassignment of Portfolio Responsibilities

YELLOWKNIFE (April 25, 2012) – Premier Bob McLeod has assigned Glen Abernethy to be Minister of Public Works and Services.

This appointment is effective as of 5pm today. All other portfolios remain the same.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple

Media Liaison

Office of the Premier and Executive Council

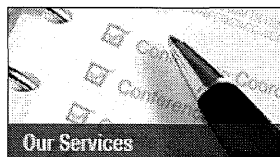
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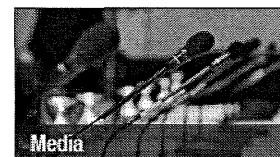
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PRESS RELEASE: MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS PRIORITY ISSUES FOR WOMEN: ECONOMIC SECURITY, LEADERSHIP, AND ENDING VIOLENCE

HALIFAX – Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women gathered in Halifax on May 2 and 3, 2012. The annual meeting was co-chaired by the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Canada's Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for Status of Women, and the Honourable Marilyn More, Minister responsible for the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for Ministers to exchange insights and discuss developments in the priority areas of improving women's economic security, promoting women's leadership and ending violence against women, each with an ongoing focus on Aboriginal women.

FPT Ministers explored new avenues for advancing women's economic security. In their discussions on emerging issues and best practices, Ministers benefited from the expertise of non-governmental organizations working to promote girls and women in leadership roles and non-traditional occupations in science, engineering and the trades. They also learned about specific initiatives aimed at increasing Aboriginal women's and girls' participation in leadership and decision making.

FPT Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to ending violence against women and girls and the importance of engaging all Canadians on this issue. After hearing from leaders in this field, Ministers discussed the most effective ways to reach out to and work meaningfully with men and boys toward this end. They agreed that men and boys must be active participants and allies in solving this enduring problem.

The Ministers look forward to the release, proposed for 2013, of their jointly produced *Measuring Violence Against Women: Statistical Trends*. Last issued in 2006, the Statistics Canada publication presents national data on the major indicators of violence against women, including up-to-date details on the nature and extent of violence against women.

In recognition of the forum's 30th anniversary and its valuable work to advance equality for women over the intervening years, FPT Ministers issued the *Halifax Declaration* (attached). While acknowledging past efforts, the forward-looking document emphasizes current priorities and plans for the future.

Prince Edward Island will host the next meeting in 2013.

For more information, please contact:

Michelle Bakos
Director of Communications
Office of the Minister of Public Works and
Government Services and
Minister for Status of Women
819 997-5421

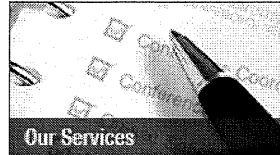
Nanci-Jean Waugh
Director General, Communications
and Public Affairs
Status of Women Canada
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Deborah Bayer
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Ce texte est également disponible en français.



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DECLARATION: BY THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 30TH ANNUAL MEETING IN HALIFAX

Preamble

We, the Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, recognize that women and men are equally integral to Canada's prosperity and success in the world.

We are proud to have been able to work as a federal-provincial-territorial forum dedicated to the status of women, addressing issues of importance to Canadian women since we began meeting in 1981. Over that time, we have examined key concerns in the areas of women's health, women's economic security, Aboriginal women's issues and violence against women.

We have helped to advance equality for women in a number of concrete ways by:

- working with other federal-provincial-territorial bodies on issues of mutual concern in the areas of health, labour and justice;
- releasing statistical reports on violence against women that are used by governments, non-governmental women's organizations, academics, and others involved in the policy process to address this serious issue and guide future progress;
- developing material to support the economic advancement of women, including resources to help employers create workplaces that attract, retain and promote women; and
- hosting policy forums to support women's employment in sciences, engineering, trades and technology, and to explore solutions to end violence against Aboriginal women.

We are pleased to have witnessed significant advancements in the status of women in recent decades. However, we recognize that inequalities persist and that further efforts are needed to empower women and girls, particularly the most vulnerable in our communities.

We are humbled by those who have led the way in advancing women's full participation in all aspects of society, and we are inspired by the energy and intelligence of the young women and girls who are following in their footsteps.

As we work to strengthen the status of women, we are also championing the rights of women and girls everywhere. We therefore look forward to the first-ever International Day of the Girl on October 11, 2012, celebrating girls and young women as citizens and as powerful voices of change.

Declaration

We, Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, on the occasion of our 30th annual meeting, reaffirm our commitment to improve the status of women and girls by addressing the inequalities that continue to limit their social, economic and cultural well-being.

On the first International Day of the Girl on October 11, 2012, we will celebrate girls as powerful agents of change, and we will focus on ways to ensure they reach their full potential. We invite all Canadians to join us in celebrating this new annual event.

We are committed to examining concerns of particular importance to girls in our future efforts and actions.

We have made great strides in advancing gender analysis within our governments, and in ensuring the unique needs and experiences of diverse groups of Canadian women and girls are reflected in public policies and programs. We will continue to promote these practices within our governments. We encourage the use of gender and diversity analysis throughout civil society.

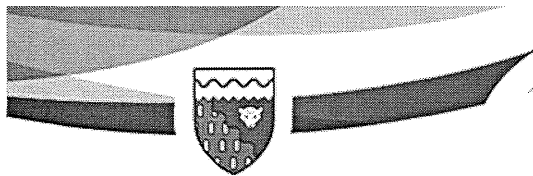
We recognize the crucial role that men and boys can play in preventing violence against women and girls. By engaging all Canadians in efforts to end violence and achieve equality for women and girls, we believe we can bring about a better society for all.

We acknowledge that equality for women and girls can only be achieved through the coordinated and sustained efforts of all governments, communities and individuals. As Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, we pledge to pursue our shared goals while taking all necessary actions to advance equality and improve the lives of women and girls within our respective jurisdictions.

May 2012

DATE MODIFIED: 7-5-2012

IMPORTANT NOTICES



Government of Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NEWS RELEASE

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

YELLOWNIFE (May 4, 2012) -- The Northwest Territories Teachers' Association and the Government of the Northwest Territories have reached a tentative collective agreement. Both parties are recommending ratification of the agreement to their principals.

"I am pleased that a tentative agreement between the NWT Teachers' Association and the GNWT has been reached, especially in these trying economic times," says David Reid, President of the NWT Teachers' Association. "The NWTTA listened to what its members had to say and then worked with the employer to negotiate a fair and reasonable agreement that both parties could agree to."

"We are very pleased that an agreement has been reached," says Sharilyn Alexander, Acting Deputy Minister of Human Resources. "The NWT Teachers' Association and the GNWT have worked together to develop a collective agreement that supports our employees and provides stability for the delivery of educational programs across the NWT."

The current collective agreement between the NWT Teachers' Association and the GNWT expires on August 31, 2012. If ratified, the new agreement will run for four years, effective September 1, 2012, and will apply to approximately 490 teachers across the NWT.

Ratification is expected to be complete by the end of May 2012. Details of the tentative agreement will not be publicly released until the ratification process is completed.

For further information, please contact:

David Reid
President
NWT Teachers' Association
(867) 873-8501

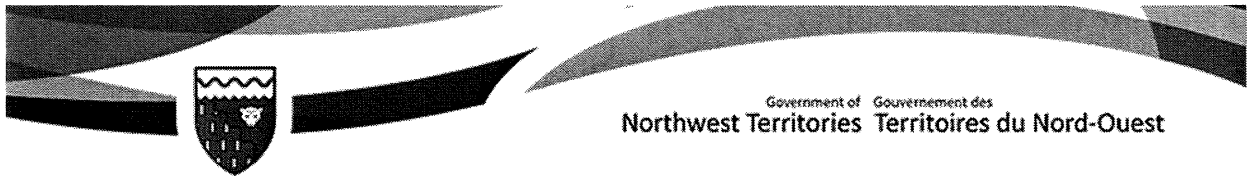
Sharilyn Alexander
Acting Deputy Minister
Department of Human Resources, GNWT
(867) 873-7187

“We expect to receive very positive responses to all our NAOSH Week activities,” said Mr. Grundy. “With events like Safety Street and our new youth *Creative Safety Challenge*, we continue to ensure the safety and care for workers across the territory.”

For more information on WSCC NAOSH Week events, please visit wscn.nt.ca/naosh.

- 30 -

Contact:
Kim MacEachern
Senior Communications Officer
Corporate Services
Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission
TF: 1-800-661-0792
Email: Kim.MacEachern@wscn.nt.ca



NEWS RELEASE

NWT Film Selected For Screening At Cannes Film Festival

YELLOWKNIFE (May 8, 2012) -- Northwest Territories resident Andrew Silke's short film, *Amelia*, will screen at the 65th Cannes International Film Festival in France. Everyone in the cast and crew is from the Northwest Territories and the production was filmed in the territory.

This year's Festival runs from May 16-27 and *Amelia* will screen as part of Telefilm Canada's program, *Not Short on Talent*.

"Showcasing an NWT film at the renowned Cannes Film Festival just goes to show the amazing talent we have here in the Northwest Territories and the potential for the film industry here to thrive," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, David Ramsay. "Everyone here at the NWT Film Commission and the GNWT wishes the cast and crew the best of luck at the Festival."

Providing support to the arts and the film industry is a joint effort between Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE). ITI provides support to NWT businesses, including those involved in film production, through its Support to Entrepreneurs and Economic Development Policy, and funded a significant portion of Mr. Silke's travel costs to attend the Cannes Film Festival. ECE provides support to the film industry through the NWT Arts Council and Northern Film and Media Arts Contributions programs, and made a funding contribution to support this project.

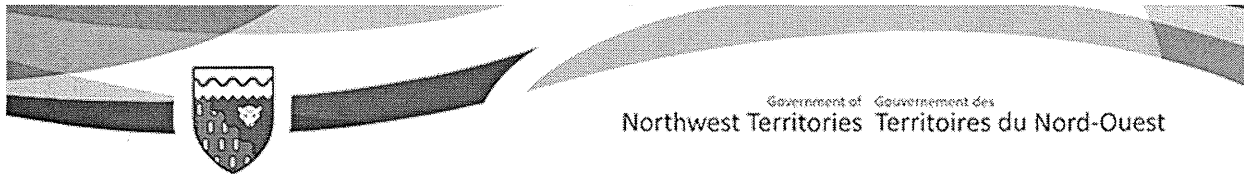
"Supporting the endeavors of Northern artists working in various media is very important," said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. "Everything they create provides a legacy of culture and a mosaic of Northern life. For one of our filmmakers to be recognized at one of the world's most prestigious film festivals is a credit to the skill and vision of our artists and the opportunity this provides to share these with the world."

About the NWT Film Commission

The NWT Film Commission is focused on the development of the NWT film industry and its local productions. The Commission provides support and advice on funding options available, markets and promotes the NWT as a filming location, supports and promotes the industry through funding programs and initiatives, and maintains a Film Suppliers Guide that acts as a resource to assist film productions on location in the NWT.

For more information, contact:

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



NEWS RELEASE

New Four-Year Contract for NWT Physicians

YELLOWKNIFE (May 8, 2012) - The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Northwest Territories Medical Association (NWTMA) have reached agreement on a contract for physician services in the Northwest Territories. The previous contract between the GNWT and the NWTMA expired on March 31, 2012.

"I am pleased that the NWTMA and the government were able to work together to address outstanding issues and reach an agreement that is fair and reasonable," said Dr. Peter McArthur, President of the NWTMA.

"The GNWT and the NWTMA worked together to achieve an agreement that is fiscally sustainable and provides stability for the delivery of health care in the Northwest Territories," said Debbie DeLancey, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services. "This will enable us to proceed with key elements of reform in the health and social services system."

The agreement, which runs for four years, provides the basis for compensation for general practitioners and specialist physicians in the NWT.

For further information, please contact:

Sharilyn Alexander
Acting Deputy Minister
Department of Human Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
(867) 873-7187

Debbie DeLancey
Deputy Minister
Department of Health and Social Services
Government of the Northwest Territories
(867) 920-6173



YELLOWKNIFE (May 10, 2012) – In recognition of Mental Health Week, the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Tom Beaulieu, is calling on all NWT residents to take action regarding mental health. The theme of the week is “Mental Health for All”.

“Everyone has a role to play in reducing the stigma surrounding mental health and recognizing the importance of mental wellness,” said Minister Beaulieu. “We should not be afraid to talk to families, friends and elders about what we can do to help those who are suffering from mental health and addictions issues.”

The Minister also recognizes the work of the Mental Health Commission of Canada following the release of their National Strategy, *Changing Directions, Changing Lives: The Mental Health Strategy for Canada*.

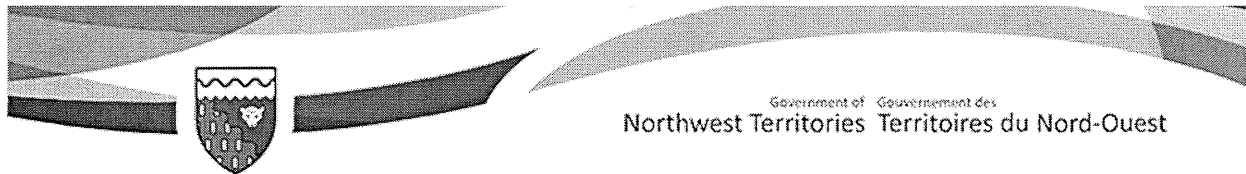
“This announcement is very timely. This strategy will inform us in completing the *NWT Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan*.”

The National Strategy included consultation with a number of NWT stakeholders and was released May 8.

While a Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan is being finalized, the Department maintains its annual funding for a range of social programs. \$9 million is provided to Health and Social Services Authorities and to Aboriginal Governments to assist in the delivery of community counselling services, community wellness programs, social services and on-the-land programming. In addition to these programs, the Department invests in the NWT Help Line, the Nats’e’jee K’eh Treatment Centre, mental health first aid and suicide prevention training for staff.

For more information, contact:

Damien Healy
Innovation, Reform and Legislation
Manager, Communications
Department of Health and Social Services
Tel: (867) 920-8927
Email: damien_healy@gov.nt.ca



NEWS RELEASE

Recognizing the Importance of Tourism in the NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (May 14, 2012) -- National Tourism Week highlights the economic contribution of the tourism sector across Canada. In the Northwest Territories, tourism contributes over \$110 million annually to the economy – more than all of the territory's other renewable resources combined.

"Tourism is of great importance to our economy, and is one of the few industries that has the potential to drive economic growth in every region of the territory," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. "Tourism Week gives us an opportunity to thank our tourism operators and recognize the great service they provide to our visitors, the job opportunities they provide to our residents, and the role they play in helping us share the diverse story of the NWT with the world."

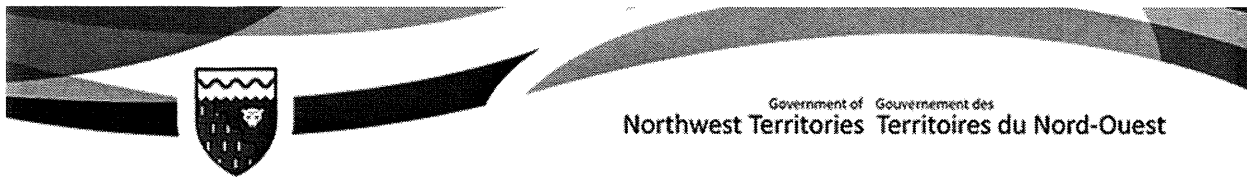
Nearly 70,000 visitors came across NWT borders in 2011 to camp, hunt, fish, view aurora, work or experience the many unique outdoor travel experiences available to tourists.

Tourism Week usually occurs in June, and in previous years NWT Tourism has held a "Fun in the Sun Golf Tournament" to celebrate. This year's golf tournament will be held at a later date in June at the Yellowknife Golf Course.

The GNWT is committed to supporting the tourism industry in partnership with NWT Tourism to strengthen and diversify the economy, a key priority of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

For more information, contact:

Alayna Ward
Manager, Public Affairs and Communications
Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories
867-920-8696
E-mail: Alayna_Ward@gov.nt.ca



NEWS RELEASE

Ministerial Mandate Letters

YELLOWKNIFE (May 14, 2012) – Premier Bob McLeod has provided all Cabinet ministers with mandate letters outlining their key strategic objectives and priorities for the 17th Assembly. These letters have been posted to the GNWT website at <http://www.premier.gov.nt.ca/cabinet/>.

“Our government is committed to transparency and accountability,” said Premier McLeod. “As a public government, we serve all the people of the Northwest Territories and are responsible for making sure that NWT residents are aware of the activities, initiatives and decisions their government undertakes on their behalf. These mandates will provide our residents with an important tool for understanding and evaluating our actions as a government.”

The mandates follow the priorities of the 17th Legislative Assembly, developed by all Members immediately after the October 2011 election. Cabinet members are accountable to the rest of Cabinet and to the Legislative Assembly for the activities of their assigned departments and agencies. Decisions must uphold the public good by balancing the interests of all Northwest Territories residents.

Some of the specific mandates assigned to Ministers include:

- Negotiate a Devolution Final Agreement and develop an implementation plan for responsible management of public lands and resources in the NWT.
- Develop and coordinate the implementation of a government-wide Aboriginal engagement strategy based on the principles of respect, recognition, and responsibility.
- Reform governance of the health and social services system, and improve measurement and accountability within the system.
- Undertake consultation in support of passing a new *Wildlife Act*.

- Develop and implement a sustainable Mineral Strategy and Economic Development Strategy for the NWT that targets all regions and all sectors of our economy.
- Work with communities to develop a comprehensive, territory-wide Community Safety Strategy.
- Build capacity of community governments to meet their administrative and management responsibilities.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive Early Childhood Development Framework.

Work on the mandates outlined in the letters has already begun. Mandates will be reviewed regularly and updated when necessary. The government will publish a results report outlining progress on the mandates each year.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple

Media Liaison

Office of the Premier and Executive Council

Government of the Northwest Territories

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THE PREMIER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

CHRONO

APR - 2 2012

HONOURABLE GLEN ABERNETHY
MINISTER OF JUSTICE
MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

Portfolio Mandates

I am writing to provide further clarity with respect to the Ministerial portfolios assigned to you in November of 2011.

Specific mandates for the Justice and Human Resources portfolios are attached. These mandates may be amended from time to time, as circumstances require. You have also been named Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board and will be called upon to respond to issues relating to that mandate.

In addition to the portfolios listed above, you will also serve as Chair of the Social Envelope Committee-of-Cabinet mandated to advance a clear interdepartmental perspective on programs and services related to the physical, mental and social well-being of NWT residents.

Our Caucus colleagues have placed their trust in us to lead the Government of the 17th Legislative Assembly. As a Cabinet, it is critical that we act with honesty, integrity and impartiality and uphold the highest ethical standards in carrying out the responsibilities that have been entrusted to us. To this end, I expect that you will always conduct yourself in a manner that will bear the closest possible scrutiny.

We have made an important commitment to transparency and accountability, and, wherever possible, we must ensure that regular Members of the Legislative Assembly are informed of, and given an opportunity to provide meaningful input into, important decisions. Open, respectful and considerate communications between all elected Members of our Assembly is a fundamental characteristic of our system of Consensus Government.

We must strive to be inclusive and to earn the support and respect of the residents of the Northwest Territories. As a public government, the GNWT represents all Northerners, and we must engage the public, municipal governments, industry, business, non-governmental organizations and the voluntary sector, seeking their input and advice. It is also important that we aspire to achieve a public service representative of the residents we serve.

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

It is a key priority of this government and the Legislative Assembly to build and maintain respectful government-to-government relations with Aboriginal governments. Aboriginal governments are essential partners in shaping the future and creating opportunities and prosperity in our communities and regions. It is, therefore, our collective responsibility to ensure that we each do our part in implementing the government-wide Aboriginal government engagement strategy.

Partnering with the Government of Canada is critical where we share common priorities and it will be our collective responsibility to advance the government's federal engagement strategy. Through honest dialogue, and by working together, we will move forward to resolve the challenges we collectively face.

As a Minister, you are required to fulfill many roles. You are responsible and accountable to the Cabinet and the Legislative Assembly for your assigned departments and agencies. To this end, you will need to work closely with your respective Deputy Ministers. Your Deputy Ministers are responsible for providing you with expert advice and support, and are accountable for the management and operations of their department.

As a Cabinet Minister, you are also responsible and accountable for the decisions taken by Cabinet as a whole. Our decisions must uphold the public good, by balancing the interests of all residents of the Northwest Territories. Full consideration of different, sometimes opposing, points of view is to be encouraged if Cabinet is to make informed decisions.

I look forward to working with you, our Cabinet colleagues and all members of the Legislative Assembly to do our very best for the people of the Northwest Territories.



Robert R. McLeod

Attachments

Minister of Justice:

- **Work with communities to develop a comprehensive, territory-wide, Community Safety Strategy.**
- **Work with communities and other Social Envelope Ministers to develop a collaborative approach to preventing and addressing crime.**
- **Work with the RCMP to implement the new Policing Agreement for 2012-32 and examine alternative public safety and policing models, with a focus on small communities.**
- **Support the efforts of our government to implement devolution of responsibilities for lands and resource management from the federal government to ensure decisions on northern development reflect the aspirations of NWT residents, communities and Aboriginal governments.**
- **Provide support and direction to the GNWT in meeting its legal requirements relating to Aboriginal consultation.**
- **Work with other Social Envelope Ministers to develop prevention and early intervention actions and reforms for individuals and families at risk.**
- **Work with other Social Envelope Ministers to develop and implement alternative programs for individuals with cognitive disabilities and mental health and/or addictions issues.**
- **Work with other Social Envelope Ministers to develop an Anti-Poverty strategy.**
- **Develop and implement a ten-year strategic plan for the Department of Justice.**
- **Enhance integration of programs and services for offenders.**
- **Develop options for increasing individual and community access to the justice system.**
- **Work to identify and mitigate the impacts of federal funding reductions and proposed changes to federal crime legislation on the GNWT justice system.**

Minister of Human Resources:

- **Negotiate new agreements with the UNW, the NWTTA and the NWT Medical Association in a way that balances providing effective programs and services to NWT residents, as well as respecting and supporting our employees, with using our limited resources effectively within the current fiscal environment.**
- **Lead the Department in fixing and stabilizing the foundation of core human resource services, including implementing significant corporate human resource information systems changes.**
- **Make progress in key areas within 20/20, the Public Service Strategic Plan, with a particular emphasis on health, wellness and safety of employees, diversity and staff development.**
- **Support the efforts of our government to implement devolution of responsibilities for lands and resource management from the federal government to ensure decisions on northern development reflect the aspirations of NWT residents, communities and Aboriginal governments.**
- **Review and modernize the legislative and policy frameworks affecting Human Resources management as appropriate.**
- **Facilitate the GNWT's work on organizational design to support the intent of Caucus' priority to increase employment opportunities where they are most needed.**



THE PREMIER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MAY - 9 2012

HONOURABLE GLEN ABERNETHY
MINISTER OF JUSTICE
MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES
MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

Portfolio Mandates

Further to the mandate letter issued to you April 2nd, 2012, I am writing to confirm that in addition to responsibilities for the Justice, Human Resources and Public Utilities Board portfolios, you have also been assigned responsibility the Public Works and Services portfolio.

Your appointment to the Public Works and Services portfolio took effect 5:00 p.m., April 25th 2012, and a specific mandate for the portfolio is attached.

There have been no other modifications to your other portfolios and the instructions set out in your mandate letter of April 2nd, 2012 continue to apply.

Thank you for assuming these new and important responsibilities.

Robert R. McLeod

Attachment

- c. Mr. Kevin Menicoche, Chair, SCOPP
Ms. Penny Ballantyne, Secretary to Cabinet
Mr. Alan Cash, Deputy Secretary to Cabinet

Minister of Public Works and Services:

- Work with departments to address aging infrastructure issues through the Capital Planning process and the Deferred Maintenance program.
- Work with other GNWT departments and jurisdictions across Canada to pursue opportunities for new federal infrastructure funding programs.
- Promote energy efficient buildings through the Capital Asset Retrofit Program and new infrastructure design to reduce the GNWT's consumption of and dependence on fossil fuels and the production of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Work with the Office of the Chief Information Officer to develop a plan to address bandwidth capacity issues and IT infrastructure challenges to support the delivery of GNWT programs and services and the advancement of the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link Project.
- Support the GNWT's Devolution negotiation and planning initiative, specifically in the areas of Property, Assets, Records, Contracts and Information Technology (PARCC).
- Support the efforts of our government to implement devolution of responsibilities for lands and resource management from the federal government to ensure decisions on northern development reflect the aspirations of NWT residents, communities and Aboriginal governments.
- Implement Procurement Shared Services across the GNWT to improve quality and consistency in service and to improve information collection and reporting.
- Explore supply and transportation alternatives in response to the challenge of fluctuating fuel prices in order to stabilize the cost of fuel products for Petroleum Products Division-served communities.

Ndets'q K'aoowo Gha Nakwee Wheda Wenght'ekp Nan Nj'k'oo Israts'at Gwicht Gwir't Deek't Ni Ts'en K'aldher Xa Tthe Theda Ts' Penhil'is Ghilada K'e
Aamkpaop Ahsiani Sivulqim Maqphajiqvina q' e' d' u' l' e' p' e' n' u' c' Bureau du Premier ministre K'rodhe Ndedhe eghalaenda K'eh Masnahkewikamkos ana obei K'inci Okimaw K'ahowe Ke gha Telaweda Peghalayida K'e
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THE PREMIER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

CHRONO

APR - 2 2012

HONOURABLE TOM BEAULIEU
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR SENIORS AND RESPONSIBLE FOR PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES

Portfolio Mandates

I am writing to provide further clarity with respect to the Ministerial portfolios assigned to you in November of 2011.

A specific mandate for Health and Social Services portfolio is attached. This mandate may be amended from time to time, as circumstances require. You have also been named Minister Responsible for Seniors and Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities, and will be called upon to respond to issues relating to these mandates.

Our Caucus colleagues have placed their trust in us to lead the Government of the 17th Legislative Assembly. As a Cabinet, it is critical that we act with honesty, integrity and impartiality and uphold the highest ethical standards in carrying out the responsibilities that have been entrusted to us. To this end, I expect that you will always conduct yourself in a manner that will bear the closest possible scrutiny.

We have made an important commitment to transparency and accountability, and, wherever possible, we must ensure that regular Members of the Legislative Assembly are informed of, and given an opportunity to provide meaningful input into, important decisions. Open, respectful and considerate communications between all elected Members of our Assembly is a fundamental characteristic of our system of Consensus Government.

We must strive to be inclusive and to earn the support and respect of the residents of the Northwest Territories. As a public government, the GNWT represents all Northerners, and we must engage the public, municipal governments, industry, business, non-governmental organizations and the voluntary sector, seeking their input and advice. It is also important that we aspire to achieve a public service representative of the residents we serve.

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It is a key priority of this government and the Legislative Assembly to build and maintain respectful government-to-government relations with Aboriginal governments. Aboriginal governments are essential partners in shaping the future and creating opportunities and prosperity in our communities and regions. It is, therefore, our collective responsibility to ensure that we each do our part in implementing the government-wide Aboriginal government engagement strategy.

Partnering with the Government of Canada is critical where we share common priorities and it will be our collective responsibility to advance the government's federal engagement strategy. Through honest dialogue, and by working together, we will move forward to resolve the challenges we collectively face.

As a Minister, you are required to fulfill many roles. You are responsible and accountable to the Cabinet and the Legislative Assembly for your assigned departments and agencies. To this end, you will need to work closely with your respective Deputy Ministers. Your Deputy Ministers are responsible for providing you with expert advice and support, and are accountable for the management and operations of their department.

As a Cabinet Minister, you are also responsible and accountable for the decisions taken by Cabinet as a whole. Our decisions must uphold the public good, by balancing the interests of all residents of the Northwest Territories. Full consideration of different, sometimes opposing, points of view is to be encouraged if Cabinet is to make informed decisions.

I look forward to working with you, our Cabinet colleagues and all members of the Legislative Assembly to do our very best for the people of the Northwest Territories.



Robert R. McLeod

Attachments

Minister of Health and Social Services:

- **Successfully negotiate an extension for the Territorial Health Services Sustainability Initiative (THSSI).**
- **Implement the strategic priorities outlined in *Building on Our Foundation 2011-2016: A Strategic Plan for NWT Health and Social Services System*, with particular emphasis on the following:**
 - **Reform governance of the health and social services system and improve measurement and accountability within the system.**
 - **Improve the availability and effectiveness of mental health and addictions treatment services in the Northwest Territories.**
 - **Develop an updated Integrated Service Delivery Model (ISDM) that outlines the appropriate mix of health and social services practitioners that should be located at the community, regional and territorial level.**
 - **Develop a Pharmaceutical Strategy for the NWT, resulting in more cost-effective acquisition of drugs.**
 - **Work with communities to support initiatives that promote increased understanding of the role of prevention in health and wellness.**
 - **Implement child and family services reform.**
- **In collaboration with Health and Social Services Authorities, assess the potential for cost savings and/or increased efficiencies within the system through the implementation of consolidated or shared service models.**
- **Working with Social Envelope Ministers, collaborate on the development of an Anti-poverty Strategy.**
- **Together with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, develop and implement a comprehensive Early Childhood Development Framework.**
- **Support the efforts of our government to implement devolution of responsibilities for lands and resource management from the federal government to ensure decisions on northern development reflect the aspirations of NWT residents, communities and Aboriginal governments.**

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I look forward to working with you, our Cabinet colleagues and all members of the Legislative Assembly to do our very best for the people of the Northwest Territories.

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Robert R. McLeod

Attachments



THE PREMIER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MAY - 9 2012

HONOURABLE JACKSON LAFFERTY
MINISTER OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND EMPLOYMENT
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WORKER'S SAFETY AND COMPENSATION
COMMISSION

Portfolio Mandates

Further to the mandate letter issued to you April 2nd, 2012, I am writing to confirm the recent amendment to your portfolio assignments.

You continue to hold the portfolios for Education, Culture and Employment and the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, and you continue as Deputy Premier; but effective 5:00 p.m., April 25th 2012 you no longer hold the Public Works and Services portfolio.

The revocation of your appointment as Minister of Public Works and Services is the only modification to your broader mandate and the other instructions set out in your mandate letter of April 2nd, 2012 continue to apply.

Robert R. McLeod

- c. Mr. Kevin Menicoche, Chair, SCOPP
Ms. Penny Ballantyne, Secretary to Cabinet
Mr. Alan Cash, Deputy Secretary to Cabinet

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Minister of Education, Culture and Employment:

- **Work with other signatories to implement the Aboriginal Student Achievement Education Plan and report on progress towards closing the gap in participation, completion and graduation rates between Aboriginal and non-aboriginal students and between NWT students and the national rates.**
- **Together with the Minister of Health and Social Services, develop and implement a comprehensive Early Childhood Development Framework.**
- **Working with Social Envelope Ministers, collaborate on the development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy.**
- **Develop, implement and report on French and Aboriginal Language Plans.**
- **In collaboration with the Ministers of Industry, Tourism and Investment and Human Resources, develop strategies and actions to increase employment opportunities where they are needed most.**
- **Develop a plan in response to the recommendations stemming from the review of the Student Financial Assistance Program to provide adequate levels of financial support to students and help develop a healthy, educated workforce and skills and human resources to meet the needs of northern communities.**
- **Support the efforts of our government to implement devolution of responsibilities for lands and resource management from the federal government to ensure decisions on northern development reflect the aspirations of NWT residents, communities and Aboriginal governments.**
- **Work with Yukon and Nunavut to develop a plan for University level education in the North.**
- **Continue the ongoing review of the Income Security System to revise policies and benefits to reduce dependency on government by encouraging capable people to enter or remain in the workforce.**
- **Work with the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment to support arts, culture and heritage programs.**
- **Lead the development of a culture and heritage strategic plan for the GNWT.**

Minister of Public Works and Services:

- **Work with departments to address aging infrastructure issues through the Capital Planning process and the Deferred Maintenance program.**
- **Work with other GNWT departments and jurisdictions across Canada to pursue opportunities for new federal infrastructure funding programs.**
- **Promote energy efficient buildings through the Capital Asset Retrofit Program and new infrastructure design to reduce the GNWT's consumption of and dependence on fossil fuels and the production of greenhouse gas emissions.**
- **Work with the Office of the Chief Information Officer to develop a plan to address bandwidth capacity issues and IT infrastructure challenges to support the delivery of GNWT programs and services and the advancement of the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link Project.**
- **Support the GNWT's Devolution negotiation and planning initiative, specifically in the areas of Property, Assets, Records, Contracts and Information Technology (PARCC).**
- **Support the efforts of our government to implement devolution of responsibilities for lands and resource management from the federal government to ensure decisions on northern development reflect the aspirations of NWT residents, communities and Aboriginal governments.**
- **Implement Procurement Shared Services across the GNWT to improve quality and consistency in service and to improve information collection and reporting.**
- **Explore supply and transportation alternatives in response to the challenge of fluctuating fuel prices in order to stabilize the cost of fuel products for Petroleum Products Division-served communities.**

Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations:

- Promote the negotiation and implementation of Aboriginal rights agreements in a manner that contributes to an overall effective and workable system of governance in the NWT.
- Through the Managing This Land Ministers' Committee, identify and find solutions to competing interests for land and resources.
- Develop intergovernmental service agreement negotiation mandates to identify the GNWT's program and service delivery role in a self-government environment.
- Develop and coordinate the implementation of a government-wide Aboriginal engagement strategy aimed at building and maintaining mutually respectful relations with Aboriginal governments.
- Develop and coordinate the implementation of a federal engagement strategy.
- Work with Canada and Aboriginal governments to address the issues of self-government financing.
- Support the efforts of our government to implement devolution of responsibilities for lands and resource management from the federal government to ensure decisions on northern development reflect the aspirations of NWT residents, communities and Aboriginal governments.

Minister of Executive:

- **Negotiate a Devolution Final Agreement and develop an implementation plan for responsible management of public lands and resources in the Northwest Territories.**
- **Lead engagement with Canada and Aboriginal Governments to develop effective post-devolution relationships.**
- **Work with Managing This Land Ministers to finalize a Land Use Sustainability Framework for the NWT.**
- **Coordinate the GNWT's participation in initiatives to improve the Northern regulatory regime.**
- **Work with Social Envelope Ministers on the development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy.**
- **Through the Program Review Office, undertake targeted reviews of GNWT programs and services to ensure effectiveness and to recommend improvements.**
- **Increase and improve interdepartmental planning, coordination and communication in support of cross-departmental government goals and priorities.**
- **Work with Cabinet colleagues to achieve results and report on progress in achieving the priorities identified by the 17th Legislative Assembly.**
- **Expand Single Window Service Centre initiative to additional communities to improve access to GNWT programs and services.**
- **Provide relevant statistical information and advice to departments, regional offices and central agencies to support decision making and effective delivery of programs and services.**
- **Strengthen effective relationships with members of the Legislative Assembly and Aboriginal governments in support of a strong and sustainable future for our territory.**


It is a key priority of this government and the Legislative Assembly to build and maintain respectful government-to-government relations with Aboriginal governments. Aboriginal governments are essential partners in shaping the future and creating opportunities and prosperity in our communities and regions. It is, therefore, our collective responsibility to ensure that we each do our part in implementing the government-wide Aboriginal government engagement strategy.

Partnering with the Government of Canada is critical where we share common priorities and it will be our collective responsibility to advance the government's federal engagement strategy. Through honest dialogue, and by working together, we will move forward to resolve the challenges we collectively face.

As a Minister, you are required to fulfill many roles. You are responsible and accountable to the Cabinet and the Legislative Assembly for your assigned departments and agencies. To this end, you will need to work closely with your respective Deputy Ministers. Your Deputy Ministers are responsible for providing you with expert advice and support, and are accountable for the management and operations of their department.

As a Cabinet Minister, you are also responsible and accountable for the decisions taken by Cabinet as a whole. Our decisions must uphold the public good, by balancing the interests of all residents of the Northwest Territories. Full consideration of different, sometimes opposing, points of view is to be encouraged if Cabinet is to make informed decisions.

I look forward to working with you, our Cabinet colleagues and all members of the Legislative Assembly to do our very best for the people of the Northwest Territories.



Robert R. McLeod

Attachments

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs:

- **Build capacity of community governments to meet their administrative and management responsibilities.**
- **Work with Social Envelope Ministers, communities and non-governmental organizations to review the delivery system to support sport, recreation and physical activity programs to help improve the overall health and wellness of NWT residents.**
- **Support the efforts of our government to implement devolution of responsibilities for lands and resource management from the federal government to ensure decisions on northern development reflect the aspirations of NWT residents, communities and Aboriginal governments.**
- **Undertake a review of the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and *Fire Prevention Act* to ensure that communities have the appropriate legislation, training and support to respond to community emergencies.**
- **Complete the Recreational Leasing Policy Framework.**
- **Work to align federal and territorial legislative and policy bases for administering public land post-devolution.**
- **Working with Social Envelope Ministers, collaborate on the development of an Anti-poverty Strategy.**
- **Develop and implement an accountability framework for community governments.**

Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation:

- **Complete the Shelter Policy Review and implement recommended changes to housing programs by implementing a new strategic framework for housing.**
- **Address the disincentive to work by implementing a new public housing rent scale that is fair and sustainable.**
- **Take steps to address declining CMHC funding for operating social housing.**
- **Make the collection of rent and mortgage arrears a priority in support of sustaining housing programs for NWT residents.**
- **Develop and implement an approach to improve housing services at a community level, including examining the relationship between the NWTHC and Local Housing Organizations.**
- **Continue to put higher density housing and energy efficient housing in small communities.**
- **Work with communities and other partners to ensure land is available for housing.**
- **Working with Social Envelope Ministers, collaborate on the development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy.**
- **Working with Social Envelope Ministers, strengthen the GNWT's supports along the housing continuum, including emergency shelters, transitional housing and approach to homelessness in all communities.**
- **Support the efforts of our government to implement devolution of responsibilities for lands and resource management from the federal government to ensure decisions on northern development reflect the aspirations of NWT residents, communities and Aboriginal governments.**
- **As Co-chair of F/P/T Housing Forum, work with other provinces and territories to engage the federal government on the need for ongoing federal investment in housing, based on need as opposed to per capita.**

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Atamkpaop Ahsiani Sivulqim Maqpraqiwinga ǀ'c'Δ'v' L'q'L'q' ʔ'ǂ'c'ǀ'v'ǀ'c' Bureau du Premier ministre K'aodhe Ndedhe eghlaenda K'eh Masimikewikamkos ana ohej K'ihci Okimaw K'ihowe Ke gha Zeleweda Zeghlayida K'e



THE PREMIER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

CHRONO

APR - 2 2012

HONOURABLE J. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER
MINISTER OF FINANCE
MINISTER ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES POWER CORPORATION
CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

Portfolio Mandates

I am writing to provide further clarity with respect to the Ministerial portfolios assigned to you in November of 2011.

Specific mandates for the Finance and Environment and Natural Resources portfolios are attached. These mandates may be amended from time to time, as circumstances require. You have also been named Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Chairman of the Financial Management Board, and Government House Leader and will be called upon to respond to issues relating to these mandates.

In addition to the portfolios listed above, you will also serve as Chair of the Refocusing Government Committee-of-Cabinet mandated to propose, track and evaluate efforts to improve operations, reduce red tape, and effectively manage resources.

Our Caucus colleagues have placed their trust in us to lead the Government of the 17th Legislative Assembly. As a Cabinet, it is critical that we act with honesty, integrity and impartiality and uphold the highest ethical standards in carrying out the responsibilities that have been entrusted to us. To this end, I expect that you will always conduct yourself in a manner that will bear the closest possible scrutiny.

We have made an important commitment to transparency and accountability, and, wherever possible, we must ensure that regular Members of the Legislative Assembly are informed of, and given an opportunity to provide meaningful input into, important decisions. Open, respectful and considerate communications between all elected Members of our Assembly is a fundamental characteristic of our system of Consensus Government.

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We must strive to be inclusive and to earn the support and respect of the residents of the Northwest Territories. As a public government, the GNWT represents all Northerners, and we must engage the public, municipal governments, industry, business, non-governmental organizations and the voluntary sector, seeking their input and advice. It is also important that we aspire to achieve a public service representative of the residents we serve.

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As a Minister, you are required to fulfill many roles. You are responsible and accountable to the Cabinet and the Legislative Assembly for your assigned departments and agencies. To this end, you will need to work closely with your respective Deputy Ministers. Your Deputy Ministers are responsible for providing you with expert advice and support, and are accountable for the management and operations of their department.

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I look forward to working with you, our Cabinet colleagues and all members of the Legislative Assembly to do our very best for the people of the Northwest Territories.



Robert R. McLeod

Attachments

Minister of Finance:

- Support the successful completion of a Devolution Final Agreement and Implementation Plan, specifically with respect to financing aspects and net fiscal benefit.
- Support the efforts of our government to implement devolution of responsibilities for lands and resource management from the federal government to ensure decisions on northern development reflect the aspirations of NWT residents, communities and Aboriginal governments.
- Establish and maintain a culture of prudent fiscal management by developing budgets that addresses the Legislative Assembly's priorities but also recognize the government's finite resources and respects our "Fiscal Responsibility Policy".
- Develop a strategy and long-term plan to manage and reduce the government's overall debt burden.
- Recognizing that our sources of revenue are at times volatile, develop a strategy and a plan with the objective of stabilizing our revenues for budgetary purposes.
- Advance the Mackenzie Valley Fibre-Optic Link Project through the P-3 process.
- Implement the Financial Shared Services model throughout the GNWT to improve government-wide information and reporting in support of transparency and decision-making.

Minister of Environment and Natural Resources:

- Undertake consultation in support of passing a new *Wildlife Act*.
- Lead collaborative implementation of the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy and Plan for Action with partners, including Aboriginal governments and communities.
- Negotiate trans-boundary water agreements with Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan.
- Coordinate GNWT participation in Environmental Assessment and regulatory processes.
- Work with planning boards, federal government, GNWT departments and the public to finalize land use plans within the Dehcho and Sahtu Regions and to provide direction and approval in the 5 year review of the Gwich'in Land Use Plan.
- Take action on Climate Change by implementing actions outlined in the Greenhouse Gas Strategy and advancing community-based alternative energy initiatives.
- Implement the Barren Ground Caribou Management Strategy and recommendations from the Forest Fire Management Program Review with available resources.
- Conduct a review of the Waste Reduction and Recovery Program and expand the program in areas identified in the review.
- Lead the implementation of the NWT Traditional Knowledge Policy.
- As lead for the NWT Science Agenda, work collaboratively with federal and academic partners to ensure northern research and monitoring activities reflect the priorities of NWT residents.
- Work collaboratively with the department of the Executive towards a final agreement and implementation planning for the devolution of land and resource authorities to the GNWT.
- Support the efforts of our government to implement devolution of responsibilities for lands and resource management from the federal government to ensure decisions on northern development reflect the aspirations of NWT residents, communities and Aboriginal governments.

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THE PREMIER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

CHRONO

APR - 2 2012

HONOURABLE DAVID RAMSAY
MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND INVESTMENT

Portfolio Mandates

I am writing to provide further clarity with respect to the Ministerial portfolios assigned to you in November of 2011.

Specific mandates for the Industry, Tourism and Investment and Transportation portfolios are attached. These mandates may be amended from time to time, as circumstances require.

In addition to the portfolios listed above, you will also serve as Chair of the Economic and Employment Development Committee-of-Cabinet mandated to consider, evaluate and provide advice on a range of actions concerning economic development and employment strategies.

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Robert R. McLeod

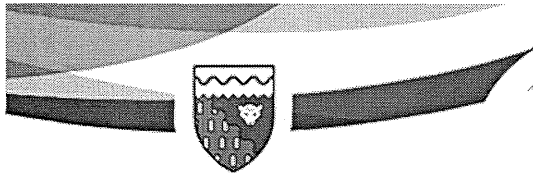
Attachments

Minister of Transportation:

- Pursue the construction of the Inuvik-Tuk Highway by leading the development of procurement and financing options, as well as completing the environmental review phase of the project, which includes the collection of environmental baseline and geotechnical information.
- Continue to work with aboriginal governments and aboriginal groups on the Mackenzie Valley Highway and lead efforts to secure federal funding to advance the Wrigley to Dempster segment of the route through the regulatory phase.
- Lead the enhancement of the Motor Vehicle Information System (MVIS) to ensure the system is sustainable into the future, protect data integrity and provide better services to residents.
- Pursue federal infrastructure funding to develop a long-range infrastructure investment agreement that provides flexibility to address Northwest Territories priorities, allocates funding on a base rather than per capita formula, and specifically address the strategic needs of the North.
- Advance the re-alignment of the Ingraham Trail away from the Giant Mine site to facilitate remediation work and mitigate potential health and safety risks to local residents.
- Lead the review of options to facilitate economic development opportunities by improving transportation infrastructure, including assessing the feasibility of constructing a seasonal overland road (SOR) as a P3 project to replace the southern portion of the ice road to the diamond mines.
- Support the efforts of our government to implement devolution of responsibilities for lands and resource management from the federal government to ensure decisions on northern development reflect the aspirations of NWT residents, communities and Aboriginal governments.
- Work with the Tłıchǵ government and Chiefs to move forward with the work related to project description reports (PDR) for realigning the Tłıchǵ seasonal road to Whatì and Gametì.
- Lead the Department's activities related to the completion of the Deh Cho Bridge across the Mackenzie River at Fort Providence and implementation of the automated toll tracking system.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment:

- **Develop and implement an Economic Development Strategy for the NWT that targets all regions and all sectors of our economy.**
- **Develop and implement a Mineral Development Strategy that will increase mineral exploration expenditures to ensure long-term sustainability of the minerals sector, maximize NWT resident employment and business opportunities, ensure achievement of Socio-economic Agreement commitments, and increase NWT value-added opportunities.**
- **Support the efforts of our government to implement devolution of responsibilities for lands and resource management from the federal government to ensure decisions on northern development reflect the aspirations of NWT residents, communities and Aboriginal governments.**
- **Lead in the development and coordination of energy policy and planning for the GNWT, including the development of a renewed NWT Energy Plan, considering greater use of local and renewable energy sources in the NWT, and reducing the cost and impact of our energy use on the environment.**
- **Lead GNWT efforts to promote the development of the Mackenzie Gas Project, and planning and preparation required to ensure NWT benefits are maximized.**
- **Develop programs and initiatives in support of the NWT traditional and renewable economy, to increase economic benefits and traditional lifestyles for NWT residents, communities and businesses.**
- **Facilitate diversification of the NWT economy by providing support and programming for activities that add value to NWT products and services, build business capacity, and expand the skills of NWT residents and businesses.**
- **Develop and implement tourism strategies with partners in the NWT tourism industry that promote the north, develop tourism and parks opportunities and awareness, develop tourism products and facilities, develop Aboriginal tourism and cultural interpretation products, and bring visitors to the NWT.**
- **In collaboration with the Ministers of Education, Culture and Employment and Human Resources; develop strategies and actions to increase employment opportunities and support arts, culture and heritage programs.**
- **Working with Social Envelope Ministers, collaborate on the development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy.**



Government of / Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories / Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NEWS RELEASE

New and Improved Features Highlight Opening of 2012 NWT Parks Season

YELLOWKNIFE (May 15, 2012) -- The 2012 parks season officially begins today and two new initiatives from the GNWT's Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) are making it easier than ever for visitors to access the NWT's extensive Parks system.

Potential patrons can now visit www.nwtparks.ca – an informative and user-friendly online resource for everything to do with the NWT's 34 parks that contains interactive maps, events calendars, photo galleries, and links to campsite bookings within a sleek, redesigned interface.

In addition, the 2012 parks season features the launch of a North Slave multi-park seasonal day-use permit, giving park users full summer access to day-use facilities at the Fred Henne, Prelude Lake, and Reid Lake campgrounds for \$50.

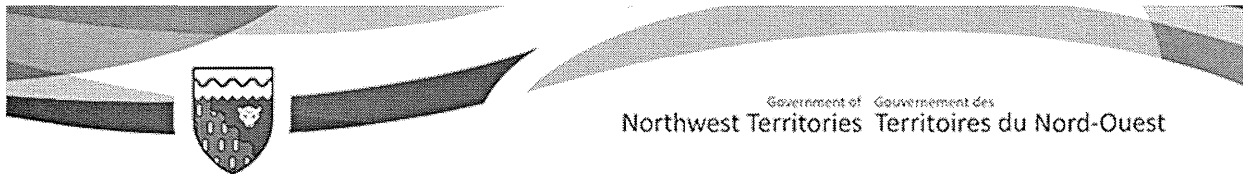
"Our parks and campgrounds attract thousands of visitors every summer, and these initiatives reflect our continued effort to give them the best experience possible," said Minister David Ramsay. "These improvements will enhance the NWT parks experience for all users, whether they be local residents getting away for a weekend or travelers seeking to discover and experience the beauty of our North."

Both the North Slave multi-park seasonal day-use permit and www.nwtparks.ca were developed and implemented in response to public requests.

Continued investment in the NWT's spectacular parks infrastructure is key to supporting and growing tourism in the NWT – a priority in the 17th Legislative Assembly's commitment to strengthen and diversify the NWT's economy.

For more information, contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

GNWT Takes First Steps toward Child and Family Resource Centres

YELLOWKNIFE (May 18, 2012) – The Government of the Northwest Territories recently met with Aboriginal and social program leaders to collaboratively discuss child and family resources available in the NWT and the development of Child and Family Resource Centres.

Topics such as brain development in early childhood, the Early Development Instrument, healthy families, and existing resources were discussed. Several action items were declared, including community ownership and a focus on improving programming and supports for children aged 0-3 and their families.

“I am pleased to have participated with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and stakeholders to begin the work developing child and family services resource centres,” says the Honourable Tom Beaulieu, Minister of Health and Social Services. “By working together, we can improve the lives of children through improving our supports to family.”

Range Lake MLA Daryl Dolynny said, “As Deputy Chair of the Legislative Assembly’s Standing Committee on Social Programs and co-chair of the Advisory Meeting on Child and Family Resource Centres, it was very clear that making effective Early Childhood programming available to northern families, especially from 0-3 years of age, may be the single most important thing we can do to create a healthy, prosperous and just society in the Northwest Territories.”

“Early childhood development is imperative for the future of the Northwest Territories,” said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. “The expertise of the Aboriginal and social program leaders will continue to be heard to assist us in bettering support for communities, families and parents.”

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Aboriginal Participation in Devolution Grows: Sahtu Re-engage in Negotiations

YELLOWNIFE (May 22, 2012) – The Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated (SSI) has rejoined NWT devolution negotiations.

“The Sahtu Dene and Métis have been important participants throughout the devolution negotiations process since 2001, and we are pleased that SSI has joined us again to help shape the final agreement,” said Premier McLeod. “We welcome all NWT regional Aboriginal governments to participate at the negotiations table and ensure the voices and priorities of their people are reflected in this historic agreement. While devolution does not affect Aboriginal and treaty rights, Aboriginal governments should take the opportunity to work together and help ensure the best possible devolution agreement for everyone in the NWT.”

"The Government of Canada is pleased to see the Sahtu seize this opportunity to help shape the future of the territory and share in the benefits that will flow from devolution," said the Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. "The Government of Canada's Northern Strategy envisions putting greater decision making in the hands of the people of the Northwest Territories. Working together through devolution, land claim and self-government negotiations and other initiatives, we will achieve remarkable progress towards this objective."

"We are pleased that the Sahtu have rejoined the negotiations and we look forward to working with them as we move forward," said Nellie Cournoyea, Chair and CEO of Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC). "The participation of the Sahtu will bring additional depth and strength to the Aboriginal voice in these important negotiations, and will contribute to a more productive relationship with the GNWT and the development of a devolution agreement that will work for all regions of the NWT."

“We welcome our northern cousins to the devolution family with open arms,” said Betty Villebrun President of the NWT Métis Nation (NWTMN). “Together, we can bring northern decision making on land and resources to the North, where it rightfully belongs.

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

Office of the Press Secretary • Premier/Cabinet
Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9
Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111

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.”

“I am very pleased to see the Sahtu taking this step today,” said Norman Yakeleya, MLA Sahtu. “It is important for the Sahtu to be at the table to have their views represented. It’s always better to negotiate your own fate than to have others do it for you. The Sahtu are now owning up to 100 percent of our responsibility to determine our destiny.”

NWT lands and resources devolution will transfer administrative authority and control over public lands, resources and rights in respect of water in the Northwest Territories from the Government of Canada to the GNWT. After devolution, the GNWT will be responsible for the management of public lands and natural resources in the NWT, including the delivery of related public programs, and will have the right to keep a share of the resource development royalties collected on NWT public lands. The GNWT will share up to 25% of its royalties with NWT Aboriginal governments – a sharing unprecedented in Canada. The Government of Canada, GNWT, IRC, NWTMN and SSI are currently in the final stage of devolution negotiations. Negotiations are expected to conclude in 2012.

For more information on NWT lands and resources devolution, visit www.gov.nt.ca.

For further information, please contact:

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Backgrounder: NWT Lands and Resources Devolution

The transfer or 'devolution' of federal powers to the provinces and territories has happened many times in the history of Canada and the Northwest Territories (NWT). Since 1967, the NWT has received provincial-type authority over health care, education, social services, highways, airport administration and forestry management in a number of separate transfers.

NWT lands and resources devolution will transfer administrative authority and control over public lands, resources and waters in the NWT from the Government of Canada to the GNWT. This will include authority to decide how Crown (public) lands and natural resources in the NWT are used and managed, including final approval for resource development projects. These powers currently rest with the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC).

After devolution, the GNWT will be responsible for the design and delivery of public programs related to land and resource management in the NWT, and will see its annual transfer payments from the Government of Canada increased to reflect the cost of providing services related to these new responsibilities. The GNWT will also have the right to collect and keep a share of the royalties from resource development on NWT Crown lands, which currently go directly to the federal government. This percentage is comparable to the arrangements provinces have under Equalization.

The GNWT has committed to sharing its royalties with NWT Aboriginal governments to help build their capacity: a revenue-sharing arrangement that is unprecedented in Canada. In addition to royalties, Aboriginal groups will benefit from a range of subjects being negotiated under the AiP, including a post-devolution bilateral agreement with the GNWT to coordinate and cooperate in the management of lands and natural resources.

The latest efforts to achieve a devolution agreement date back to the first meeting of the NWT Intergovernmental Forum in May 2000, when Aboriginal, territorial and federal government leaders identified lands and resources devolution as a priority. All agreed that transferring control of natural resources would promote the self-sufficiency and prosperity of the NWT by providing important economic development capacity to NWT governments and reducing their reliance on federal funding.

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The most recent milestones in the negotiations have been the Devolution Framework Agreement and the Devolution Agreement-in-Principle (AiP). The Framework Agreement was signed in 2004 by the Government of Canada, GNWT and Aboriginal Summit, a caucus representing most of the NWT's Aboriginal groups.

Following the dissolution of the Aboriginal Summit in 2007, its member Aboriginal groups participated independently in negotiations and some chose to withdraw from active negotiations. To date, the Devolution AiP has been signed by three Aboriginal governments: the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Northwest Territory Métis Nation and, most recently, the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated.

The signatories to the AiP are currently in the final stage of negotiations for the devolution of NWT public lands and natural resources. Other NWT Aboriginal governments may join the negotiations at any time. Final negotiations are expected to conclude in 2012. Implementation of the final agreement is expected to take approximately 18 months.

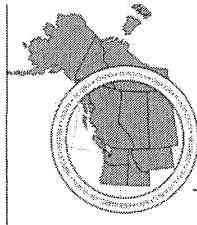
For more information on NWT lands and resources devolution, visit www.gov.nt.ca.

For further information, please contact:

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Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

Increased Investment and Development Benefit Alaska, Yukon and NWT

For Immediate Release: 22 May 2012

Media Contact: Matt Morrison

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The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Arctic Caucus met last week in Whitehorse, Yukon. Formed in 2009, this partnership between Alaska, Northwest Territories and Yukon provides a forum to share information, discuss issues of mutual concern, and identify areas for collaboration between the three jurisdictions and the rest of North America.

Over 50 delegates attended the Whitehorse gathering, including legislators and business leaders from Yukon, Alaska and Northwest Territories, as well as from Washington, Oregon and B.C. The conference addressed key issues of tourism, research and innovation and innovative aboriginal economic development examples in the region. Speakers came from the public sector, private sector and academia. Friday's luncheon keynote speaker described the role of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.

The Arctic Caucus has explored tourism, trade, resource development and transportation challenges, among other issues. Rep. Bob Herron, leader of the Alaska delegation, noted that "the Caucus is in a good position to develop and highlight best practices and innovative solutions to challenges, solutions that should also be spread throughout the region."

Minister David Ramsay, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment for the Government of Northwest Territories, has been the chair of the Arctic Caucus during the past year. The caucus hosted a major meeting in the US Capitol in Washington, DC in March. Minister Ramsay, said, "The Arctic Caucus has proven to be a valuable forum for identifying key issues in our northern regions. Collaboration is crucial in giving us a stronger voice to bring these issues forward to other governments and to improve our cross jurisdictional economic development opportunities."

During the meeting in Whitehorse, the position of Caucus Chair was passed to Currie Dixon, Yukon Minister of Environment and Economic Development. "Yukon is very proud to assume the responsibilities of Chair of the Arctic Caucus," Dixon Said. "We see the Caucus as a key mechanism for collaboration in pursuing our common goals and objectives, With the growing national and international interest in the north it is increasingly important for northern jurisdictions to engage with each other to strengthen our collective voice."

Addressing the issues – whether tourism or economic development – that affect northern communities, requires special attention to the scale and unique challenges of living in the North. Knowledge is a key vehicle to develop capacity and relate it to community concerns. There is a clear need for an educated populace and trained workforce; at the same time input from local communities is incorporated into research and economic development activities.

An overarching theme of the Arctic Caucus meeting last week was the importance of infrastructure for economic development. One of the challenges identified is that future infrastructure must be managed for integration with current infrastructure. Energy and transportation infrastructure were important themes, both of which are necessary for thriving economies and healthy peoples. Examples of success stories in aboriginal development corporations and the Alaska Industrial Development Authority were discussed as innovative ways to leverage capital for infrastructure investment.

Tourism is also dependent on infrastructure. Tourism challenges include accessibility, high costs, and shortage of labor, as well as market competition, road conditions, and general lack of awareness. The importance and value of locally owned regional air carriers was a key element in this session as well. A pan-territorial marketing campaign, to include Alaska, was suggested as an action item for the PNWER Arctic Caucus to facilitate.

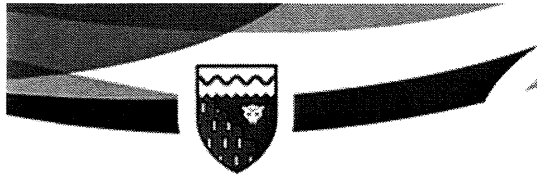
The meeting concluded Saturday with the endorsement of an Action Plan for northern development which will be pursued over the next year. The next annual meeting of the Arctic Caucus is to be hosted by Alaska in Anchorage, Alaska July 14 – 18, 2013.

PNWER, as North America's largest public-private partnership, has a role in increasing advocacy for Arctic issues; recognizing a distinct economic region, and sharing best practices across the US – Canada border. Previous Arctic Caucus meetings have taken place in Barrow, Alaska in 2010; Yellowknife, NWT in 2011; and next Arctic Caucus annual meeting will be held July 14 – 18, 2013 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Additional contacts

Yukon: Elaine Schiman – 867-633-7961

PNWER: Gabrielle Nomura - 206-443-7723



Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Celebrates One Millionth Visitor

YELLOWKNIFE (May 24, 2012) – Ten days after its 33rd anniversary, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) celebrated its one millionth visitor, who entered the building during a public program organized by Ecology North on the morning of April 26, 2012.

The millionth visitor was Starr McLachlan, who visited the PWNHC with her year-old daughter, Ula, newborn son, Stig, and mother-in-law, Ann McLachlan. They were participating in the Eco Mamas and Papas event, one of the family-oriented Earth Week activities hosted at the museum by Ecology North. The PWNHC provides space for community participation in a wide range of events and activities related to the arts, culture and heritage of the NWT.

“I am thrilled to learn the one millionth visitor was the mother of a young family interested in learning more about the natural and cultural heritage of the north,” says Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. “It is especially significant that this happened during an event hosted by one of our community partners who share the value of public education with the outreach programming objectives of the Northern Heritage Centre.”

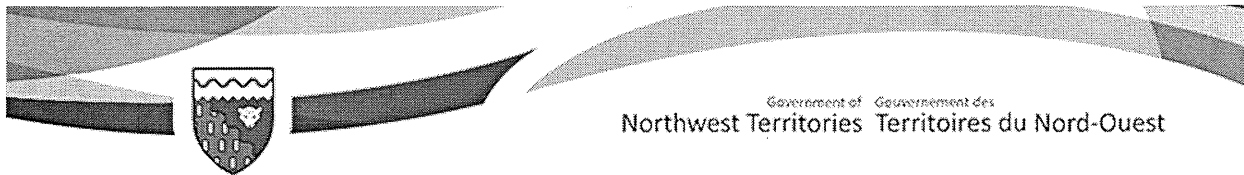
The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre opened on April 16, 1979, with just over 14,000 visitors during the first year of operation. Over the past decade, the museum has earned a reputation as one of the top tourism destinations in the Northwest Territories. Annual visitation has increased to approximately 35,000 yearly visitors from all NWT communities and over 25 countries. Visitor statistics are compiled daily by security staff.

Starr is a true northerner who was born in Inuvik and grew up in Tsiigehtchic, Kugluktuk, Fort Smith, Pine Point and Yellowknife. She currently lives in Yellowknife with her family, and visiting the museum has been a family affair for as long as she can remember. As a young girl she remembers being a regular at the PWNHC’s Amazing Family Sundays events along with her sisters Ella and Cleo and her mom, Karin.

To celebrate and recognize Starr as the PWNHC’s one millionth visitor, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment will honour her at a later date with a museum plaque and a culturally appropriate gift, a Dene baby belt, handcrafted in the NWT with moosehide, canvas, beads and stroud. The gift symbolizes the importance of family and the strong bond between parents and babies.

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NEWS RELEASE

Budget Protects Programs and Services and Rebuilds for the Future

YELLOWKNIFE (May 24, 2012) – Today, Finance Minister J. Michael Miltenberger presented the first budget of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

The 2012-13 Budget projects an operating surplus of \$74 million; returning the GNWT to its first surplus in five years. The Budget includes no new taxes. However, effective April 1, 2012, property tax mill rates, liquor mark-ups and a number of fees were adjusted for inflation.

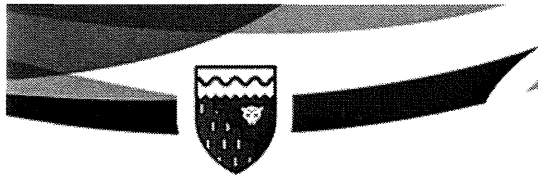
“The large capital investments the last government made have paid off and we are seeing the return of private investment and signs of recovery in most industries. In keeping with our plan, we are ending our fiscal stimulus and restoring the balance between revenue and expenditures,” said Minister Miltenberger. “Given our fiscal reality, we are focusing on protecting existing programs and services and rebuilding for the future.”

The 2012-13 Budget proposes \$35 million in new funding to meet the priorities of the 17th Legislative Assembly. This includes investments in housing, community safety, energy initiatives, and economic development.

Highlights of specific initiatives of the 2012-13 Budget are included in the attached [Budget Highlights document](#). The 2012-13 Budget Address and Main Estimates can be found on the [Department of Finance website](#).

For more information, contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

NWT Educators Honoured at Hall of Fame Ceremony

YELLOWKNIFE (May 29, 2012) – Seven Northwest Territories residents were honoured this morning as inductees into the Education Hall of Fame. The third 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 the foundation of 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 their commitment, diligence, creativity and passion that we want education to inspire in us all."

The Education Hall of Fame identifies and celebrates outstanding commitment 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 2012 Education Hall of Fame inductees are:

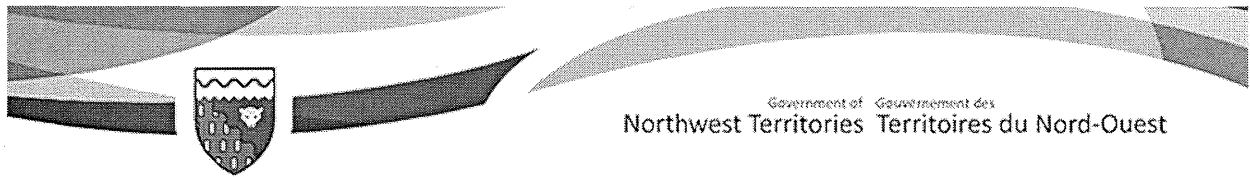
- Helen Kitekudlak from Ulukhaktok;
- Betty Barnaby from Fort Good Hope;
- Chris Baron from Behchoko;
- Angela James from Yellowknife;
- Margaret Thom from Fort Providence;

- Kevin Antoniak from Fort Smith; and
- Dr. Curtis Brown from Fort Smith as the Minister's Choice Award.

More information on the 2012 inductees is available in the attached backgrounder.

For more information, contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

NWT Educators Honoured at Hall of Fame Ceremony

BACKGROUND – Education Hall of Fame

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment launched the Education Hall of Fame in 2010 to recognize that we all play an important role in supporting the education of our children. It reflects the valuable contributions that people make as educators, Elders, custodians, administrators, volunteers, coaches, students, advocates, sponsors and businesses.

2012 Inductees

Helen Kitekudlak is the community counselor at Helen Kalvak School in Ulukhaktok. Since beginning work in the classroom as a teenager and for the past 40 years, she has shown a genuine desire to make a difference to the people of the Beaufort Delta through education and partnerships. Helen takes great pride in her work and is a positive influence on all the students.

She received her teaching certificate from Aurora College and her Bachelor of Education from the University of Saskatchewan. She has taught all grades from one to nine and has a great understanding of her students. Helen believes in working with each student's strengths and making a positive and lasting impression on her students. She has the respect and admiration of her colleagues, the students and the entire community.

Betty Barnaby of Fort Good Hope is both a teacher and a student. Throughout her 20 year career, she has always believed in the power of education and instills that belief in her community. Betty has always gone above and beyond in pursuit of education. She has continually returned to school to expand her knowledge. She recently graduated from Aurora College with her Bachelor of Education degree and is now another step closer to her dream of receiving her Masters of Education.

Chris Baron has been an active Kindergarten to Grade 5 educator in the Tlicho region for the past 25 years. Chris started her career as a teacher in Saskatchewan before coming north to Gameti. She spent 5 years teaching at Jean Wetrade Gameti School and then moved to Behchoko, where she has taught for the past 20 years. She is a strong advocate for literacy, and has always placed emphasis on teaching her students to be strong readers. Chris believes in teaching every child, at their own level, to be the best that they can be, and to appreciate their own cultural identity.

Angela James is known throughout the North as an educator who believes in the importance of community and culture in the school. Over a career that spans more than 20 years, Angela taught English and French in Yellowknife for 6 years before operating the Dene Cultural Camps with her family, for all schools in Yellowknife. In their last year of hosting the camps, more than 2000 students from Grades 1 to 12 participated in the learning adventure where they experienced the heritage, culture and language of the Dene people. This experience was the basis of her thesis for her Master's Degree in educational leadership: "Dene Cultural Camps: A Culture-Based Educational Model for Aboriginal Education in the Northwest Territories."

During her 12-year tenure as Principal, K'alemi Dene School has become a community centre for cultural and social activity as well as learning. Her introduction of the School Elder program has given Weledeh culture an honoured and integral place in student life. Recently, Angela took on the leadership role of Director of Early Childhood and School Services with ECE.

Margaret Thom has contributed to the education of her people through her work as Community Counselor at Deh Gah Elementary and Secondary School for over 20 years. She has taken a lead role in supporting graduates by travelling with them to visit post-secondary institutes, assisting them in the application process, exploring funding options with them and even travelling with them to secure housing and orient them to their new community. She continued her support of many students after they left her school and went on in their education journeys. Margaret recognizes the importance of traditional teachings in education and she has made sure that the culture, value and beliefs of the people of the Deh Cho are present in all the school does, from counseling to parental involvement to classroom work. Through her ability to share her knowledge and passion, students and staff receive a strong grounding in the culture of the people whose land they live on. In 2009, Margaret became the first Elder Representative on the Aurora College Board of Governors. She is now impacting students and educators from Kindergarten to the College level and ensuring that the importance of education is highlighted in the community and that culture is in the forefront of our education system.

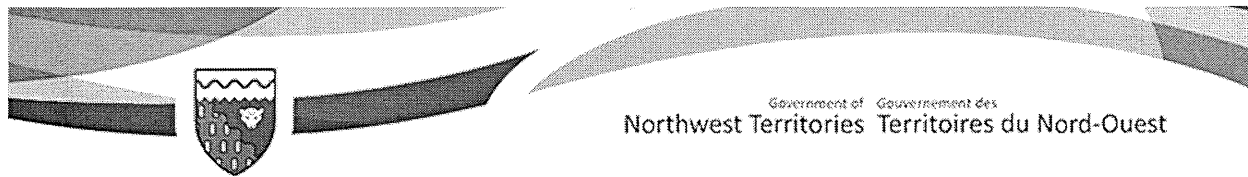
Kevin Antoniak has been an instructor at Aurora College's Thebacha Campus in the Environment and Natural Resources Technology Program for 30 years. Throughout his career, Kevin delivered difficult content, like botany and statistics, in a straight forward and easy to understand manner. He positions students to achieve success through clearly defined evaluation and continually pushing them beyond their comfort zones. His instructional methodology has always been hands-on and developmental, in manageable and achievable steps. Much of Kevin's instructional work has taken place in the field, where he has continually provided excellence in instruction, often under difficult conditions. He has played a significant role in the convocation of approximately 200 diploma graduates, many of whom now comprise 20% of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' entire workforce.

Dr. Curtis Brown has spent the past 24 years expanding horizons for youth throughout the Northwest Territories and Nunavut as teacher, principal and Superintendent. Through these roles and his commitment to excellence in teaching, he has had a lasting and profound impact in the areas of school leadership, student achievement and the development of innovative and inclusive programming. Curtis played an instrumental role in developing the Principal Certification Program, which is a required course for all principals in the NWT, and ensuring its continued success 20 years later. It comes as no surprise, given his interest and passion for building leadership capacity that his doctoral thesis was in the area of school leadership. His focus on student achievement provides a glimpse into his visionary and dedicated service to students, including directing the development of an innovative and effective literacy program in the South Slave, which has dramatically benefitted hundreds of students.

Throughout his career, Curtis has been a strong advocate for alternative programming and expanded opportunities for students. While serving as Principal of Chief Jimmy Bruneau School (1991-1994), his efforts to extend and expand programming for students received national attention and his school was heralded as "the school where students are dropping back in".

More recently, in his role as Superintendent of the South Slave Divisional Education Council, he provided direct support in the creation of the territory's first "Store Front School" that has become the model for other alternative programs in the NWT. Since inception, the Phoenix School has provided an alternative educational setting for more than 200 students. In just three years of operation, the school has celebrated the graduation of 30 students - many of whom had been disengaged and had left school.

His "student first" attitude has not gone unnoticed. He was presented with the Canadian Superintendent of the Year award in 2011, awarded by the Canadian Association of School Administrators.



NEWS RELEASE

Youth Programs Profiled for the United Nations International Year of Youth

YELLOWKNIFE (June 6, 2012) – Today the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister Responsible for Youth, released a report that profiles youth programs that took place in the NWT during the United Nations International Year of Youth, 2010-11.

“Youth across the NWT need to be supported and celebrated for their unique contributions to our communities,” said Minister McLeod. “This report showcases some of the unique ways they add creative and valuable insight to their communities. These programs help youth to develop meaningful skills, and will ensure a sustainable, vibrant, and safe future for the NWT.”

The programs were all supported by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, and included elder and youth forums, traditional knowledge camps, sporting events, and ongoing youth development programs like the NWT Youth Ambassador Program.

The report is available online at <http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/>.

The United Nations General Assembly recognized 2010-2011 as the International Year of Youth, with a focus on dialogue and mutual understanding. This celebration coincided with the 25th anniversary of the original International Youth year in 1985 and recognized the importance of youth development and meaningful participation in all aspects of society.

Supporting youth in our communities is an important step in ensuring the NWT has healthy, educated people free from poverty. It also builds sustainable, vibrant, and safe communities across the territory, as envisioned in the 17th Assembly’s priorities as outlined in *Believing in Our People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners*.

For more information, contact:

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Municipal and Community Affairs
Government of the Northwest Territories
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Mental Health
Commission
of Canada

Commission de
la santé mentale
du Canada



Northwest
Territories

News Release

**Government of Northwest Territories Welcomes
*Changing Directions, Changing Lives: The Mental Health Strategy for Canada***

YELLOWKNIFE (June 7, 2012) – Building on last month’s overwhelmingly successful release of Canada’s first-ever mental health strategy, the Mental Health Commission of Canada is in Yellowknife to launch *Changing Directions, Changing Lives: The Mental Health Strategy for Canada*. The Strategy was shaped and informed by the experiences and input from thousands of Canadians, including considerable engagement in Northwest Territories.

“The release of this Strategy marks a historic milestone for our country, the millions of Canadians living with mental health problems and illnesses, their families and, all those who are working to ensure that every Canadian can enjoy the best mental health,” said Commission President and CEO, Louise Bradley. “Ensuring that the mental health needs of people in Northwest Territories are met will require participation on all levels, working together in areas like funding, incentives for professionals in remote regions, enhanced training locally, and better use of technologies.”

The Commission is holding regional events across the country to extend the conversation about how the Strategy can improve mental health and about what can be done to bring the Strategy to life in our communities. While in Yellowknife, Commission representatives presented the Strategy to members of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, as well as members of the Legislative Assembly, representatives from Aboriginal community health organizations, family caregivers and government officials.

“Mental health is an issue that affects us all,” said Tom Beaulieu, Minister of Health and Social Services. “We are pleased that our northern voice was heard in the development of this National Strategy on Mental Health, and even more pleased to be part of the northern launch of *Changing Directions, Changing Lives*. I am also happy that many of

our territorial partners were able to be with us today. I look forward to our continued collaboration on this important issue.”

The release of *Changing Directions, Changing Lives: The Mental Health Strategy for Canada* marks the first time that Canada has created a shared vision and set of priorities that will guide the efforts of the public and private sector, the service delivery sector and all Canadians to improve mental health outcomes.

It sets out recommendations for change that promise to improve quality of life for Canadians in every province and territory, grouping them into six key strategic directions:

1. Promote mental health across the lifespan in homes, schools and workplaces, and prevent mental illness wherever possible;
2. Foster recovery and well-being for people of all ages living with mental health problems and illnesses, and uphold their rights;
3. Provide access to the right combination of services, treatments and supports, when and where people need them;
4. Reduce disparities in risk factors and access to mental health services, and strengthen the response to the needs of diverse communities and Northerners;
5. Work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis to address their mental health needs, acknowledging their distinct circumstances, rights and cultures; and,
6. Mobilize leadership, improve knowledge and foster collaboration at all levels.

ABOUT THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION OF CANADA

The Mental Health Commission of Canada is a catalyst for change. We are collaborating with hundreds of partners to change the attitudes of Canadians toward mental health problems and to improve services and support. Our goal is to help people who live with mental health problems and illnesses lead meaningful and productive lives. Together we spark change.

The Mental Health Commission of Canada is funded by Health Canada.

www.mentalhealthcommission.ca

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

Office of the Press Secretary • Premier/Cabinet
Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9
Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111

strategy.mentalhealthcommission.ca

Contact:

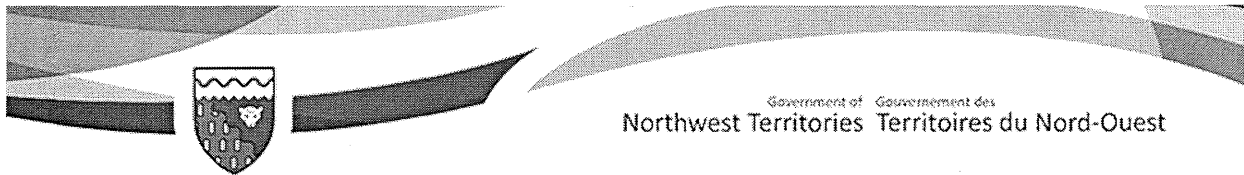
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Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111



NEWS RELEASE

Premier's Awards Honour GNWT Employees and Partners

YELLOWKNIFE (June 8, 2012) – Premier Bob McLeod will honour 80 recipients and several organizations with Premier's Awards for Excellence and Collaboration. The ceremony will be held in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.

The Premier's Awards 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 employees who work in partnership with individuals outside the GNWT to improve service for NWT residents.

"Innovative, engaged staff are essential in providing the best possible service to the people of the Northwest Territories," said the Premier. "I'm very pleased to have the opportunity to recognize award recipients within the GNWT and our partners. They have worked together to make government programs and services more efficient and effective."

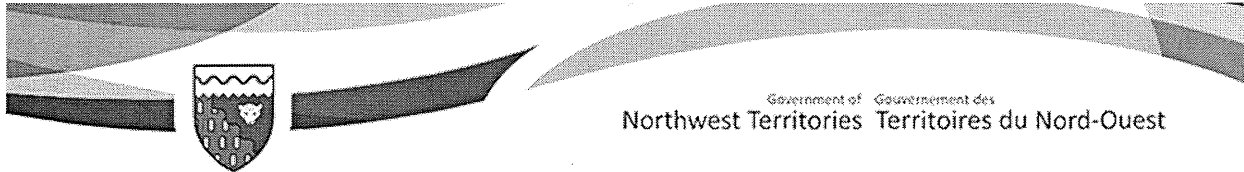
This year's ceremony will include the presentation of the Dave Ramsden Career Excellence Award to Ms. Bronwyn Watters, Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice. In her 34-year career with the government, Ms. Watters made many contributions to social policy in the Northwest Territories, including development of a GNWT child care policy and legislative initiatives such as the Nursing Professions Act, Child and Family Services Act, Adoption Act and Aboriginal Custom Adoption Act.

The list of 2012 Premier's Awards recipients is below.

For more information, contact:

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Cathy Jewison
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NEWS RELEASE

2012 Premiers Awards

Premier's Award for Excellence (Individual)

Mr. Douglas Krause, Manager Information Systems, Department of Transportation, Yellowknife

Ms. Margaret Dawn Anderson, Acting Assistant Director, Corrections Services, Department of Justice, Yellowknife

Mr. Jim Stevens, Director, Mackenzie Valley Highway, Department of Transportation, Yellowknife

Premier's Award for Excellence (Team)

Stanton Territorial Health Authority Tobacco-Free Steering Committee Team, Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Yellowknife

Mr. David Keselman, Director Medical Clinics and Services, Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Yellowknife

Ms. Miriam Wideman, Health Promotion Specialist, Department of Health & Social Services, Yellowknife

Ms. Bronwen Livingston, Cessation Project Coordinator, Department of Health & Social Services, Yellowknife

Ms. Karen Pardy, Occupational Health and Safety/Infection Control Coordinator, Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Yellowknife

Ms. Sheila Laity, Nurse Practitioner Orthopaedics, Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Yellowknife

Dr. Bing Guthrie, Physician, Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Yellowknife

Ms. Catherine Ardiles, Nurse Educator Mentor, Department of Human Resources, Yellowknife

Ms. Donna Stanley-Young, Clinical Education Coordinator, Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Yellowknife

Mr. Steve Schaub, Manager of Facility Services, Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Yellowknife

Mr. Mahendra Manickum, Respiratory Therapist, Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Yellowknife

Ms. Alison Whitehead, Respiratory Therapist, Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Yellowknife

Ms. Claudia Richea, Cessation Project Coordinator, Department of Health and Social Services, Yellowknife

Ms. Heather Chang, Quality & Risk Management Coordinator, Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Yellowknife

Ms. Erin Currie, Nurse Practitioner, Stanton Territorial Health Authority, Yellowknife

Mandate Review Project Team, Department of Aboriginal Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations, Yellowknife

Mr. Owen Everts-Lind, Manager, Policy and Planning, Department of Aboriginal Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations, Yellowknife

Mr. Peter Csicsai, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Aboriginal Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations, Yellowknife

Mr. Roshan Begg, Implementation Coordinator, Department of Aboriginal Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations, Yellowknife

Mr. Richard Robertson, Director, Policy, Planning & Communications, Department of Aboriginal Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations, Yellowknife

Deninu School Team, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Mr. Daniel Summers, Principal, Deninu School, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Ms. Kate Powell, Literacy Coach, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Ms. Lucinda Summers, Program Support Teacher, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Ms. Angelina Fabien, Aboriginal Language and Culture Instructor, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Ms. Michelle Jakubec, Teacher, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Mr. Fraser McTurk, Teacher, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Mr. Leandre Beaulieu, Classroom Assistant, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Ms. Freda Elief, Classroom Assistant, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Ms. Cori Galbraith, Teacher, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Ms. Amy Mitton, Teacher, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Ms. Jayne Miersch, Secretary, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Mr. Ted Moes, Teacher, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Mr. Aaron Jezovit, Teacher, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Ms. Holly Norris, Teacher, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Ms. Brandie Miersch, Special Needs Assistant, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Resolution

Premier's Collaboration Award (Team)

Territorial Housing System Development Team, NWT Housing Corporation and Partners, Northwest Territories

Ms. Michelle Reddick, Information Systems Analyst, NWT Housing Corporation, Yellowknife

Ms. Ioan Astle, Manager, Housing Programs and District Operations, NWT Housing Corporation, Yellowknife

Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Information Systems Analyst, NWT Housing Corporation, Yellowknife

Ms. Terry Fisher, Program Development Specialist, NWT Housing Corporation, Yellowknife

Ms. Hilda Gerlock, Manager, Fort Simpson Housing Authority, Fort Simpson

Ms. Phebie Kenny, Manager, Deline Housing Authority, Deline

Ms. Kim Olsen, Manager, Fort Smith Housing Authority, Fort Smith

Mr. Jim White, Chief Executive Officer, Yellowknife Housing Authority, Yellowknife

Ms. Vicki Boudreau, Manager (Retired), Inuvik Housing Authority, Inuvik

The Slave River and Delta Partnership, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Partners, Northwest Territories

Mr. Patrick Simon, Environmental Manager, Deninu K'ue First Nations, Fort Resolution

Ms. Cecile Heron, Lands and Resource Manager, Smith's Landing First Nation, Fort Smith

Mr. Victor Marie, Elder, Salt River First Nation

Mr. Tim Heron, Interim Measures Agreement (IMA) Coordinator, Northwest Territories Métis Nation, Fort Smith,

Mr. Stuart MacMillan, Manager, Resource Conservation, Parks Canada (Wood Buffalo National Park), Fort Smith

Ms. Kerry Pippy, Physical Scientist, Environment Canada, Yellowknife

Ms. Deanna Leonard, Fisheries Management Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Yellowknife

Ms. Juanetta Sanderson, Aquatic Quality Specialist, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Yellowknife

Mr. Jack Bird, former Superintendent of South Slave, currently Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Yellowknife

Dr. Erin Kelly, Manager, Watershed Programs and Partnerships, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Yellowknife

Ms. Katarina Carthew, Watershed Science Consultant, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Yellowknife

Ms. Sarah Rosolen, Manager, South Slave Research Centre, Aurora Research Institute, Fort Smith

Mr. Kevin Smith, Program Head, Environment & Natural Resources Technology Program, Aurora College, Fort Smith

Dr. Roland Hall, Professor, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario

Dr. Brent Wolfe, Associate Professor/NSERC Northern Research Chair, Wilfred-Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario

Dr. Paul Jones, Associate Professor, School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

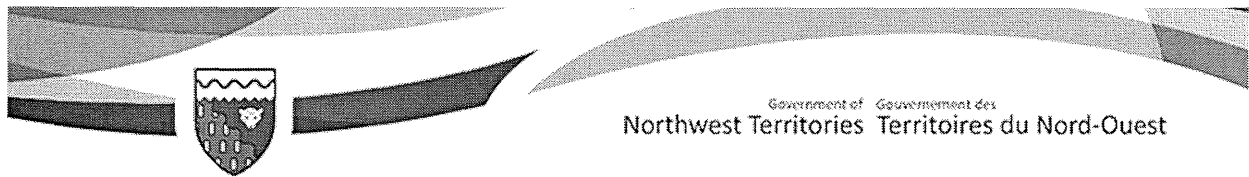
Ms. Tausia Lal, Senior Administrative Officer, Hamlet of Fort Resolution, Fort Resolution
Ms. Jane Hobart, Mayor, Town of Fort Smith, Fort Smith
Ms. Jennifer Dagg, Policy Analyst, Pembina Institute, Yellowknife
Ms. Andrea Czarnecki, Aquatic Quality Specialist, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern
Development Canada

**Northwest Territories 2011 Royal Visit Team, Department of the Executive and
Partners, Yellowknife**

Ms. Carmen Moore, Chief of Protocol, Department of Executive, Yellowknife
Ms. Leslie Straker, Senior Communications Advisor, Department of Executive,
Yellowknife
Ms. Susanne Tkachuk, Executive Secretary to Minister Jackson Lafferty, Department of
Executive, Yellowknife
Ms. Julie Warnock, Media Coordinator, Northwest Territories Tourism, Yellowknife
Ms. Jhillian Adams, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Public Works and Services,
Yellowknife
Ms. Megan Holsapple, Media Liaison, Department of the Executive, Yellowknife
Mr. Gary Schauerte, Director, Corporate Affairs, Department of Municipal and
Community Affairs, Yellowknife
Mr. Grant White, Director, Community Services, City of Yellowknife, Yellowknife
Mr. Brian Kelln, Manager, Programs, Community Services, City of Yellowknife,
Yellowknife
Captain Edward Peart, Joint Task Force North, Canadian Forces and Department of
National Defence, Yellowknife
Master Warrant Officer Floyd Powder, Joint Task Force North, Canadian Forces and
Department of National Defence, Yellowknife
Corporal Jim Strowbridge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Yellowknife
Sergeant Wes Heron, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Yellowknife
Staff Sergeant Major Al McCambridge, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Yellowknife
Ms. Jackie Hall, Asset Manager, Public Works and Government Services Canada

Dave Ramsden Career Excellence Award

Ms. Bronwyn Watters, Deputy Minister, Department of Justice



NEWS RELEASE

Aboriginal Engagement Strategy

YELLOWKNIFE (June 11, 2012) – The GNWT has made a formal commitment to a set of principles and key actions to strengthen and renew relationships with its Aboriginal government partners. “Respect, Recognition, Responsibility: The Government of the Northwest Territories’ Approach to Engaging with Aboriginal Governments” was developed based on discussions with Aboriginal governments and community leaders. It has been produced in all NWT official languages.

“We need to build strong relationships at all levels – leaders, senior managers and all staff,” said Bob McLeod, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations. “Aboriginal governments are our partners as we work together to serve the people we represent. Our government is committed to a new approach to building greater collaboration and participation, so we can all achieve our shared goals in a spirit of mutual respect, recognition and responsibility.”

“Respect, Recognition, Responsibility” affirms that the GNWT will:

- continue to recognize and respect the constitutionally protected rights and treaty rights of Aboriginal peoples, as well as existing Aboriginal rights agreements;
- be open, flexible and responsive in working with the diverse governance structures of regional Aboriginal governments and understanding the unique interests and challenges of each region and community; and
- will make every effort to share information and knowledge, help build capacity, enhance our government’s participation at Annual General Assemblies and other important events, and establish regular formal meetings with each Aboriginal government in the NWT.

The Aboriginal Engagement Strategy supports the 17th Legislative Assembly’s priority of strengthening relationships with Aboriginal governments, as outlined in *Believing in Our People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners*.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple

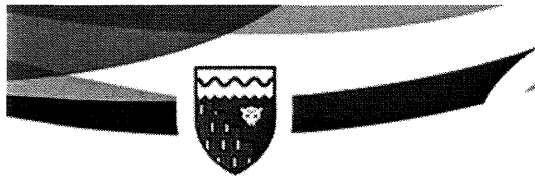
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NEWS RELEASE

GNWT Emergency Bulletin: Liard River (June 12, 4:30 p.m.)

June 12, 2012

On Friday, June 8th, rising water levels in the Liard River created a flood risk in the communities of Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte. River levels continued to rise and reached flood levels in Nahanni Butte, leading to the evacuation of the community by air. Members of the community who were evacuated are staying in Fort Simpson. Fort Liard has not been evacuated.

Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA)

GNWT officials visited Nahanni Butte on June 11th to survey damage to municipal infrastructure. Flood waters have not receded and it is expected that evacuees will need to remain in Fort Simpson for several more days. Arrangements are being made to ensure provisions are in place and suitable accommodations are provided to evacuees.

Once a more thorough assessment of damage in Nahanni Butte is complete, MACA will work with municipal, territorial and federal partners to determine whether disaster financial assistance will be sought through federal programming.

MACA remains in contact with municipal officials in Fort Liard and there are currently no concerns regarding elevated flood levels. Evacuation of the community is not expected at this time.

Transportation (DOT)

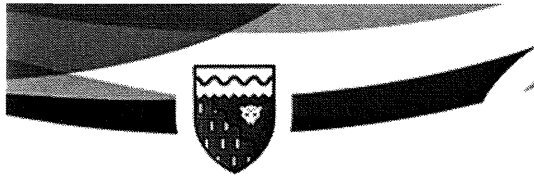
The Liard River ferry crossing at Fort Simpson and the N'Dulee ferry crossing remain closed until further notice. DOT reports that high flow rates and debris continue to delay the resumption of operations. Once water levels allow, landings on each side will have to be rebuilt.

For more information:

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Government of the Northwest Territories
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Issued: June 12, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. – Updates will be issued as the situation demands



NEWS RELEASE

A Shared Path Towards Wellness - Mental Health and Addictions, 2012 – 2015

June 12, 2012 - Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today I will table our action plan, "A Shared Path Towards Wellness - Mental Health and Addictions, 2012 – 2015."

The new action plan will help improve mental health and reduce addiction in the NWT. A Shared Path Towards Wellness will create a more efficient system that will allow residents to receive assessment, treatment and support services when and where they need them. The three-year action plan builds on the existing system, and incorporates innovative ideas from our stakeholders to better coordinate and integrate our services.

The action plan has three key elements.

The first is Community Focus and Engagement – communities have said that they are in the best position to determine their own culturally appropriate solutions. This plan will let communities drive and guide community-based Mental Health and Addiction programs, with our support, not the other way around.

The second key element is Collaborative Partnerships with Other Departments and Agencies – this plan ensures that departments and agencies will work collectively to address mental health and addictions issues. An example is ensuring that effective addictions programming is available for residents in our correctional facilities.

The third key element is to develop an Integrated Continuum of Care – the action plan will be building upon our existing Integrated Services Delivery Model. Services will be integrated to ensure that front-line service providers will work together. There will also be integration from community level services through regional services to territorial services to create a seamless system. While every effort will be made to make services available at the community level; there will still be some specialized services that can be more efficiently delivered at the regional or territorial level.

Mr. Speaker, this action plan was developed by engaging key stakeholders in the addiction and mental health fields. It included health care professionals, social services professionals, GNWT departments, aboriginal governments, and community groups. We also talked to people from across the territory who have experienced mental health and addictions issues and been clients in our system. I would like to thank everyone involved in the creation of this action plan.

This action plan sets out the direction we will be heading during the next three years. It already builds on work the Department is doing to strengthen our service delivery by focusing on four goals:

- Promoting Understanding, Awareness and Acceptance;
- Focusing on the Person;
- Improving the Availability of Services; and
- Improving the Effectiveness of Services

The strategy will lead us to expand culturally appropriate on-the-land healing programs delivered by communities. It will support offering more community-based addictions treatment programs like the Matrix program in Fort Smith. It will ensure that existing services like the Nats'ejée K'é Treatment Centre and detoxification services are effective.

We have heard from so many people that addictions is the key issue in the NWT. We know that addictions break families apart, destroy communities, and rob individuals of a happy productive life.

To better understand community issues and community solutions to addictions I will be establishing a public forum. This forum will include experts in the addictions field and members of the public. I have asked MLAs to nominate individuals who they feel would be an asset to this forum.

We can accomplish a lot in the next three years to achieve this Assembly's vision of strong individuals, families and communities. However, for this action plan to be successful, we will need to work together. Government departments, Aboriginal governments, and community groups need to make a collective commitment to improving access to services and building strong communities for their people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The GNWT is committed to improving the availability and effectiveness of mental health and addictions treatment. This three-year action plan is a road map for improving mental health and reducing addictions.

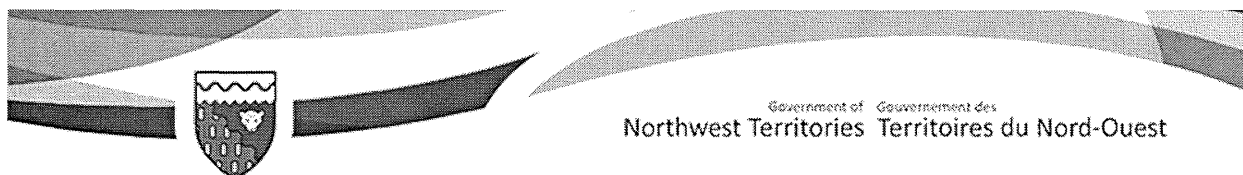
The four goals of the action plan are:

- promoting understanding and awareness
- focusing on the person
- improving the availability of and access to services
- improving the effectiveness of services

This action plan will transform our system by streamlining services so individuals with mental health or addiction problems can access the programs and services they need. We want to make sure that our residents who have addictions or mental health problems get the support they need to be independent, self-reliant and active members of their communities.

Our action plan was developed in partnership with stakeholders. We spoke to people from across the territory who had experienced mental health and addiction issues and had been clients in our system. We also engaged key stakeholders in the addiction and mental health fields. This included health care professionals, social services professionals, GNWT departments, aboriginal governments, and community groups. The final product brings together the experience of those with lived experience and promising program practices from across Canada.

- Only 64% of NWT residents rate their mental health as good or very good, compared to the Canadian average of 73%;
- The proportion of NWT residents hospitalized for a mental illness remained fairly stable over the last 15 years, at about 1.4% of the population;
- Of persons hospitalized for mental illness:
 - 58% are for substance-related disorders;
 - 16% are for mood disorders;
 - 12% are for schizophrenia and psychotic disorders;
 - 8% are for anxiety and adjustment disorders; and
 - 6% are for other mental health disorders.
- The average rate of 1.8 suicides per 10,000 (2003-2007) is 65% higher than the Canadian average of 1.1 per 10,000 (2005).
- From 2000-2009, 45% of unintentional-injury deaths in the NWT were related to alcohol intoxication (Office of the Chief Coroner, 2012).
- 43% of residents report that they typically consume 5 or more drinks on one occasion. This is an increase from 34% in 1996.
- 64% of residents aged 15-24 consume 5 or more drinks on a single occasion, and 1 in 4 engage in heavy drinking at least once per week.
- At least 11% of the population is using cannabis weekly.
- The number of people who reported trying an illicit drug (cocaine/crack, hallucinogens, speed, ecstasy and heroin) at least once in their lifetime increased from 16% in 2002 to 24% in 2009.
- The Mental Health Commission of Canada released *Changing Directions, Changing Lives: The Mental Health Strategy for Canada* on May 8, 2012.



NEWS RELEASE

President of Aurora College Resigns

YELLOWKNIFE (June 14, 2012) -- Sarah Wright Cardinal has resigned from the position of President of Aurora College, effective June 13, 2012. Hired in August 2009, Ms. Wright Cardinal has decided to pursue studies towards a Doctoral degree.

"I would like to thank Ms. Wright Cardinal for her contribution to the College and wish her all the best as she continues her personal pursuit of higher education," said Jackson Lafferty, Minister responsible for Aurora College.

"Sarah has demonstrated a deep commitment to post-secondary education and the College," said Sydney O'Sullivan, interim Chair of the Board of Governors. "I support her decision to return to school and wish her success in her studies."

Decisions about staffing the position of President will be made in the near future.

For more information, please contact:

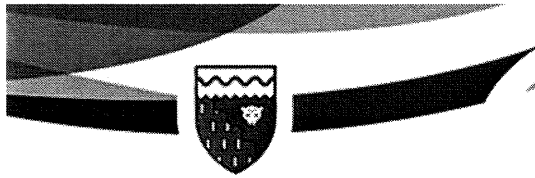
Megan Holsapple

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Government of / Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories / Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NEWS RELEASE

Applications For Aviation Scholarships Open; First Air Becomes the Newest Program Partner

YELLOWKNIFE (June 14, 2012) – The Aviation Career Development Program (ACDP) is now receiving applications for 15 \$5,000 scholarships to support full-time training in an aviation-related career. The studies can be related to airline or airport operations or management, aircraft maintenance, and pilot training.

Eligible applicants will have resided in Northwest Territories and/or Nunavut consistently for a minimum of two years, and they must demonstrate they have been at least conditionally accepted in a full-time aviation-related program.

First Air has just become the fifth airline partner of this scholarship program, and they have also joined the employment component of ACDP, offering the possibility of summer and long-term employment to current and former ACDP scholarship winners.

“First Air is proud to be the only Inuit owned airline to participate in this exciting career development program,” said Kris Dolinki, President and CEO of First Air. “Supporting training, development and education in the North is one of our top priorities. We look forward to continuing to support Northern youth reach their career goals and to providing ACDP participants with employment opportunities in the aviation industry.”

NWT Transportation Minister David Ramsay welcomes the news of First Air’s addition to the airline sponsors of the program.

“The exciting thing about ACDP has always been that it has been able to respond to the needs of our aviation community, adapting to ensure more and more northern workers are employed in our northern aviation industry,” said Ramsay. “First Air’s involvement will improve prospects for northern aviation employees, and will help ensure the aviation industry in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut remains strong.”

Nunavut’s Economic Development & Transportation Minister Peter Taptuna is also pleased with the prospects that this program brings.

“One of the Government of Nunavut’s goals is to develop the aviation workforce in Nunavut,” said Minister Taptuna. “Having First Air on board will help accomplish this. I encourage people to apply for the \$5,000 scholarships and take advantage of the employment opportunities through the program.”

The application deadline for the 2012-2013 school year is Friday, July 27, 2012. The scholarship can be used for studies beginning after August 1, 2012 and completed

before August 31, 2013. For more information about the ACDP program, please visit <http://bit.ly/ACDPscholarship>.

Media, please contact:

Earl Blacklock

Manager of Public Affairs and
Communications

Department of Transportation

Government of the Northwest Territories

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867-445-3494 (cell)

Matthew Illaszewicz

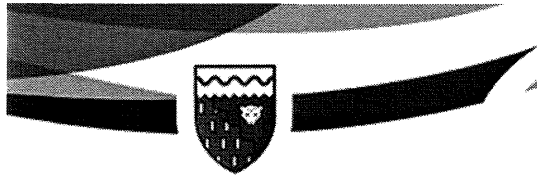
Manager, Communications

Economic Development and Transportation

Government of Nunavut

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867-222-0122 (cell)



NEWS RELEASE

GNWT Emergency Bulletin: Liard River (June 15, 5pm)

On Friday, June 8th, rising water levels in the Liard River caused a flood in the community of Nahanni Butte. Most residents of the community were evacuated to Fort Simpson, where they remain. The GNWT is currently assessing conditions in the community to determine when it will be safe for residents to return to their homes. On Monday, June 18, Deputy Premier Jackson Lafferty will visit Nahanni Butte and meet with evacuees in Fort Simpson.

Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA)

GNWT officials visited Nahanni Butte today to assess conditions in the community, survey the scope of any damage, and determine if it is safe to return residents to the community. Based on the assessment, MACA does not recommend residents return to the community and it is likely they will remain in Fort Simpson for several more days.

Up-river from Nahanni Butte, flood waters have begun to rapidly recede and it is expected that they will continue to do so over the weekend. MACA personnel will continue to monitor water levels through in-person visits and by communicating with residents who chose to not evacuate.

Once a more thorough assessment of damage in Nahanni Butte is complete, MACA will work with the community government of Nahanni Butte to determine whether this event will qualify for funds under the Disaster Assistance Policy.

Once it is safe to return to the community, transportation will be arranged for evacuees and MACA will work with the community government and other partners to help ease the transition for residents.

Transportation (DOT)

Operations of the Johnny Berens ferry at the N'Dulee ferry crossing on the road to Wrigley have resumed. Rebuilding of the landings at the Liard ferry crossing near Fort Simpson (Lafferty ferry) has begun, and operations of the ferry are expected to resume in the next 20-30 hours. Restrictions on some vehicles types such as motor homes and super B trucks may be required until water levels return to normal.

The advisory on travel on Highway #7 (the Liard Highway) is lifted. Travellers on Highway #7 can still expect soft roads, reduced speed limits in sections, and sections of road reduced to a single lane due to very soft conditions. Traffic is restricted to vehicles weighing less than 4500 kg. fully loaded. Road bans are in place throughout the Fort Simpson region.

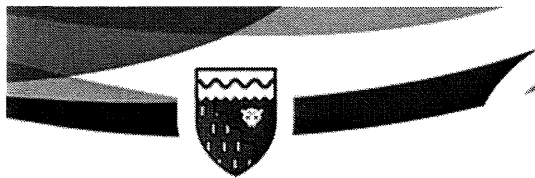
Kevin Brezinski, Director of Public Safety with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, will be available for media interviews from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM on Tuesday, June 19th. To organize an interview, contact David Maguire, Communications and Web Advisor, at 920-3092.

For more information:

Shaun Dean
Press Secretary
Government of the Northwest Territories
Phone: (867) 669-2304

David Maguire
Communications and Web Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Government of the Northwest Territories
Phone: (867) 920-3092

Issued: June 15, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. – Updates will be issued as the situation demands.



NEWS RELEASE

NWT Antipoverty Steering Committee Formed

YELLOWKNIFE (June 18, 2012) – In partnership with the 30 members of the No Place for Poverty Coalition, the GNWT has formed an Antipoverty Steering Committee to lead in the development of a Northwest Territories antipoverty strategy.

Building on the work to date, including the *No Place for Poverty* workshop and *What We Heard from Northerners about Poverty* report, the Committee was formed from a cross-section of groups and organizations to ensure ongoing collaboration takes place with communities, non-government organizations, business, labour, and people living in poverty in the NWT.

“Poverty affects many people and communities as a whole; different communities have distinct needs and may need unique ways to address them,” says Glen Abernethy, Chair, Ministers’ Social Envelope Committee. “With the steering committee’s representation and our commitment to partner with groups and organizations, we are confident that we can create a strategy to reduce poverty in the NWT.”

The Antipoverty Steering Committee members include:

- Gloria Iatridis, GNWT, Chair
- Darlene Brown, Federal Government, Service Canada
- Nora Wedzin, Tlicho Government
- Diane Archie, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Hughie Graham, NWT Chamber of Commerce

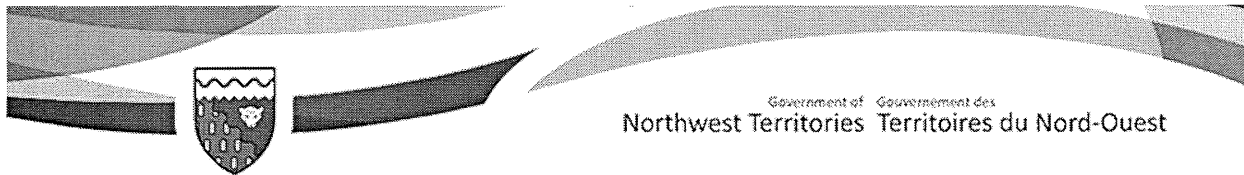
- Christine King, Student

- Julie Green, No Place for Poverty Coalition, NGO

A website is currently under development for information, progress and action on the Antipoverty Strategy for the NWT.

For more information:

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NEWS RELEASE

New Mandate and Name for Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Office

INUVIK (June 19, 2012) – The mandate of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Office in Hay River has been expanded.

Increases in resource development activity, particularly in the Sahtu region, have led the GNWT to expand responsibilities for the office and give it a new name to reflect the expanded mandate: the Mackenzie Valley Petroleum Planning Office (MVPPPO).

Speaking today at the 2012 Inuvik Petroleum Show, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay said the renewed mandate will ensure residents of the NWT continue to benefit from all resource development projects in the NWT to the greatest degree possible, while minimizing the potential impacts.

“This is an opportune time to broaden the mandate of the office to allow the GNWT to contribute staff and resources to address other areas of resource development in the NWT,” Ramsay noted. “It will also allow us to continue our efforts on the Mackenzie Gas Project as required and maintain our capacity to deal with the challenges and opportunities this project will bring.”

The expanded mandate of the Mackenzie Valley Petroleum Planning Office includes strategic planning, government coordination, support to Aboriginal communities and businesses, and communications support associated with petroleum resource development in the Mackenzie Valley. This includes the Mackenzie Gas Project and future development projects.

In *Believing in People and Building on the Strength of Northerners*, the 17th Legislative Assembly identified the Mackenzie Gas Project as a priority in achieving a diversified economy that provides all communities and regions with opportunities and choices.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple

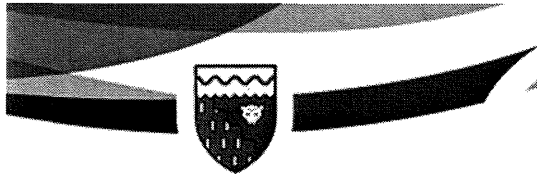
Media Liaison

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NEWS RELEASE

GNWT Emergency Bulletin: Liard River (June 19, 4:30 pm)

On Friday, June 8th, rising water levels in the Liard River caused a flood in the community of Nahanni Butte. Most residents of the community were evacuated to Fort Simpson, where they remain. The GNWT is currently assessing conditions in the community to determine when it will be safe for residents to return to their homes.

Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA)

Deputy Premier Jackson Lafferty, MLA Kevin Menicoche and Chief Clayton Konisenta visited Nahanni Butte yesterday, June 18th, and met with evacuees in Fort Simpson. Senior officials from the Executive, Municipal and Community Affairs, Transportation, the NWT Housing Corporation and NWT Power Corporation (NTPC) also attended.

Preliminary assessment of the community shows that flood waters have receded considerably, but there is still a substantial amount of standing water in many low spots. Damage to private homes does not appear to be as bad as first suspected, but not all homes were accessed. There has been damage to community infrastructure, including the band office and gymnasium.

The power plant was flooded and remains out of operation. NTPC estimates it will take three to four days to resume operations and another two to get the community back on line. Community infrastructure, such as telephones and water treatment, will remain out of service until power is returned to the community.

MACA does not recommend that residents return to the community at this time. Estimates are that it will take one to two weeks to restore community services, making it safe for residents to return.

Once a more thorough assessment of damage in Nahanni Butte is complete, MACA will work with the community government of Nahanni Butte to determine whether this event will qualify for funds under the Disaster Assistance Policy.

Once it is safe to return to the community, transportation will be arranged for evacuees and MACA will work with the community government and other partners to help ease the transition for residents.

MACA will lead a committee of regional and local representatives, including the Chief and Band Manager, and representatives from NWT HC, NTPC, Environment and Natural Resources and NorthwesTel to organize clean-up efforts.

Transportation (DOT)

Water has receded from the runway at Nahanni Butte, but it will require several days of warm weather for the ditches to drain and for the runway to dry out to allow for a proper assessment. An assessment crew from Airports division is expected to visit Nahanni Butte later in the week to assess the runway conditions and any remediation required.

Ferry operations at Fort Simpson (Lafferty) and on the road to Wrigley (Johnny Berens) have resumed. Delays are being experienced on the Lafferty because declining water levels require regular work on the approaches.

An inspection of the Nahanni Butte access road did not note any problems. However, the road traverses some wet lands that might not stand up to repeated heavy loads. A further inspection of the road is underway to determine its capacity.

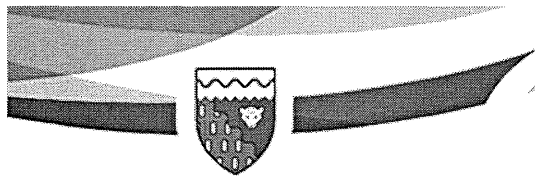
Kevin Brezinski, Director of Public Safety with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, will be available for media interviews from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM on Friday, June 22. To organize an interview, contact David Maguire, Communications and Web Advisor, at 920-3092.

For more information:

Shaun Dean
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David Maguire
Communications and Web Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Government of the Northwest Territories
Phone: (867) 920-3092

Information current as of 4:30 p.m., June 19, 2012. Further updates will be issued as new information becomes available.



Government of / Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories / Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NEWS RELEASE

GNWT Reaffirms Commitment to Inclusive Schooling and Early Childhood Development

YELLOWKNIFE (June 19, 2012) -- Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) Jackson Lafferty reaffirmed the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) commitment to inclusive schooling and early childhood development today.

As part of the Legislative Assembly's review and approval of the 2012-13 Main Estimates, the GNWT has agreed to reallocate \$1 million to early childhood development. This new investment in early childhood development is being funded through a reallocation from funds previously allocated to inclusive schooling.

"Investments in early childhood development benefit our children and prepare them to enter the school system ready to learn, reducing the need for more supports later on," said Minister Lafferty. "We worked with Members of the Legislative Assembly to identify funding in ECE's budget for early childhood development during the recent budget session. With their help, we have come up with a solution that invests in this important priority while continuing to provide inclusive schooling programs and services across the NWT."

ECE provides \$26 million annually to school boards to fund inclusive schooling. This funding is part of the approximately \$150 million ECE provides to school boards, out of a total departmental budget of \$300 million, for the education of children from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The internal funding transfer represents less than one percent of overall school board funding. The school boards have the ability to allocate their budgets each year to a variety of programs and services.

Funding for inclusive schooling is provided through a formula based on 12 categories of expenditure. ECE reviewed past spending in these 12 categories to identify opportunities for reallocating funds while ensuring minimal impact on programs and services.

Members of the Legislative Assembly approved the GNWT's 2012-13 budget on June 8, 2012.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple

Media Liaison

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BACKGROUNDER:

INCLUSIVE SCHOOLING FUNDING REALLOCATION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Inclusive Schooling is based on a philosophy or a belief system which welcomes all learners and values each as both unique and capable of learning.

There are twelve areas for expenditure for the school boards to allocate funding provided by ECE. This funding allows education authorities to provide support systems and services to enable all students to be included as full participants in regular, age-appropriate classes within their home communities:

1. Inclusive Schooling Consultants
 - Funding is based on the prior year average salary and benefits for consultants (territorial and inclusive schooling consultants).
2. Program Support Teachers
 - Funding is based on the prior year average salary for teachers.
3. Counsellors
 - Base funding is provided for each community.
4. Program Assistance
 - Strategies, materials and personnel used to provide programming supports to meet the learning needs and goals of individuals and groups of students.
5. Magnet Facilities
 - Certain institutional facilities provide services to non-resident students and thus exhibit a high concentration of students with very challenging needs. These facilities have been identified as requiring additional supports and the education authority can access funding based on the average number of annual FTE students accommodated at the facility. Funding is only provided for magnet facilities designated as such by ECE as defined above.
 - The following are identified as Magnet Facilities operating in the NWT:
 - Group Homes:
 - McAteer House (Yellowknife)
 - Territorial Treatment Centre (Yellowknife)
 - Trail Cross (Fort Smith)
 - Young Offender Facilities (YOF):
 - North Slave YOF (Yellowknife)
6. Staff Development
 - The staff development formula includes base funding and funding for travel in accordance with the number of communities that each council serves.

7. O & M (Travel & Minor Projects)
 - Travel and Minor Projects funding is for minor projects, travel and supplies.
8. Student Transportation
 - An additional per student allocation is provided for students requiring special transportation, such as buses with wheelchair lifts, or private vehicles.
9. Southern Placements
 - There may be extraordinary situations when a southern placement is necessary because an education authority is unable to provide a program for a student, despite having met all the requirements as outlined in the Inclusive Schooling Directive. Other such instances may occur where placements are initiated by the GNWT Department of Health and Social Services in consultation with the relevant education authority.
10. Healing and Counselling
 - It is recognized that, in pursuing their academic goals, students may need help in addressing personal, social, or emotional issues. Counselling and Healing refer to strategies and supports designed to address behavioural, social, emotional, and healing issues, including residential school recovery.
11. Student Success Initiatives
 - The SSI aims to improve student learning and performance. Education district level projects are funded to improve student achievement in a range of areas. To address the particular needs of small communities, funding has been set aside to provide more targeted assistance to one or two small community schools. Such schools are deemed “focus schools” and present some of the following characteristics:
 - a significant percentage of students who function below grade level;
 - a high percentage of students who have been identified as having special needs or learning disabilities;
 - the need for cultural enrichment, or;
 - a high rate of nonattendance.
 - A focus school will be identified where the school community demonstrates the readiness to address such issues that have been identified for its school. Final determination of focus schools rests with the Department.
12. Coordination of Integrated Services
 - Provides supplementary funding provided to education authorities to work with other social agencies.

The three areas affected by the funding reallocation:

- **Coordination of Integrated Services** provides supplementary funding provided to education authorities to work with other social agencies. The entire \$480,000 formula allocation would be reduced in the 2012-13 School Year (SY);
- **Staff Development** provides funding for staff development related to student support services. The formula allocation would be reduced by \$275,000 or 18% in the 2012-13 SY; and

- **Magnet Facilities** provides funding for non-resident students accommodated in group homes and young offender facilities. The formula allocation would be reduced by \$245,000 or 16% in the 2012-13 SY.

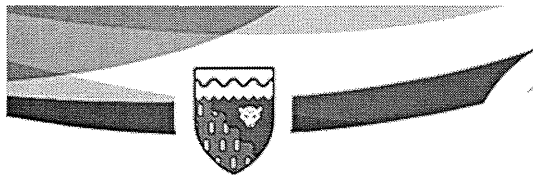
The overall impact of this funding reallocation is less than one (1%) percent of the total funding provided by the Department to Divisional Education Councils and District Education Authorities in the NWT.

For more information, please contact:

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Government of / Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories / Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NEWS RELEASE

GNWT Renews Financial Support For NWT Tourism Outfitters

YELLOWKNIFE (June 20, 2012) -- The GNWT has renewed its funding for the Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Program to support tourism businesses in the NWT seeking to become more competitive in a demanding international market.

As the global demand for outdoor adventure vacations and experiences grows, this program administered by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) provides financial assistance to tourism operators for business planning, product and packaging development, and marketing.

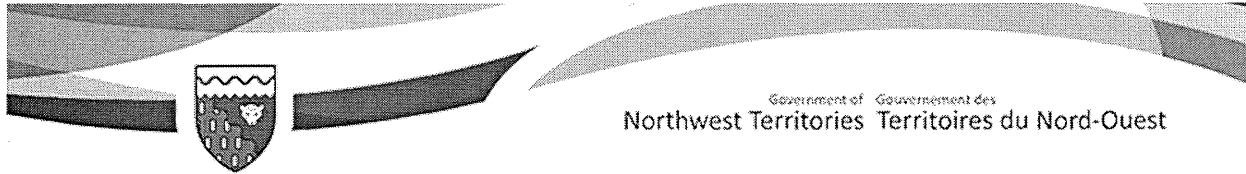
“Tourism is the NWT’s largest renewable resource – one that has potential to impact all of the NWT’s 33 communities,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. “Our continuing investment in this sector reflects not only its success to date, but the recognition that we must continually expand, adapt and grow our unique and spectacular tourism product.”

Interested NWT tourism businesses have until July 9th to apply for funding under the program. New guidelines and application forms can be found online at [ITI’s website](#) or are available at any one of ITI’s five regional offices.

This program provides ongoing support for small business and tourism, and strengthens and diversifies the NWT economy, one of the priorities of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

For more information, contact:

Drew Williams
Communications
Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
(867) 873-7857



NEWS RELEASE

Aurora College Interim President Announced

YELLOWKNIFE (June 26, 2012) – Jane Arychuk has been appointed Interim President of Aurora College while the College continues the competitive hiring process.

Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, made the three-month appointment in consultation with the Aurora College Board of Governors. It is effective July 3, 2012.

“We are pleased to announce that Ms. Arychuk has accepted the position,” said Minister Lafferty. “She brings a strong background and professional experience in education.”

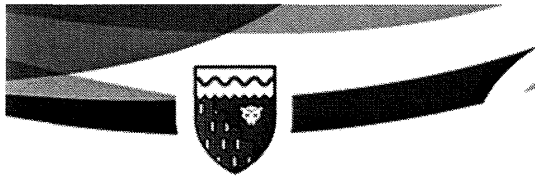
Ms. Arychuk was most recently the Director of Community Education (Behchoko) with the Tlicho Community Services Agency. Prior to that, she worked at Aurora College in the positions of Vice President, Community and Extensions and Campus Director – Yellowknife Campus.

For more information, please contact:

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Manager, Communications & College
Relations
Aurora College
Phone: 867-872-7021
Cell: 867-872-0963
Email: jmurray@auroracollege.nt.ca

Jacqueline McKinnon
Manager, Public Affairs

Education, Culture and Employment, GNWT
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Email: jacqueline_mckinnon@gov.nt.ca



NEWS RELEASE

Drop the Pop Winners

YELLOWKNIFE (June 29, 2012) – Seven NWT schools are receiving certificates and cash awards for producing videos that promoted healthy eating and healthy lifestyles:

- Mackenzie Mountain School, Norman Wells
- Weledah Catholic School, Yellowknife
- Kaw Tay Whee School, Dettah
- École J.H. Sissons School, Yellowknife
- William MacDonald School, Yellowknife
- Joseph Burr Tyrrell School, Fort Smith
- Thomas Simpson School, Fort Simpson

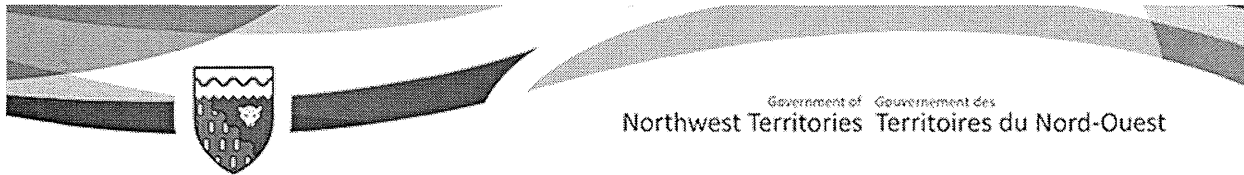
“Congratulations to all the winners as well as everyone who participated in the campaign this year,” said Tom Beaulieu, Minister of Health and Social Services. “I can tell that many hours of hard work went into making these videos, and I am pleased to acknowledge their efforts. They have interesting, insightful, and funny messages.”

This year's tri-territorial Drop the Pop campaign, *Spread the Word*, encouraged schools and students to 'spread the word' about the harmful effects of sweetened beverages. In addition to the video contest, 39 schools received funding to participate in healthy-eating activities in 2012.

Drop the Pop is an investment in prevention, education and awareness, one of the priorities of the 17th Legislative Assembly, and promotes healthy eating as part of the Healthy Choices Framework.

For more information, contact:

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Manager, Communications
Department of Health and Social Services
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NEWS RELEASE

Ministers of Sport Meet in Inuvik

YELLOWKNIFE (June 29, 2012) – The 2012 Federal – Provincial / Territorial Ministers of Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Conference was held in Inuvik, June 26 to 28. Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), expressed his appreciation to the delegates from all across Canada for traveling to the Beaufort Delta to attend. Minister McLeod also thanked representatives from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Town of Inuvik for assisting with the event.

"I greatly appreciated the opportunity to showcase Inuvik and the Beaufort Delta to my colleagues from across Canada," said McLeod. "We made some important decisions related to the approval of the new Canadian Sport Policy in Inuvik. I was particularly pleased that 10 years after the first policy was approved in Iqaluit in 2002, we returned north to put a renewed focus on the importance of sport for all Canadians."

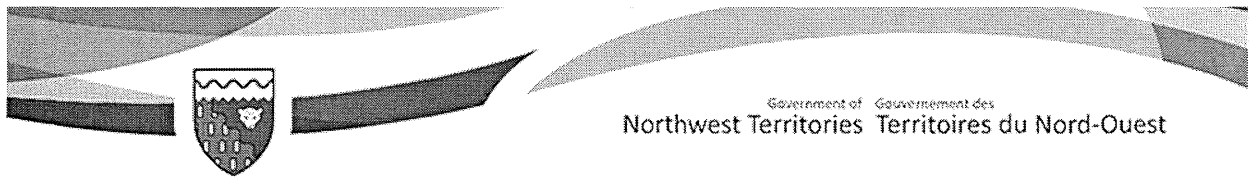
The conference also provided an opportunity for fifteen volunteer youth who were in Inuvik as part of the NWT Youth Ambassadors Program, a leadership development initiative of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Minister McLeod thanked the Youth Ambassadors for the invaluable service they provided to all of the delegates.

The Ministers of Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation also approved items related to after school physical activity, healthy weights and the National Recreation Summit. Details on these items are outlined in the [joint communiqué](#).

Working with federal, provincial, and territorial governments to improve sport and recreation opportunities for Northerners will result in a strong north built on partnerships and healthy, educated people free from poverty as envisioned by the 17th Assembly of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

For more information, contact:

David Maguire
Communications and Web Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Government of the Northwest Territories
Phone: (867) 920-3092



NEWS RELEASE

Minister Participates in Expressions of Reconciliation Ceremony in Saskatoon

YELLOWKNIFE (July 3, 2012) – Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, offered a gift during the Expressions of Reconciliation ceremony at the recent Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) national gathering in Saskatoon.

The ceremony gives individuals, organizations, and representatives of the parties to the Residential Schools Settlement Agreement the opportunity to make statements, presentations, or apologies directly to survivors.

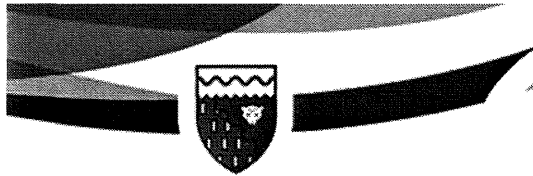
“I have attended the Truth and Reconciliation gatherings since the beginning,” said Minister Lafferty. “This most recent gathering in Saskatoon was especially noteworthy for me; I had the opportunity to speak at the Expressions of Reconciliation ceremony and present the Commission with a gift reflecting the Northwest Territories’ commitment to the important work the TRC is doing.”

The Minister presented a pair of hand-crafted Dene children’s slippers, created by a Tlicho residential school survivor. The slippers are symbolic of the strong Aboriginal cultures of the NWT that survived residential schools, and the steps the North is taking on a path to healing, reconciliation, and a hopeful future. The Minister and the TRC Commissioners simultaneously placed the slippers in the TRC Bentwood Box, which reflects the strength and resilience of residential school survivors and their descendants, and honours those survivors who are no longer living. The box travels with the TRC to all seven National Events throughout Canada. At the end of the TRC’s mandate, all of the offerings in the box will be housed in the National Research Centre.

For more information on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, visit www.trc.ca.

Contact:

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Tłıchǰ Government and GNWT Sign Memorandum of Understanding

YELLOWKNIFE (July 3, 2012) – Members of the Executive Councils of the Tłıchǰ Government and the 17th Legislative Assembly met bilaterally on Friday, June 29th for the second time. Leaders met in Yellowknife to discuss issues of shared importance and to sign “Working Together”, a memorandum of understanding recognizing the importance of their government-to-government relationship.

“Working Together” is a commitment to work together in a spirit of respect, recognition and responsibility on matters of mutual interest. The agreement acknowledges the unique and evolving relationship between the two governments and identifies areas of cooperation including housing, income support, infrastructure, and community governance.

“I am very pleased to sign this memorandum of understanding today to formalize the relationship we have with the Tłıchǰ Government,” said Premier Bob McLeod. “The people of the Northwest Territories need their governments to work together to help create a strong and prosperous territory that provides benefits to all of them. The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to strengthening our relationships with Aboriginal governments and the agreement we have signed today demonstrates that commitment.”

Grand Chief Edward Erasmus said, “I too am pleased to be able to sign this Memorandum of Understanding with the leaders of the GNWT today. This MOU is an agreement to work together...government-to-government. The MOU sets out the reasons we want to work together and how we will go about doing so. It is important that as the leaders of the two governments we work together for the good of our people in our communities. There are so many areas where we have overlapping interests, and if we don’t work together, it is our people who suffer in the end.”

At the meeting, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Tłıchǰ Government followed up on work from the last meeting and a number of new matters of shared interest, including:

- Issues surrounding the implementation of community governments, housing, harmonization of GNWT income support and the Tłıchǰ Government Harvesters Subsidy, and an update on the creation of a new *Wildlife Act*.

Of particular note are the collaborative efforts between the GNWT and the Tłıchǰ Government around the delivery of training programs for staff for the new Jimmy Erasmus Seniors Home in Behchokö. Both governments will provide funding to train a number of staff to work in the new facility.

There were also a number of new matters of shared interest, including:

- The Wekweeti Winter Road and Tlıcho winter roads generally, establishing agreements for shared facilities for early childhood programs and Tłıchǰ Community Services Agency schools, forest fires and their aftermaths, and local employment.

Formal government-to-government meetings and the signing of an intergovernmental cooperation MOU are commitments contained in the GNWT's *Respect, Recognition, Responsibility: The Government of the Northwest Territories' Approach to Engaging with Aboriginal Governments*. These commitments support the 17th Legislative Assembly's vision Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners.

The Tłıchǰ Government introduced "Itè dǰ gha gǰita ...in Tłıchǰ Unity", a strategic framework and intentions 2009-2013. In Tłıchǰ Unity describes the vision and mission of the Tłıchǰ Government and speaks to the desire to build effective intergovernmental relationships to ensure collaboration in ways that protect the land and environment, and improve people's lives in the communities.

The Executive Councils of the 17th Assembly and Tłıchǰ Government have committed to meet bilaterally twice per year. The last meeting was held January 12-13.

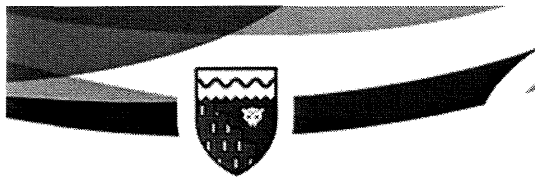
For more information:

Shaun Dean

Press Secretary
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Tel: 867-669-2304

Laura Duncan

Tłıchǰ Executive Officer
Tłıchǰ Government
Tel: 867-766-4003



NEWS RELEASE

Vision and Anti-Poverty Priorities Identified For a Poverty-Free NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (July 3, 2012) – The groundwork for an NWT anti-poverty strategy and action plan was laid out last week at a roundtable in Hay River. The participants reached consensus on a draft vision and strategic priorities and started discussions on guiding principles and goals and objectives. Participants also agreed on a theme: *Poverty-Free NWT*.

"I am pleased with the progress we made over the three days," said Gloria Iatridis, Chair of the Poverty-Free NWT Steering Committee. "It is especially encouraging that there was the commitment and time taken to develop common understandings about the many challenges and potential solutions."

The roundtable participants represent the GNWT, Aboriginal governments, municipal governments, labour and non-government organizations, and a person experiencing poverty.

"It's exciting to be part of the process that is going to make a difference in people's lives," said steering committee member Christine King. "Since I am among the working poor, I'm grateful to know that there is an increased understanding among the group about the nature of poverty."

"The strategy is a way to repair a tattered social safety net for the people who need it most," said Bob Simpson, representing the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.

The discussions last week were informed by the results of the 2011 *What We Heard from Northerners about Poverty* report, the *No Place for Poverty* workshop in 2010, poverty strategies developed in six provinces and Nunavut, and additional research information.

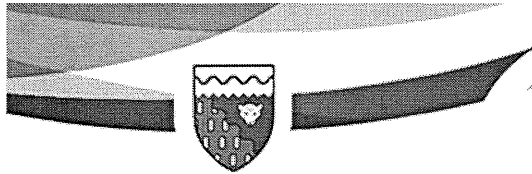
A second roundtable will be held in the fall to continue work on the strategy and action plan. Participants will be engaging communities in discussions about the draft strategy and action plan in the coming fall and winter. Those discussions will include conversations about community action plans.

The Hay River roundtable participants were:

Aggie Brockman, Alternatives North
Annemieke Mulders, Status of Women Council of the NWT
Betty Robinson, Hay River Soup Kitchen
Bob Simpson, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
Charles Jacobson, Department of Education, Culture and Employment
Christine King, Student, person who experiences living in poverty
Franklin Carpenter, NWT Housing Corporation
Garry Hubert, Yellowknife Side Door Youth Centre
Gloria Iatridis, GNWT – Education, Culture and Employment
Helen Balanoff, NWT Literacy Council
Ioan Astle, NWT Housing Corporation
John Colford, GNWT – Industry, Tourism and Investment
Jolene Saturnino, GNWT – Education, Culture and Employment
Julie Green, No Place for Poverty Alliance
Kathryn Walker, GNWT – Education, Culture and Employment
Kowesa Etitiq, Hamlet of Sachs Harbour
Lisa Cardinal, GNWT – Health and Social Services
Lois Little, Lutra
Lorraine Tordiff, GNWT – Municipal and Community Affairs
Margaret Thom, Deh Cho First Nation
MaryLou Cherwaty, Northwest Territories Federation of Labour
Mike Kalnay, GNWT – Executive
Rebecca Latour, GNWT – Justice
Richard Anthony, NWT Disabilities Council
Susan Ross, Gwich'in Tribal Council
Suzanne Desfosses, NWT Housing Corporation
Tina Gargan, NWT Association of Communities
Vishni Peeris, NWT Bureau of Statistics

Contact:

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Government of / Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories / Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NEWS RELEASE

25 Northerners Honoured with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

YELLOWKNIFE (July 5, 2012) – Twenty-five Northwest Territories residents from Deline, Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Hay River and Yellowknife are receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of their outstanding service to their communities and territory.

Medals have been or will be presented at community ceremonies by Commissioner George Tuccaro, Premier Robert (Bob) McLeod, Senator for the Northwest Territories Nick Sibbeston, Member of Parliament, Western Arctic Dennis Bevington and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

“The Diamond Jubilee Medal recognizes the outstanding contributions that Canadians from every walk of life have made to their communities, their territory and their country,” said Premier McLeod. “I want to join with the Commissioner, Senator, MP, MLAs and Regional Aboriginal leaders in congratulating each of the recipients for dedicating their time to making our communities stronger and healthier.”

The Diamond Jubilee Medal was created by the Government of Canada as part of year-long celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Premier, Commissioner, Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic and Senator for the Northwest Territories are partners with the federal government in the medal program.

Public nominations for Diamond Jubilee Medals to be presented later this year are being accepted until September 15, 2012. Visit www.gov.nt.ca for information and nomination forms.

For more information, please contact

Shaun Dean

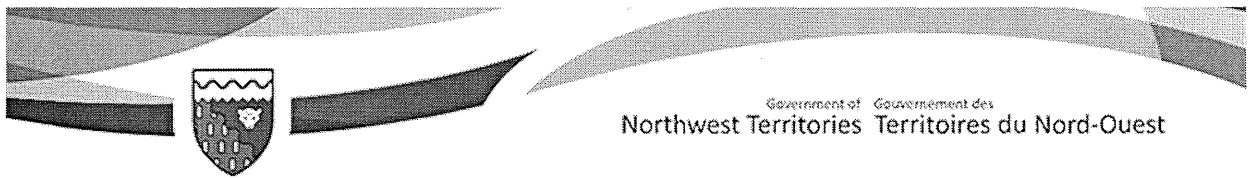
Press Secretary

Office of the Premier and Executive Council

Government of the Northwest Territories

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NEWS RELEASE

25 Northerners Honoured with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

Backgrounder

Recipients of the Diamond Jubilee Medal are:

Fort Resolution (presented on National Aboriginal Day)

- Dorothy Beaulieu
- Elizabeth Ann (Bess Ann) McKay and
- Corporal Therese (Dollie) Simon
- Violet Beaulieu

Fort Simpson (Presented on Canada Day)

- Albert Tsetso
- Mary Louise Norwegian

Fort Smith (Presented on Canada Day)

- Louise Fraser
- Constable Peter Froyland

Hay River (Presented on Canada Day)

- Marilyn Barnes
- Lillian Crook
- Roberta Hamilton
- Staff Sergeant Retired RCMP Raymond John (Jack) Kruger
- the late Bishop Sperry of Hay River

Yellowknife (Presented on Canada Day)

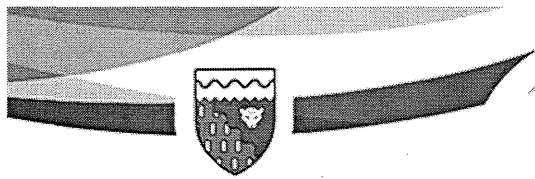
- Floyd Adlem
- Helen Balanoff
- Pooja Chugh

- Stephen Clark
- Captain Donald Finnamore
- Kevin O'Reilly
- Cole Philipp
- Lee Selleck
- Julian Tomlinson
- Joy Watt

Deline (to be presented at Elder Diamond Jubilee Tea, July 6th)

- Kirk Patrick Hughes
- Charlie Neyelle

Please visit the GNWT Diamond Jubilee Website to read the citations describing the reasons the medals have been awarded to each individual and to see a list of other NWT recipients.



Government of / Gouvernement des
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NEWS RELEASE

NWT Film Commission Officially Launched its New Website

YELLOWKNIFE (July 10, 2012) – One of the Northwest Territories' most promising industries received a boost to its online presence today as the NWT Film Commission officially launched its new website, www.nwtfilm.com.

The new website offers an attractive hub of information for film industry representatives looking to use the NWT as a film location – including permitting and registration information, regional contacts, and a locations photo library. It also showcases the services of the local film and media arts industry through the NWT Film Suppliers Guide – designed to provide a catalogue of local talent for producers looking to film in the territory.

“With the recent international success of NWT-filmed television programs, the industry is turning its gaze north” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) David Ramsay. “ITI is committed to supporting the healthy growth of the NWT film and media arts industry, and this new website is an excellent tool for promoting investment in an exciting and dynamic new sector.”

In creating www.nwtfilm.com, the GNWT worked closely with the NWT Professional Media Association to ensure that it provides services tailored to the needs of the industry– a partnership that will continue in the future as the GNWT continues to provide funding and support for film in the territory.

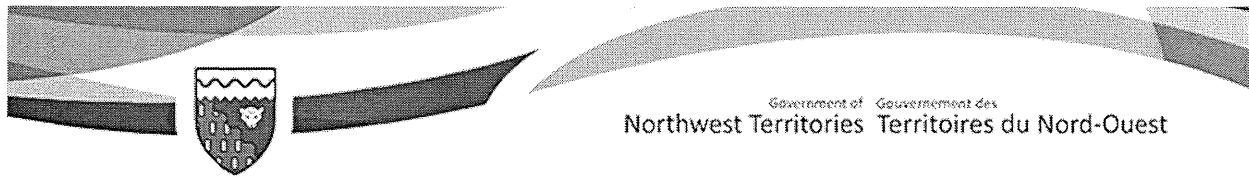
“The launch of nwtfilm.com is an exciting step in the right direction of building our industry and one that has involved the hard work and dedication of many individuals within the GNWT and the territorial film industry,” said Jay Bulckaert, President of the NWT Professional Media Association. “The NWT Professional Media Association sees this new website, along with last year’s announcement of funding for film productions, as the positive results of a collaborative relationship with the NWT Film Commission and we look forward to the continuation of this ongoing relationship to see how these new initiatives will bolster our already bustling, vibrant and professional film industry here in the NWT.”

The GNWT’s support for the film industry is an example of strengthening and diversifying our territory’s economy through maximizing opportunities for its residents, a key priority identified by the 17th Legislative Assembly.

For more information, contact:

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Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories
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NEWS RELEASE

30-Year Old Taicho Drum Songs Released on CD

Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty, will present the first CD copies of drum songs to the Tłı̄ch̄o chiefs at the annual Tłı̄ch̄o Gathering in Wekweètì.

In 1982, Robert Janes, Director of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) in cooperation with the Dene Nation and CBC North, contracted anthropologist Ronald Wright to record Dene music. This project was to both preserve a sample of traditional Dene music and share the music with the world.

Recorded in Behchoko, the songs have been preserved in the NWT Archives at the PWNHC. PWNHC, CBC North and the Tłı̄ch̄o government worked together to finalize the recordings and produce the CD, *Songs of the Tłı̄ch̄o Drum Dance*.

“We are extremely excited about this project,” said Minister Lafferty. “Music and celebration are a big part of the foundation of our northern cultures. Some of these songs haven’t been heard or performed in 30 years, and today, they are remastered and produced on a CD to share with other cultures. This is a tremendous gift. The songs are part of our heritage, and we look forward to sharing them with the families and communities of the original musicians, and with the world.”

A celebration with the original anthropologist, Ronald Wright, is planned for the fall at the PWNHC.

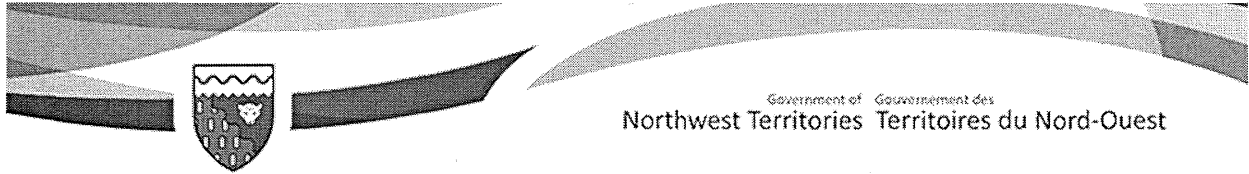
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NEWS RELEASE

Housing Choices Programs Accepting Applications for 2013/2014 Delivery Year

YELLOWKNIFE (July 17, 2012) – The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWTHC) will be accepting applications for 2013-2014 Housing Choices programs from August 1 to October 15, 2012.

Housing Choices provides support to help to low- and modest-income residents of the NWT become homeowners, complete preventative maintenance or major repairs to their homes, or learn more about owning a home.

“The Housing Choices programs offered by the NWTHC help improve the standard of living in the North. Our broad range of programs means that all Northerners have an opportunity for adequate, suitable and affordable housing,” said the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

Housing Choices includes four programs. Access to assistance is application-based. NWTHC staff will be visiting each community to accept applications. Anyone interested in applying for Housing Choices should call their NWTHC District Office to schedule an appointment today.

More information and the schedule for community visits are available on the NWTHC website at <http://www.nwthc.gov.nt.ca> or contact the nearest NWTHC District Office.

For more information contact:

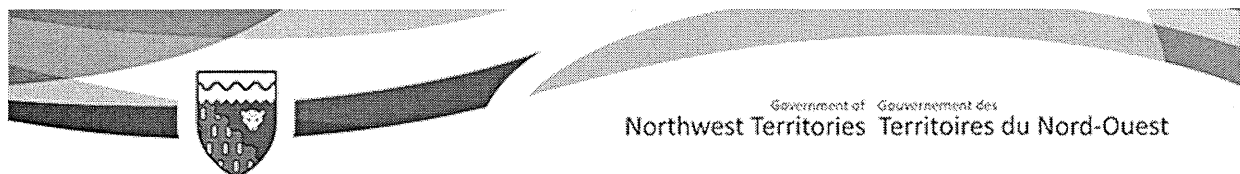
Cara Bryant

Communications Advisor

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Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

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NEWS RELEASE

Premier McLeod meets with new Gwich'in Tribal Council Executive

YELLOWKNIFE (July 19, 2012) – Premier Bob McLeod met with the newly-elected Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) President Robert A. Alexie, Vice-President Norman Snowshoe and Chief Operating Officer Fred E. Koe today in Yellowknife. The meeting was the first step in opening doors for an ongoing and productive partnership between the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the new GTC Leadership, one that aims at delivering real benefits to the Gwich'in

"We have a small territory and we need to pull together if we want to achieve our shared vision of a strong, self-sufficient Northwest Territories," said Premier McLeod. "Our government is committed to working with this territory's Aboriginal governments in the spirit of respect, recognition and responsibility. I believe the Government of the Northwest Territories and the GTC share many of the same priorities and I look forward to working with President Alexie and the new GTC executive to advance the interests of all NWT residents, including the Gwich'in."

GTC President Alexie said he was pleased at the outcome of the preliminary talks.

"We are pleased to have this early meeting with Premier McLeod today," President Alexie said. "As elected leaders we have a joint and community responsibility to work together in a productive and transparent way. We look forward to a more productive partnership between the GNWT and the new GTC leadership, one that aims at delivering real benefits to the Gwich'in."

The 17th Legislative Assembly has a vision of strong individuals, families and communities sharing the benefits of and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustainable and prosperous Northwest Territories. Priorities include making progress on improving our economy, making strategic investments in our infrastructure, creating employment opportunities for NWT residents in their regions and communities, balancing development with environmental stewardship, ensuring our residents are healthy and educated and addressing poverty and housing needs.

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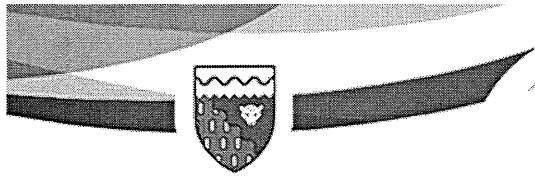
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Government of / Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories / Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NEWS RELEASE

GNWT Announces 2012 Council of the Federation Literacy Award Recipient

YELLOWKNIFE (July 24, 2012) – The Council of the Federation (CoF), in partnership with the Government of the Northwest Territories, announced Karra Dillon as the NWT recipient of the 2012 Council of the Federation Literacy Award. Presented annually to one individual from each of Canada's thirteen provinces and territories, the award celebrates outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy.

"Literacy skills are a major factor in our ability to participate as full and active citizens in all areas of society," said Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "Ms. Dillon has displayed great tenacity in her pursuit of education, and her commitment to her language and culture enriches us all."

"I am proud to recognize NWT role models like Ms. Dillon," said Premier Bob McLeod. "People throughout our territory can look to her as an example of what they can accomplish personally and in their communities. I wish her well in her studies and am sure she will continue to be a mentor for young people as a teacher."

Living in her home town of Tuktoyaktuk, Ms. Dillon is a young Inuvialuit woman who left school at an early age to start a family. In 2010, she enrolled in the Aboriginal Language and Cultural Instructor Program at Aurora College in Inuvik. Ms. Dillon began the program as an emerging speaker and worked hard to become very skilled and fluent in Siglitun Inuvialuktun. Her love of her language and culture is also expressed through traditional drum dancing. Ms. Dillon plans to pursue additional upgrading toward her new goal of entering the Bachelor of Education Program.

Created in 2004 by the Premiers of Canada, the award recognizes the valuable contributions made by Canadians across the entire spectrum of literacy, including family, Aboriginal, health, workplace and community literacy. In the NWT, the award is customarily given to an adult learner who has overcome obstacles, demonstrated outstanding progress in the pursuit of literacy skills in any of the NWT's official languages, helped others to improve their literacy levels, and was enrolled in classes within the past 18 months.

Ms. Dillon will receive a certificate signed by the Premier and a Council of the Federation Literacy Award medallion at a presentation during NWT Literacy Week, September 24 to 30, 2012.

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Council of the Federation Announces Literacy Award Winners for 2012

July 24, 2012 – Canada’s Premiers today announced the recipients of the eighth annual Council of the Federation Literacy Award. The award recognizes outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy. It is presented annually in each province and territory to educators, volunteers, learners, community organizations, non-governmental organizations and businesses.

The recipients of the 2012 Council of the Federation Literacy Award are:

Lisa O’Blenis – Alberta
Literacy Alliance of the Shuswap Society (LASS) – British Columbia
Tina Bergen – Manitoba
Maria (Candy) Mateo – New Brunswick
Elizabeth Cormier – New Brunswick
Karra Dillon – Northwest Territories
Kimberly (Kim) Nielsen – Nova Scotia
Annie Neglak – Nunavut
Community Literacy of Ontario – Ontario
Terry Affleck – Prince Edward Island
Romain Audet – Québec
Gordon Li – Saskatchewan
Doris Roberts – Yukon

“On behalf of all Premiers, I congratulate the 2012 recipients of the Council of the Federation Literacy Award,” said Darrell Dexter, Premier of Nova Scotia and Chair of the Council of the Federation. “The determination of literacy learners and the devotion of literacy advocates are an inspiration to all Canadians. The recipients of this award are all truly deserving of this recognition.”

The award recognizes the valuable contributions made by Canadians across the entire spectrum of the field of literacy, including family, Aboriginal, health, workplace and community literacy. Premiers created the award in 2004 to recognize the importance of literacy as a major factor in Canadians' ability to participate as full and active citizens in all areas of society.

Each recipient receives a certificate, signed by the Premier of their province or territory, as well as a Council of the Federation Literacy Award medallion.

- MORE -

The Council of the Federation comprises all 13 provincial and territorial Premiers. It enables Premiers to work collaboratively to strengthen the Canadian federation by fostering a constructive relationship among the provinces and territories, and with the federal government.

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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

2012 Council of the Federation Literacy Award Recipients

Lisa O'Blenis – Alberta

Lisa O'Blenis is a volunteer tutor with the Calgary Public Library's Learning Advantage Program, which pairs volunteers with adult literacy learners to achieve their reading, writing and numeracy goals. O'Blenis is committed to lifelong learning and to helping adults overcome their literacy challenges. By customizing lessons and supporting her students, O'Blenis goes above and beyond to provide learners with the necessary literacy skills for the home, workplace and further education. Thanks to O'Blenis' help, one of her students received his Canadian citizenship and will now be attending the University of Calgary. When not volunteering as a literacy tutor, O'Blenis works in volunteer management, supporting and coordinating a team of over 500 volunteers. O'Blenis has a positive impact on her students and is a true champion for literacy in Alberta.

Literacy Alliance of the Shuswap Society (LASS) – British Columbia

LASS approached the literacy scene with the attitude of "what can we do to help or support you" rather than "this is what we're doing." In addition to fostering community collaboration and partnerships, LASS has delivered a variety of well-received literacy programs that target learners across all ages and sectors. For example, the One-to-One Children's Literacy Program has involved over 200 community volunteers across 13 schools. In only four months, participating children significantly increased their reading speed and their reading accuracy. LASS exemplifies commitment to innovative literacy practices and positive literacy outcomes for all learners as they work to weave literacy into the culture of the communities in School District 83 – North Okanagan Shuswap.

Tina Bergen – Manitoba

Tina Bergen had a passion for learning as a child in Paraguay where her schooling stopped at age 12. She moved with her young family to Canada, where "a whole new world opened up and it was like her mind had come to life." When Bergen was laid off from the local manufacturing plant there was an opportunity to pursue a job in the Residential Care field. This work required a grade 12 diploma so she enrolled at South Eastman English and Literacy Services to improve her writing skills. Within six months Bergen finished Stage 3, wrote a book, *Turbulence, Transitions and Triumphs* and enrolled in high school courses. She inspires other learners through her writing, volunteering on the board and her successful transition to the adult learning centre.

Maria (Candy) Mateo – New Brunswick

Maria (Candy) Mateo came to Canada from El Salvador in 1994. Her desire to learn English inspired her to improve her literacy skills. Mateo struggled to communicate with Canadian friends, find work and read the Bible. Attempting various methods of learning the language – including using a Spanish-English dictionary, borrowing books from the library and watching Sesame Street – she began her quest to get a GED, as she wrote, "before I start walking with a cane." It has been a long journey but in May 2012, Mateo achieved her GED. Her goal is to go to college and train to find meaningful employment. Mateo notes it was with the support of her family and friends and her deep faith in God that she was successful.

Elizabeth Cormier – New Brunswick

Elizabeth Cormier left school at the age of 18 because she was pregnant. School was not important to her – until the day she became a mother. She came to the realization she had responsibilities as a parent and no education. Cormier obtained work, but nothing that paid well, and it was hard living on little money. She did not want her daughter to be in the same situation, so she made her a promise she would finish high school, obtain her GED and go to college. At 35, Cormier decided to go back to school and is now on her way to achieving her goal. In her own words, “I am going to graduate with honours; the honour of creating a better future for myself.”

Karra Dillon – Northwest Territories

Karra Dillon is a young Inuvialuit woman living in her home community of Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories. She left school at an early age to start a family and returned to school in 2010 in order to pursue a career. This spring she graduated from the Aboriginal Language and Culture Instructor Program at Aurora College in Inuvik, NT. Dillon came to the program as an emerging speaker and has worked hard to become a very skilled Siglitun Inuvialuktun speaker. Dillon's love of her language and culture is also expressed through traditional drum dancing. Dillon plans to pursue additional upgrading towards her new goal of entering the Bachelor of Education Program.

Kimberly (Kim) Nielsen – Nova Scotia

As a single mother of four children, when her youngest was ready to leave for university, Kim Nielsen decided to go back to school. Her first step towards this goal was to enroll at the Queens Adult High School, a decision that ultimately changed her life. As a student she stood out due to her dedication, her leadership qualities and her commitment; she will graduate in June 2012 with honours. Nielsen participated in a wide range of activities ranging from fundraising to volunteering in a technology mentoring program in a seniors' residence. She plans to attend the Continuing Care Program at a Nova Scotia Community College. Nielsen will no doubt thrive in the health care profession as she is a nurturing, trustworthy, talented individual with a sparkling personality.

Annie Neglak – Nunavut

Annie Neglak spent her early years growing up as her ancestors had for many years – on the land near the outpost camp of Bathurst Inlet, in western Nunavut. Separated from her family and sent away to residential school, she was denied an education because she was considered “too old”. Instead, she was put to work at the school. Neglak always desired not only to right this personal wrong, but also to advocate for her people. In her late fifties, she began the journey toward literacy. Neglak completed Adult Basic Education and then enrolled in the Social Services Worker Program at Nunavut Arctic College. She continued to return to Adult Basic Education for upgrades that allowed her to complete her college diploma. Neglak has become a passionate promoter of literacy. As an elder, she is a role model to all Inuit who struggle with adversity, and continues to give back to her people.

Community Literacy of Ontario – Ontario

Community Literacy of Ontario (CLO) is a network of community-based literacy agencies. CLO was created in 1994 and is located in Barrie. They have a passion for literacy, for learning and for the power of community. Their mission is to provide resources, information, and practitioner training. They believe in making practitioner training highly accessible and were an early adopter of online learning. CLO offers face-to-face training, online workshops, webinars, self-study training modules, podcasts, online videos and more. While CLO may be small, they have always dreamed big and worked hard to support Ontario's community-based literacy agencies in the important work they do in helping adults to improve their literacy and numeracy skills.

Terry Affleck – Prince Edward Island

At the age of 63, Terry Affleck learned to read and today at the age of 66, he is one subject away from achieving his grade 12 equivalency. In the 1950s, early in Affleck's schooling, low self-esteem and rebellion set in and literacy became problematic. He decided to quit school in order to work and his parents accepted his decision. Affleck was always a good worker and found employment easily. He believed he did not need more education until children arrived on the scene and he could not help them with their homework. For years, Affleck was convinced people thought he could read until a good friend suggested he take advantage of a literacy tutor. After two years with a tutor, Affleck experienced a dramatic change – he could read and enjoyed it, but most of all he realized that with a little more effort he could finally complete high school.

Romain Audet – Québec

When he began his literacy journey at the Saint-Prosper Centre d'éducation des adultes, Romain Audet could read and write a little; his math skills were non-existent. This led him to be extremely shy around others. After a while, his taste for learning grew, as did his self-confidence. His progress now enables him to go to the library, make a budget and use tools such as grammar books, dictionaries and the computer to upgrade his skills. Audet has also formed new friendships and varied his hobbies, which allows him to enjoy life more within his circle of friends. In short, as he himself says, "My life has changed. I'm no longer alone. I feel good about myself!"

Gordon Li – Saskatchewan

When Gordon Li came to Canada more than 20 years ago, he was fluent in Chinese and Russian but had few English skills. He attended community-based literacy programs, including those at the Regina Public Library, Regina Open Door Society, the Lifelong Learning Centre and the Regina Literacy Network. He considers society to be his classroom. Li is dedicated to promoting learning and literacy engagement among adult learners. He is a peer tutor, a volunteer interpreter and assists immigrant entrepreneurs. He is currently a learner leader and the treasurer for the Regina Literacy Network as well as a member of Saskatchewan Literacy Network's provincial speakers' bureau and adult learner focus committee. In 2010, Li received *Celebrating Seniors*, the first provincial senior volunteer award.

Doris Roberts – Yukon

Doris Roberts is an elder of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in from Dawson City. She has made it her life's work to study, recover and teach her traditional Hän language. Upon returning to her family after residential school, Roberts worked hard to re-learn the language she had not been allowed to speak. She then began teaching others. Roberts also played a pivotal role in recovering Hän language and songs that had been entrusted to the Tanacross of Alaska. Her teaching now includes songs, stories and performances that had been missing for 100 years. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in now perform these traditional songs at their gatherings. Because of Roberts' efforts and dedication to the Hän language, community members are hopeful that Hän will once again be a strong and vibrant language, and a strong part of their culture.

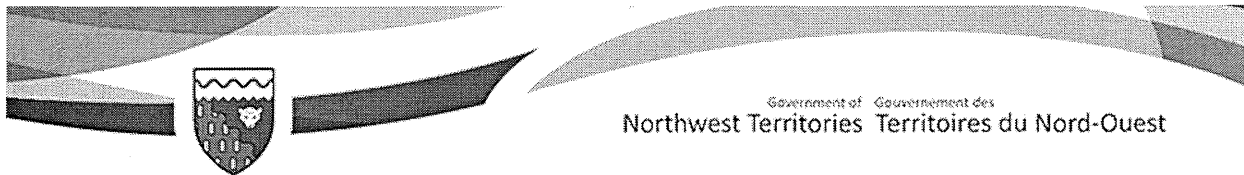
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NEWS RELEASE

Contractor Named for New Hay River Health Centre

YELLOWKNIFE (July 27, 2012) -- The Departments of Health and Social Services, Public Works and Services and the Hay River Health and Social Service Authority are pleased to announce the award of the contract for the design and construction of the new Health Centre in Hay River.

The project has been awarded to a local firm, Arctic Canada Construction LTD, in partnership with Bird Design Build Construction Inc. This partnership will combine knowledge of design and construction in northern communities with professional resources and skilled trades personnel to create a Health Centre that will meet the needs of Hay River and surrounding communities for the next 50 years.

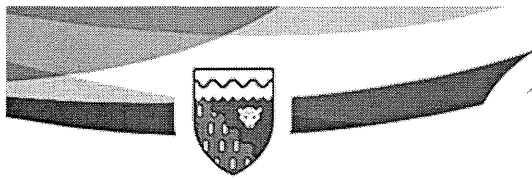
The new Health Centre will be a state of the art facility that will provide primary care, acute and emergency care services and medical/surgical day care. It will also offer rehabilitation, dialysis, diagnostic and lab services, and a range of support services, including food services, laundry, maintenance, materiel management, medical records and pharmacy.

The operational planning and functional programming are complete for the new Health Centre. The next step will be finalization of the schematic design this fall, which will pave the way for work on the foundation to commence in the spring. It is anticipated that there will be a three year design and construction period, with the new Centre opening its doors in the fall of 2015.

The Minister of Health and Social Services, Tom Beaulieu and MLAs for Hay River, Jane Groenewegen and Robert Bouchard, invite residents of Hay River to attend a public meeting at the community hall in Hay River at 7 p.m. on August 13th, 2012 for a presentation on this exciting project and the plans for the next phases of development.

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Government of / Gouvernement des
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NEWS RELEASE

2012-2017 Species Status Assessment Schedule Released

YELLOWKNIFE (July 30, 2012) – The 2012-2017 schedule identifying species to be assessed to determine if they are at risk has been released by the Northwest Territories (NWT) Species at Risk Committee.

The Species at Risk Committee reviews the species status assessment schedule every year and revises it as needed.

Species scheduled for assessment in 2012 are Peary Caribou, Hairy Braya, Polar Bear, and Boreal Woodland Caribou. In 2013, species scheduled for assessment are Barren-ground Caribou, Dolphin-Union Caribou, and Northern Leopard Frog. Species were prioritized for status assessment using a checklist of the following six factors: uniqueness; trends; community concern; rarity; threats; and percentage in the NWT.

More species are scheduled for assessment in 2014-2017.

The Species at Risk Committee, established by the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, is an independent committee of experts responsible for assessing the biological status of species at risk in the NWT. The Committee will use the assessments to make recommendations on the listing of species at risk. The assessment categories are Extinct, Extirpated, Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern, Not at Risk, and Data Deficient.

The full 2012-2017 species status assessment schedule and a backgrounder are attached.

For more information, contact:

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Species Status Assessment Schedule 2012-2017

Note: This schedule will be revised annually and may change based on the results of these annual reviews.

Species to be assessed by December 2012

- Peary Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus pearyi*)
- Hairy Braya (a plant-formerly called Hairy Rockress) (*Braya pilosa*)
- Polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*)
- Woodland Caribou (Boreal population) (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)

Species to be assessed by December 2013

- Barren-ground Caribou (except Dolphin Union population) (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus*)
- Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin Union population) (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus* x *pearyi* (*R.t. pearyi* x *groenlandicus*))
- Northern Leopard Frog (*Lithobates pipiens* (*Rana pipiens*))

Species to be assessed by December 2014

- Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*)
- Nahanni Aster (plant) (*Symphyotrichum nahanniense* (*Aster nahanniensis*))
- Western Toad (*Anaxyrus boreas* (*Bufo boreas*))
- Wood Bison (*Bison bison athabasca*)

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
**SPECIES
AT RISK**
COMMITTEE

Species to be assessed by December 2015

- Drummond Bluebell (Plant) (*Mertensia drummondii*)
- Peregrine Falcon anatum-tundrius complex (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)
- Mountain Goat (*Oreamnos americanus*)

Species to be assessed by December 2016

- Canadian Toad (*Anaxyrus hemiophrys* (*Bufo hemiophrys*))
- Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*)
- Little Brown Myotis (bat) (*Myotis lucifugus*)*
- Northern Myotis (bat) (*Myotis septentrionalis*)*
- Long-eared Myotis (bat) (*Myotis evotis*)*
- Long-legged Myotis (bat) (*Myotis volans*)*
- Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*)*

*The five bat species will be bundled together into one species status report but assessed separately.

Species to be assessed by December 2017

- American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)
- Collared Pika (*Ochotona collaris*)
- Banks Island Alkali Grass (plant) (*Puccinellia banksiensis*)
- Red-sided Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*)



Species Status Assessment Backgrounder

- The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* provides a process to identify, protect and recover species at risk in the NWT. The Act applies to any wild animal, plant or other species managed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. It does not apply to fish, marine mammals or migratory birds. It applies everywhere in the NWT, on both public and private lands, including private lands owned under a land claims agreement.
- The Species at Risk Committee (SARC), established by the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, is an independent committee of up to 15 experts responsible for assessing the biological status of species at risk in the NWT.
- Species status assessment will be done at the territorial level, and the results may be different from assessments done at the national level. Assessments will be based on species status reports that include the best available traditional, community and scientific knowledge of the species.
- Status assessments are scheduled to be done on 25 species between 2012 and 2017.
- Species were ranked in order of priority for assessment using a checklist of the following six criteria:
 - **Uniqueness** – How distinct or special it is; species are given higher priority than subspecies and subspecies are given higher priority than distinct populations.

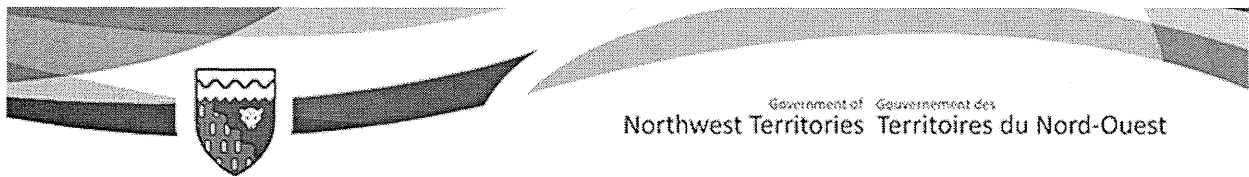
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
**SPECIES
AT RISK**
COMMITTEE

- **Trends** – A species whose numbers, or amount of habitat, are showing a decline is a higher priority than a species with stable or increasing populations or habitat.
- **Community concern** – Species with a high level of community concern in the NWT are given a high priority.
- **Rarity** – A species with one small population in the NWT is higher priority than a species that is abundant.
- **Threats** – A species with threats affecting more than half the population is a higher priority than a species with threats of minor or no impact.
- **Percentage in NWT** – A species found only in the NWT is a higher priority than a species that is widespread.

Assessment Categories

SARC recommends each species assessed be placed in one of the following status categories:

- **Extinct** – no longer exists anywhere;
- **Extirpated** – no longer exists in the wild in the NWT;
- **Endangered** – facing imminent extirpation or extinction;
- **Threatened** – likely to become endangered if nothing is done;
- **Special Concern** – may become endangered or threatened because of threats and biological factors;
- **Not at Risk** – not currently at risk of extinction; or
- **Data Deficient** – not enough information to determine status.



NEWS RELEASE

Richard Hardy Receives the Diamond Jubilee Medal

NORMAN WELLS (August 2, 2012) – The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal was presented to Mr. Richard Hardy yesterday during the Sahtu Secretariat Inc. Annual General Assembly.

The Honourable Glen Abernethy and the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Chairperson of the Sahtu Secretariat, presented the Diamond Jubilee Medal to Mr. Hardy.

This commemorative medal has been created by the Government of Canada to recognize the outstanding contributions and achievements of 60,000 deserving Canadians of all ages and from all walks of life. This medal program is one of the elements of the year-long Diamond Jubilee celebrations, and a list of NWT recipients is available on the GNWT's website.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple

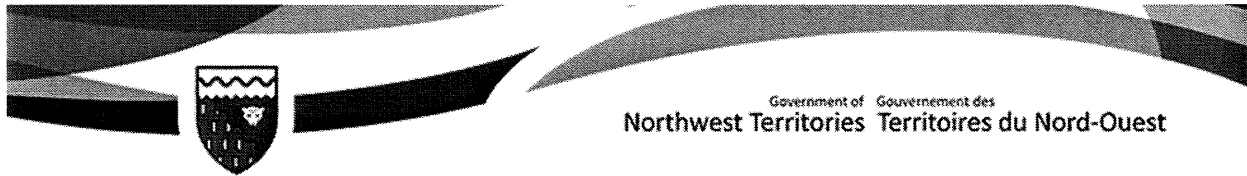
Media Liaison

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NEWS RELEASE

Aviation Scholarships Awarded

YELLOWKNIFE (August 14, 2012) — Seven scholarships under the Aviation Career Development Program (ACDP) have been awarded to first-time recipients in the first intake of the 2012-2013 school year. ACDP helps support NWT students to pursue careers in the NWT's aviation industry.

The \$5,000 scholarships are funded by the Department of Transportation in partnership with Discovery Air, First Air, Keewatin Air, and North-Wright Airways. The Government of Nunavut's Department of Economic Development and Transportation funds a further six scholarships for residents of Nunavut. The intake for Nunavummiut applicants has been extended to September 28, 2012.

This is the 12th year of the program. To date, half a million dollars in scholarships have been awarded to help pay for aviation-related education and training.

Minister of Transportation David Ramsay congratulated the seven recipients, all first-time applicants. "Each of these candidates demonstrated an interest in entering the vital aviation field, as well as a commitment to return to the North when they are finished their training and education," he said. "The future of the northern aviation industry depends on young people from the North receiving the training and experience they need to play their role as pilots, maintenance engineers, operations specialists, and aviation managers."

As an Aviation Career Development Program partner, the Department of Transportation contributes up to \$30,000 per year to improve skills for northern workers in the NWT aviation industry. Encouraging people to enter or remain in the workforce is a priority of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

The 2012 first-time NWT recipients are:

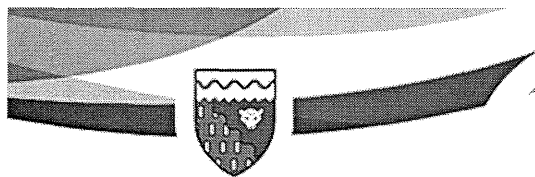
- Brittney Norris, Yellowknife
- Colby Wallis, Yellowknife
- Dakota Miller, Norman Wells

- Dylan Wheaton, Yellowknife
- Kylar Villebrun, Yellowknife
- Matthew Noland, Aklavik
- Michael Gray, Yellowknife

To learn more about the Aviation Career Development Program, please visit the [Department of Transportation's website](#).

For more information, please contact:

Ben Webber
Assistant Director, Programs and Standards
Department of Transportation
Tel: (867) 873-7822



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NEWS RELEASE

Deputy Minister Appointment

YELLOWKNIFE (August 15, 2012) – Premier Bob McLeod has announced Sylvia Haener as the new Deputy Minister for the Department of Justice. This appointment will be effective as of 5pm on August 31.

Ms. Haener is a lifelong resident of Yellowknife and has been working for the Government of the Northwest Territories since 1989. She is currently the Assistant Deputy Minister (Solicitor General) for the Department of Justice. In this position, she is responsible for the corrections service, victim services, protection against family violence, community justice and policing. She has also served as CEO of Stanton Territorial Hospital and as Assistant Deputy Minister for the Departments of Health and Social Services and Executive. She has successfully applied her passion for labour relations and human resources work to each of her GNWT positions. Ms. Haener will succeed Bronwyn Watters, who is retiring.

“I am pleased to welcome Ms. Haener to her new position,” said Premier McLeod. “Her varied experience will serve our government and justice system well. I have already been impressed by her creative approaches to resolving issues, and I look forward to working with her in this new role. I would also like to thank Ms. Watters for her dedication and commitment to the public service, and wish her the very best in her retirement.”

Ms. Watters recently won the Dave Ramsden Public Service Award for Career Excellence for her 34 years of public service, with impressive contributions to Health and Social Services, Education, and, most recently, Justice.

The Department of Justice’s mandate is to administer justice, including policing and corrections in the Northwest Territories. This mandate will be carried out in a manner that respects community and aboriginal values and encourages communities to assume increasing responsibilities.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple

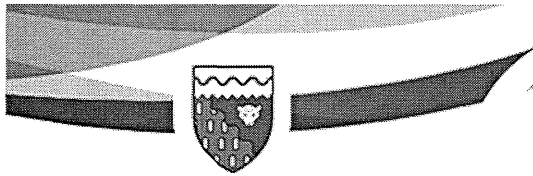
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NEWS RELEASE

Watch out! Bison Season Has Begun

YELLOWKNIFE (August 15, 2012) -- Drive with extra caution: that's the message for drivers on highways 3, 5, and 7 from mid-August until mid-December. The additional caution is required because more than 75% of bison collisions in the Northwest Territories occur during this four-month period.

"Watching for bison, bears, moose, wolves, fox, and other animals on NWT roads is a year-round requirement," says Transportation Minister David Ramsay. "Drivers in bison country must be particularly cautious at this time of the year because of the much higher rate of collisions. We can all do more to avoid collisions and injuries on our roads and trails."

Each year, an average of 20 collisions with bison are reported to police in the Northwest Territories, and on average, two people are injured each year. The last fatality was in 2009, when a passenger who was not wearing a seat belt was involved in a bison collision on Highway 3.

Drive Alive, the road and trail safety information program of the Government of Northwest Territories, reminds drivers that collisions with bison and other animals are avoidable if you take three steps to protect yourself and your passengers:

1. Watch for movement on the highway and in the right-of-way. Ask your passengers to help you watch out for bison and other animals.
2. Drive at a speed appropriate for road and weather conditions. Reduce speed at dusk and during the night, particularly on Highway 3.
3. Whenever possible, drive on highways 3, 5, and 7 during daylight hours only, before dusk.

If you are involved in a bison collision, your best chance to avoid injuries or death is to ensure everyone in your vehicle is securely buckled up. Drivers should carry a satellite phone or SPOT locator device whenever they drive between NWT communities.

A third of all bison collisions on Highway 3 occur on the Yellowknife side of Frank's Channel Bridge. Half of all collisions occur on each side of km. 165, the approximate mid-point of the highway. This means that the entire highway from the Mackenzie River to the outskirts of Yellowknife is bison country, and extra caution must be exercised throughout the length of the highway.

Similarly, drivers on Highways 5 and 7 must be aware of the potential of bison on and near the highway at all times.

For more information, visit the [Department of Transportation website](#) or contact:

Earl Blacklock

Manager, Public Affairs and Communications

Manager responsible for Drive Alive

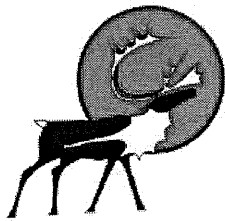
Department of Transportation

Government of the Northwest Territories

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Cell: 867-445-3494

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Gwich'in Forest Management Plan Signed in Fort McPherson

FORT MCPHERSON (August 16, 2012) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) and the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) signed the Gwich'in Forest Management Plan: A Framework for Forest Management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area in Fort McPherson this morning.

The plan was signed by GTC President Robert A. Alexie, NWT Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) J. Michael Miltenberger and GRRB Interim Chair Eugene Pascal.

“We hope this important milestone will be matched by other productive joint initiatives in the near future. We don't want to lose sight of the forest for the trees,” said GTC President Alexi. “The fact that our first agreement is a Forestry Management Plan is a good sign. It's our intention to focus on the big picture in the days to come.”

He also expressed thanks to GTC staff who worked on the tripartite initiative.

“We want to congratulate the GTC Lead, Director LRI Norman Snowshoe, Jozef Carnogursky, LR Technical Advisor, and Mardy Semmler, Lands Manager, for all their hard work and a successful outcome.”

“Forest resources play an important role in the lives of the Gwich'in people - providing fuelwood, wildlife habitat, food plants, medicine, economic opportunities and spiritual and cultural benefits,” added ENR Minister Miltenberger. “This plan is an important step in cooperative and collaborative forest management between Government of the Northwest Territories and the Gwich'in people.”

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

Office of the Press Secretary • Premier/Cabinet
Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9
Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111

The Gwich'in Forest Management Plan covers a number of key areas including: forest protection, forest health, commercial harvesting; harvesting for personal use; tree clearing for development activities; sustainable harvest levels; harvest of non-timber forest products and, conservation zones.

It identifies concerns and outlines solutions to guide forest-related activities in the Gwich'in Settlement Area for the wise management and protection of forests.

Implementation of the forest management plan includes the development of five-year work plan to address concerns and solutions contained in it.

The process to develop the plan began in 1995 in accordance with the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

For more information, contact:

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Communications Director
Gwich'in Tribal Council
Board
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Amy Thompson
Executive Director
Gwich'in Renewable Resources
Tel: 867-777-6602
E-mail: athompson@grrb.nt.ca

Judy McLinton, Manager
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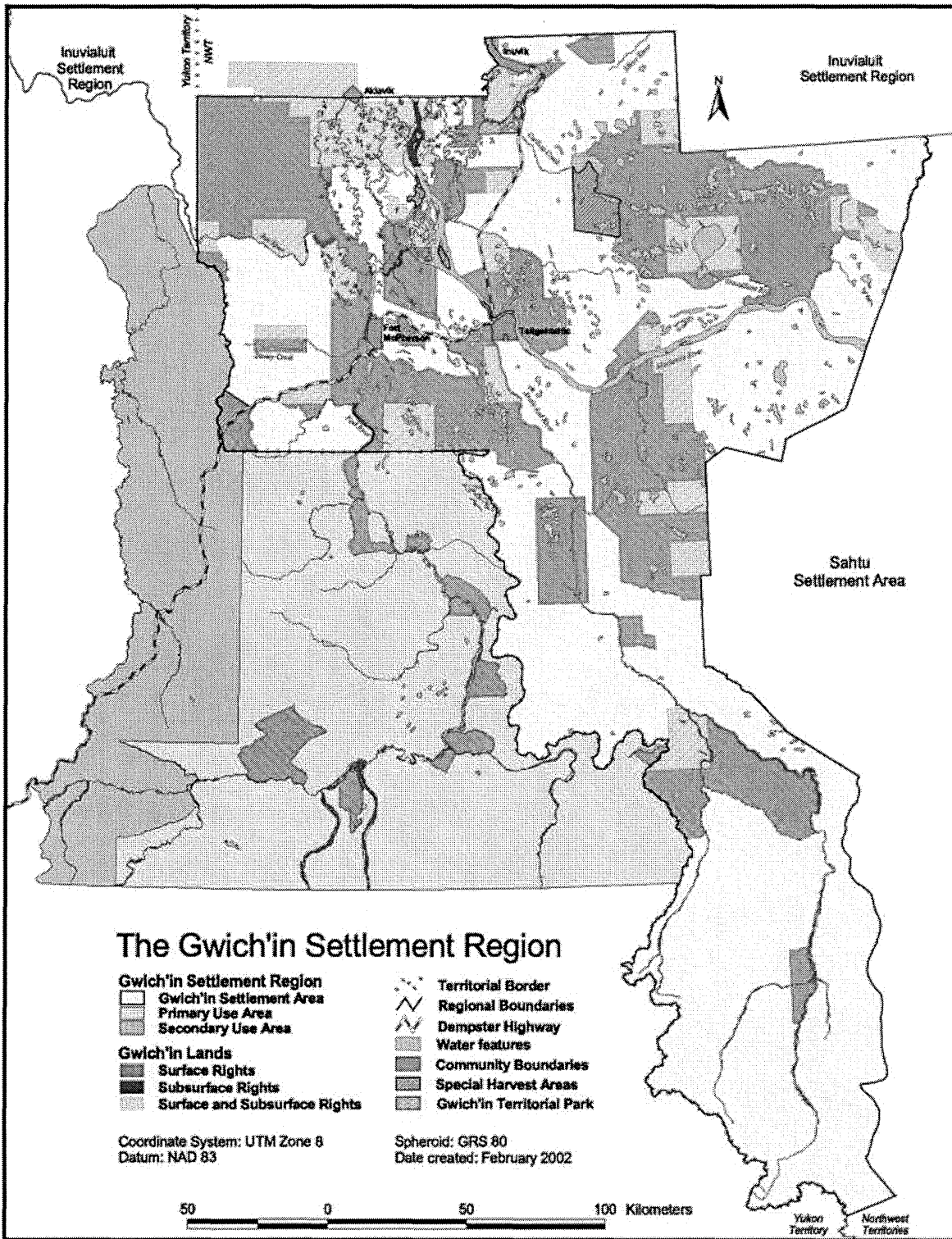
Backgrounder and map attached

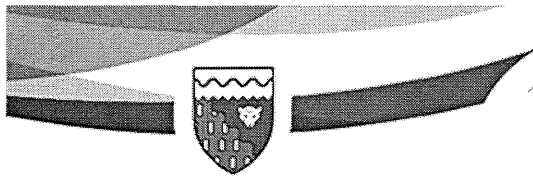
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Gwich'in Forest Management Plan Backgrounder

- The Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) provides for collaboration in the management of natural resources.
- Under the GCLCA, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) has the power to approve forest management plans and policies within the Settlement Area.
- Forests in the Gwich'in Settlement Area are on Crown Land and Gwich'in Private Land.
- The GNWT has territorial legislative jurisdiction over forest management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA). Forest harvest activities in the NWT are regulated through the NWT *Forest Management Act*.
- Forest harvest activities may also be subject to the *Mackenzie Valley Resources management Act*, the federal *Fisheries Act* and the *Environmental Protection Act*.
- A Forest Advisory Committee with representatives the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC), GRRB and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) was formed in 2000 to complete a framework for a management plan for the area.
- The Forest Management Plan will guide forestry activities in the GSA.
- It addresses community concerns regarding the level of commercial timber harvest, fuelwood harvesting, forest protection and tourism.
- It also identifies key issues for forest management in the GSA. Current status, concerns and priorities for directed action have been identified in the following areas: commercial tree harvesting; tree harvesting for personal use; sustainable harvest levels; development activities; conservation zones; forest protection; including forest protection; forest health; forest renewal; harvest of non-timber products; wildlife; heritage resources and traditional knowledge.
- The plan is a living document. It will be updated periodically to reflect current status and issues raised by communities. It will be reviewed every five years.





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NEWS RELEASE

Celebrating the Life of Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier Lamoureux

FORT PROVIDENCE (August 17, 2012) – Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier Lamoureux will be celebrated as a National Historic Person this weekend.

Ms. Lamoureux is the first NWT woman to receive this designation from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

“We remember Catherine and honour her memory by carrying on her work and the things she stood for: the family and the community,” said Premier Bob McLeod. “We can be especially proud that in Catherine’s case oral histories were used to recognize her as a person of national historic significance. This has never been done before by the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. It is a testament to Catherine’s legacy that she was able to speak to us across the generations and that the importance of oral traditions to the indigenous cultures of the NWT are being recognized.”

“The work which brought us to this commemoration required countless hours of time which spanned over decades with the contributions and accounts of many,” said Albert Lafferty, President of the Fort Providence Métis Council. “On another level it offers us a glimpse in time which goes back for generations, and into centuries past when the early explorers and newcomers were venturing into the Northwest of what was to develop and later become Canada. It is also about our adaptation, emergence as a new culture, while bearing in mind the sacrifices, endurance and early contributions which were made to our country.”

The nomination was made by the Fort Providence Métis Council, which will be hosting celebrations all weekend and unveiling a plaque to emphasize the important role culture plays in shaping our territory.

As a woman of energy and ability and a caregiver, Catherine Beaulieu Bouvier Lamoureux stands as an iconic figure among the Métis of Fort Providence and the Mackenzie Basin. She is still revered as the “old mother of all of us,” an outstanding inspiration and role model to her people as *Kokum Baie*, “one who gives and sustains life,” and *Ehtsu Naats’i*, “Grandmother of the winds,” referring to her great abilities as a traveller.

A complete schedule of the weekend’s events is available from the Fort Providence Métis Council.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple

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Albert J. Lafferty

President
Fort Providence Métis Council
Tel. 867.699.4320 Fax: 867.699.4319
email: pvmmetis@ssimicro.conm
www.dehchomackenziemetis.ca



Deputy Minister Appointment

YELLOWKNIFE (August 24, 2012) – Premier Bob McLeod has announced Gabriela Eggenhofer as the new Deputy Minister for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. This appointment will be effective September 10, 2012.

Ms. Eggenhofer has lived in the Northwest Territories for over 20 years and has been working for the GNWT in various capacities during that time. She has been the Deputy Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations for the past 7 years. She has also served as Associate Deputy Minister and Deputy Secretary to Cabinet in the Department of Executive. She has a Masters' Degree in Public Administration and has worked in the field of Aboriginal rights for much of her career. Most recently, she led the development of "Respect, Recognition, Responsibility", the foundation of the GNWT's new approach to working with Aboriginal governments in the NWT. This Aboriginal Engagement Strategy was developed based on discussion with Aboriginal governments and community leaders about how to strengthen the government-to-government relationship.

"I am pleased to welcome Ms. Eggenhofer to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment," said Premier McLeod. "She will be a strong leader and I look forward to working with her to build a strong, sustainable future for our territory. I would also like to thank Ms. Gloria Iatridis, who has been serving as Acting Deputy Minister since May."

Ms. Iatridis will resume her position as Associate Deputy Minister with Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Andy Bevan, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, will be Acting Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple

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Canadian Zinc and Government of Northwest Territories Advance Co-operation on Prairie Creek Mine Development

Premier, Ministers, and Dehcho Grand Chief Visit Prairie Creek Mine

Canadian Zinc and Department of Transportation Sign Collaboration Agreement

Yellowknife, NWT, August 28, 2012 – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) continues to advance its co-operation with Canadian Zinc Corporation (“CZN”) to further the August 2011 Socio-Economic Agreement between GNWT and Canadian Zinc with regard to the development of the Prairie Creek Mine.

On August 13th, 2012 Hon. Bob McLeod, Premier of the NWT, together with David Ramsay, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment and Glen Abernethy, Minister of Justice and Human Resources, were accompanied by Herb Norwegian, Grand Chief of the Dehcho First Nations (DCFN) on a visit to the Prairie Creek Mine. They toured the facilities and witnessed the increased site activities as the mine moves forward toward production.

The Premier, Ministers, and Grand Chief were particularly interested in the ongoing training programs for the local residents of the region. The Government of the Northwest Territories has committed financial and in-kind support toward the Prairie Creek Mine's *More than a Silver Lining* training program. The \$4.2 million Silver Lining training program is funded by the Government of Canada and managed by the Mine Training Society, in partnership with CZN and the GNWT.

The Dehcho First Nations also supports the program through the provision of an income allowance for all DCFN members participating in the training. **Herb Norwegian, Grand Chief of the Dehcho First Nations** commenting on the Aboriginal training programs said: *“Here is an opportunity to get some education and get to work. It's the first step to working your way to the top.”*

So far in 2012 the local Silver Lining training program has trained 62 individuals, with many of the graduates joining the staff at the Prairie Creek Mine, Canadian Zinc's Fort Simpson office, or service providers to the Project. These training programs included Office Administration, Mineral Exploration Field Assistant, Environmental Monitors, Heavy Equipment Operators, Diamond Drill Helper, Advance Medical First Responder, and Camp Cook.

Following the visit to Prairie Creek, Canadian Zinc and the GNWT Department of Transportation signed a Collaboration Agreement to ensure effective co-operation



related to the public transportation infrastructure that will support the Prairie Creek Mine project.

Transportation Minister David Ramsay says the Collaboration Agreement will help ensure that both public needs and mine activities are supported. *"We have agreed to work closely with Canadian Zinc to ensure public safety by identifying areas of Highway 7 and the Nahanni Butte access road that require enhancement or upgrading,"* he said. *"This co-operation will help the Department to plan future work on these roads to maintain and enhance these roads effectively."*

Canadian Zinc plans to use the existing Northwest Territories public transportation system to bring goods, fuel and equipment by road to the Mine and to transport its mineral products from the Mine to world markets. As part of this collaborative agreement, to assist in priority setting, CZN will provide reports to the Department of Transportation on its anticipated road transportation requirements for the construction and operation of the Prairie Creek Mine.

For more information, please contact

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Manager of Public Affairs and Communications
Department of Transportation
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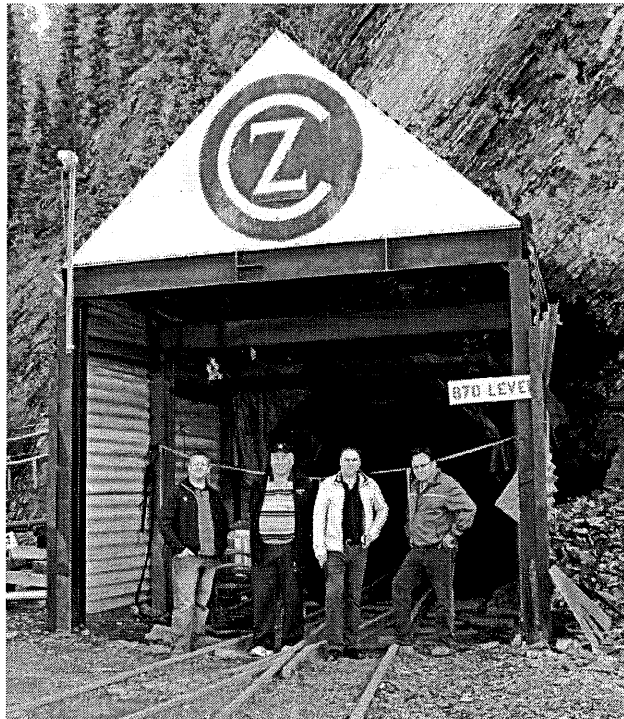
Steve Dawson
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steve@canadianzinc.com



Premier, Ministers, and Dehcho Grand Chief Visit Prairie Creek Mine



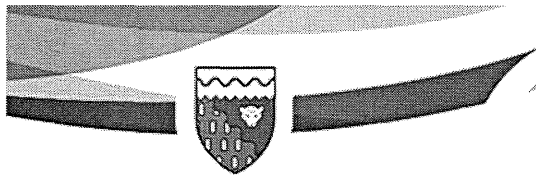
Wilbert Antoine, Hon. Minister Glen Abernethy, Hon. Minister David Ramsay, Chris Reeves, Hon. Premier Bob McLeod, Grand Chief Herb Norwegian, Joseph Lanzon Tour Prairie Creek.



Dignitaries standing in front of the 870 Level portal at the Prairie Creek Mine.



Alan Taylor, Chief Operating Officer of Canadian Zinc Corporation and Transportation Minister David Ramsay sign the Collaboration Agreement.



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NEWS RELEASE

Department of Transportation Recognized for Innovative Management

YELLOWKNIFE (AUGUST 29, 2012) – The Department of Transportation (DOT) has been recognized for innovative management by the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC). DOT was one of nine national finalists for the IPAC/IBM Award for Innovative Management for its *New Aboriginal Engagement Processes for Planning Major Infrastructure Projects*. The submission, which was for planning and consultation work required for the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project, came in second overall. This is the second IPAC/IBM Award for Innovative Management for the Government of Northwest Territories in the past seven years. This project shared information and knowledge with Aboriginal governments and helped build capacity within Aboriginal governments and at the community level.

Through the Aboriginal Engagement Strategy, "Respect, Recognition and Responsibility", the GNWT is committed to principles and action to strengthen and renew relationships with Aboriginal government partners through projects such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway. The strategy commits the territorial government to be open, flexible, and responsive in working with the diverse governance structures of regional Aboriginal governments and in understanding the unique interests and challenges of each region and community.

Premier Bob McLeod congratulated the department for its recognition. "The Government of Northwest Territories is continually seeking ways to improve our engagement of our Aboriginal stakeholders and partners," he said. "This initiative, which is focused on bringing Aboriginal governments and organizations into the decision-making process, has now been recognized nationally as a model for best practices in Aboriginal consultation and engagement."

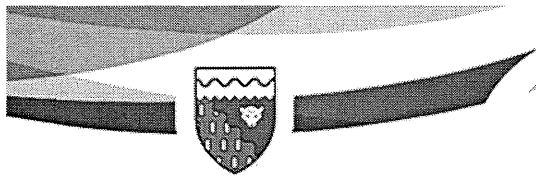
Minister of Transportation David Ramsay was pleased. "The department, led by Mackenzie Valley Highway Director Jim Stevens, developed effective partnerships with Aboriginal governments and organizations along the proposed right-of-way to develop project description reports for the highway," he said. "We expect those partnerships will continue to grow, ensuring that the people and communities benefitting from the construction of the Mackenzie Valley Highway will be key participants in its planning and construction."

The Department established partnerships with land claim groups and organizations to lead, develop, and manage the project description reports for sections of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway within their regions (Dehcho, Tulita District of the Sahtu, K'ahsho Got'ine District of the Sahtu, Gwich'in Settlement Area). The reports are used to initiate the environmental assessment of the project, and provide an overview level of terrain, wildlife, vegetation and archaeology in the area where the highway and material sources are being considered.

For more information about the IPAC Award and the department's submission, visit the [Department of Transportation website](#) or contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

Transitional Rent Supplement Program

YELLOWKNIFE (August 29, 2012) – The Transitional Rent Supplement Program will begin on September 1. It supports low- to moderate-income residents in private market rental housing, and provides a rent subsidy of up to \$500 per month for two years.

“Our Shelter Policy Review showed that too many people were slipping through the cracks,” said Minister Robert C. McLeod. “They don’t qualify for public housing, but still struggle with housing costs. This program addresses housing challenges for the working poor. It will give them the help they need to get ahead and move into homeownership.”

The Shelter Policy Review included broad-based engagement with Northerners, and resulted in *Building for the Future*, the NWT Housing Corporation’s strategic plan. The Transitional Rent Supplement Program is a strategic priority under that plan. This approach builds on the successes and progress over the last several years, strengthens self-reliance and support for residents to meet their own shelter needs, and recognizes the difference between market and non-market communities in designing Northern solutions.

Eligible applicants must be:

- 19 years or older
- Residents of the NWT for at least one year
- Living in private market rental housing
- Paying more than 30% of their income for shelter

Addressing housing needs by completing and implementing the Shelter Policy Review is a priority of the 17th Legislative Assembly. Following the Assembly’s direction, the NWT Housing Corporation has also developed fair and sustainable public housing rent scales and is selling public housing stock where this makes sense and putting higher-density housing units in small communities.

For more information, please visit the [NWT Housing Corporation's website](#) or nearest district office, or contact:

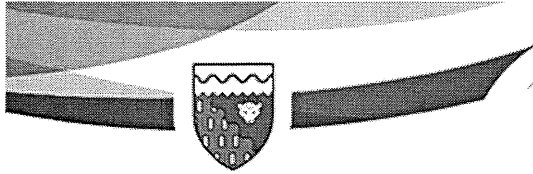
Charles Sanders

Policy Analyst

Strategic Planning, Policy and Communications

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

Tel: (867) 873-7941



Government of / Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories / Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NEWS RELEASE

Premier Meets with Dehcho First Nations Grand Chief

YELLOWKNIFE (August 31, 2012) – Premier Bob McLeod met with Dehcho First Nations Grand Chief Herb Norwegian on August 27. This was the first meeting between the two government leaders since Grand Chief Norwegian's election in June. The agenda included devolution, the *Wildlife Act*, land use, and the flood in Nahanni Butte.

"This was a productive meeting that set the tone for our continued government-to-government relationship and work toward a united and prosperous Northwest Territories," said Premier McLeod. "We can listen to each other in the spirit of respect, recognition and responsibility, and we can work together in the best interests of all of our people. The territorial government will continue to recognize and respect the constitutionally protected rights and treaty rights of Aboriginal peoples, as well as existing Aboriginal rights agreements."

"The moment has arrived to make a deal on crucial issues so that we can all move on with our lives," said Grand Chief Herb Norwegian.

The 17th Legislative Assembly met as a caucus at Cli Lake near Fort Simpson from August 26-29, 2012. The Assembly's priorities are outlined under the theme *Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners*. A strong relationship between the territorial, Aboriginal and local governments will build a sustainable future for the Dehcho region and the rest of the territory. The GNWT and Dehcho First Nations share a vision of strong individuals, families and communities sharing the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustainable and prosperous Northwest Territories. Both governments are committed to self-government and sustainable economic development while maintaining the integrity of the land and Aboriginal traditions.

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NEWS RELEASE

NTPC Takes Action on Yellowknife Power Outages

September 4, 2012 – Hay River, NT – Northwest Territories Power Corporation has begun implementing a comprehensive, multi-pronged action plan to address the recurring issue of power outages in the Yellowknife area.

“NTPC is committed to providing safe and reliable power to the residents of the NWT,” says Emanuel DaRosa, president and CEO of NTPC. “We are attacking the issue of outages from every angle in order to be sure we are providing the level of service that we, the GNWT and residents expect.”

He said NTPC’s plan will build on success the corporation has had in recent times using new technology to prevent outages caused by birds at the Jackfish generating plant in Yellowknife.

“The new bird and rodent deterrent system installed at Jackfish this year has been successful in preventing outages from what used to be a frequent source of problems in the past,” DaRosa said.

He said NTPC is quickly moving forward on a number of fronts at the same time. For example, NTPC has hired a contractor to begin clearing trees and brush along the entire 30-kilometre length of the Bluefish transmission line, work that will be done in conjunction with a foot patrol of the line to look for damage to wires or towers that may be causing outages.

NTPC also plans to hire a contractor with a special infrared and corona detecting camera to fly the entire transmission system in a helicopter to look for hot spots or electrical discharges.

DaRosa said NTPC is also actively addressing the issue of outages related to lightning strikes on the high-voltage transmission lines, the cause of more than twice as many outages in 2012 as the previous year.

“Lightning, once an infrequent occurrence in the NWT, has been occurring more frequently and later in the summer,” he said. “We are examining our entire system, not just Yellowknife, to determine what can be done to address this serious issue.”

He said Inuvik, where lightning was extremely rare, has experienced two outages this summer caused by lightning strikes.

In the meantime, NTPC is installing additional lightning protection where required throughout the network, DaRosa said.



NEWS RELEASE

He said NTPC is also looking at how equipment and staff respond to events with a view to improving how to manage issues that could result in outages.

"We're conducting a protection coordination study to contain and minimize the impact of line faults and lightning strikes," he said. "We're also planning to undertake a stability study to ensure that when there are faults or lightning strikes, our generators respond as smoothly as possible to avoid issues that could cause the system to black out."

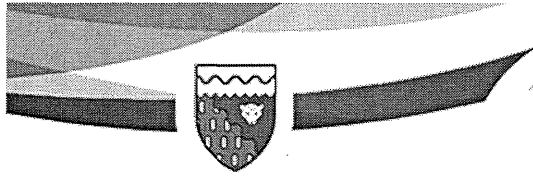
"NTPC can't promise to prevent every outage," he said. "I can commit that we will do our utmost to improve system reliability."

He said Yellowknife and the NWT in general are more vulnerable to outages than other parts of Canada because they aren't connected to the North American transmission grid.

"When a transmission line, such as the Snare line, feeding 80 per cent of the power to Yellowknife, is damaged, we must replace it with diesel-generated electricity, but we can't reroute power around that line or supply customers from other sources already on the system, like they can in other parts of Canada," DaRosa said. "That's just a fact of life in the North at this point."

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Government of / Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories / Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NEWS RELEASE

Premier McLeod and Minister Miltenberger Address Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy

VANCOUVER (September 5, 2012) -- Premier Bob McLeod and Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Michael Miltenberger are attending the Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy, the preeminent forum for water policy study. Premier McLeod will speak about the NWT's approach to collaborative management of natural resources and balanced, sustainable development. This approach creates economic opportunities for the people of the NWT while ensuring northern conservation priorities are met. Minister Miltenberger will speak about the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy, which aims to keep the waters of the Northwest Territories clean, abundant, and productive for all time.

"I grew up on the Mackenzie River and I've seen first-hand how development in the south can affect our Northern waters," said Premier McLeod. "The Mackenzie River Basin has global significance and our government is committed to seeing its ecological values preserved while sustainably developing our resources to create benefits and opportunities for Northwest Territories residents in their communities and regions."

"Water is life in the Northwest Territories," said Minister Miltenberger. "We are working with our partners to ensure we have integrated watershed management. I look forward to hearing from the experts at the forum. We all have a role to play in ensuring that NWT waters are sustained for human use and that northern ecosystems remain healthy and diverse."

The forum will convene at Simon Fraser University September 5-7, 2012 and will identify legal and scientific principles relevant to the processes leading ultimately to a coordinated Mackenzie Basin-wide approach to management, as well as prioritize knowledge gaps. The forum is co-hosted by the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation and SFU's Adaptation to Climate Change Team (ACT).

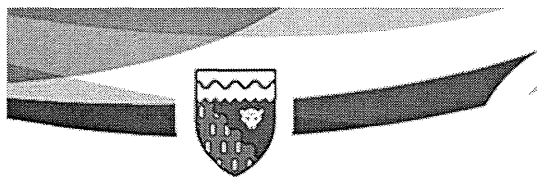
The Government of the Northwest Territories' Aboriginal Engagement Strategy commits the territorial government to continue to work with Aboriginal governments to ensure responsible stewardship over NWT lands, water and air.

Integrated watershed management ensures there is safe drinking water in adequate quantities for NWT residents and sustains healthy aquatic ecosystems. People depend on aquatic ecosystems for their food and drink, travel, economic growth, culture and spirituality. NWT residents need certainty that these ecosystems are healthy. Abundant and clean water also ensures we can continue to use water respectfully and productively in our chosen ways of life and economy. How we live depends on water, as does our community life, power, transport and industry.

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NEWS RELEASE

International FASD Awareness Day

YELLOWKNIFE (September 7, 2012) - September 9th, 2012 is International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day, an opportunity for communities to support prevention and intervention of FASD.

"Some expectant mothers need support through their pregnancies," said Tom Beaulieu, Minister of Health and Social Services. "Our new Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan acknowledges the need for support for people dealing with mental health and addiction challenges. These supports should come from health and social services professionals, families and communities."

Preventing FASD is everyone's responsibility. Mothers and their partners can make healthy choices before, during and after pregnancy. Family, friends and communities can all help. Supporting all women of childbearing years to make healthy choices in pregnancy, including a focus on prenatal alcohol use, provides a foundation for preventing FASD. It is a complex disability that requires communities to join together.

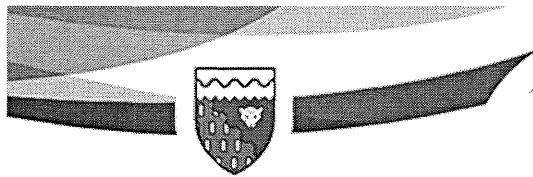
The NWT continues to be involved in the Canadian Northwest FASD Partnership, which raises the profile of FASD support and prevention.

For more information and for a list of community events to recognize FASD Awareness Day, visit:

- [The Department of Health and Social Services' website](#)
- [The Department of Health and Social Services' YouTube channel](#)
- [The Department of Justice's website](#)
- [The Yellowknife Association for Community Living's website](#)

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NEWS RELEASE

Call for Applications for the 2012 – 2013 Youth Ambassador Program

YELLOWKNIFE (September 10, 2012) – The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is accepting applications for the 2012- 2013 NWT Youth Ambassador Program. The program provides NWT youth with opportunities to build leadership skills through participation at special events and volunteer assignments. In the past, NWT Youth Ambassadors have attended the Arctic Winter Games, Canada Winter Games, 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, and the 2011 Royal Visit.

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

In addition to being a Youth Ambassador, youth may apply to one of two specialized roles: Youth Ambassador Mentor or Youth Ambassador Traditional Games Demonstrator. Youth Ambassador Mentors are past program participants who mentor new ambassadors and provide volunteer services. Youth Ambassador Traditional Games Demonstrators participate in Inuit and Dene Games and encourage spectators to try the games and learn about their cultural significance.

Applicants are selected based on community involvement, commitment to a healthy lifestyle and a personal reflection on how the Youth Ambassador Program will help them in the future. To qualify for the program, youth must be between 16 and 24 years of age on September 1, 2012. The deadline to apply is September 28, 2012. All NWT youth who qualify are encouraged to apply.

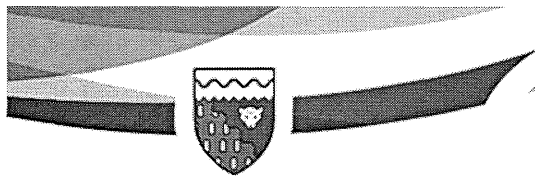
By supporting the Youth Ambassador Program, the Government of the Northwest Territories is maximizing opportunities for NWT residents by helping young people improve their skills. Providing youth with development opportunities will create healthy, educated residents as outlined in the 17th Assembly's vision of *Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners*.

For more information on the Youth Ambassador Program, to apply online, or to download an application form, please visit www.nwt youth.com.

To submit an application, please contact Amanda White at 867-873-7985 or amanda_white@gov.nt.ca.

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Engaging Northerners in Tough Fiscal Choices

YELLOWKNIFE (September 10, 2012) – Residents, businesses and governments across the NWT are invited to take part in a discussion about their priorities for territorial programs and services. These discussions will build on the budget consultations from the last Legislative Assembly and are part of the GNWT's commitment to seek Northerners' opinions about the work their government should be doing.

"This is the first time we have taken our regular budget consultations to all of the regional centres," said Finance Minister Michael Miltenberger. "We are asking for NWT residents' advice and support to make the tough choices to build a strong, sustainable future for our territory. We need to have a frank dialogue about which programs and services are most important, how we can make our government more effective and efficient, and which strategic investments are required to develop a diversified economy that provides all communities and regions with opportunities."

Budget dialogue meetings will be held in:

- Inuvik - September 17, 2012 at the Mackenzie Hotel,
- Norman Wells - September 18, 2012 at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall,
- Fort Simpson - September 19, 2012 at the Deh Cho First Nations Office,
- Fort Smith - September 24, 2012 at the Pelican Rapids Inn,
- Hay River - September 25, 2012 at the Ptarmigan Inn,
- Behchoko - October 1, 2012 at the Tlicho Culture Centre, and
- Yellowknife - October 23, 2012 at the Tree of Peace.

The 17th Assembly is committed to a vision of strong individuals, families and communities sharing the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustainable and prosperous Northwest Territories. To achieve that vision, the GNWT's fiscal strategy has been to limit the increases in spending, pay down short-term debt, and to invest in infrastructure in the last two years of the 17th Assembly (2014-15 and 2015-16).

The Budget Dialogue 2012 process will continue until October 24, 2012 and feedback can be sent by letter or email or by attending the public meetings. The discussion paper, contact information, and the latest meeting schedule are available on the [Department of Finance's website](#).

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GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL RE-JOINS DEVOLUTION NEGOTIATIONS

YELLOWNIFE (September 13, 2012) – The Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) has signed the Devolution Agreement-in-Principle (AiP) and will rejoin the negotiations to transfer Crown land and resource management responsibilities from the Government of Canada to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

The President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Robert A. Alexie, called the signing of the Agreement-in-Principle a bold first step. "This historic undertaking creates a new partnership to foster economic stability and political security in the Gwich'in Settlement Region and throughout the Territory. For too long we have dealt with uncertainty and a lack of clear direction. Our people are ready to build on their hard-won past accomplishments and join the global community as equal partners. Today we look to further progress with confidence and faith in the process."

"I am pleased to welcome the Gwich'in back to the table to ensure that the voices and priorities of their people are reflected in this historic agreement," said Premier Bob McLeod. "The GTC was an important participant in shaping the AIP for almost ten years and we welcome them back to the devolution negotiation table. When we work together, we can make sure we negotiate the best possible devolution agreement for all NWT residents and governments."

"We are pleased that our neighbours, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, have signed on to the Agreement-in-Principle and we look forward to working with them in the future," said Nellie Cournoyea, Chair and CEO of Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC). "The participation of the Gwich'in will provide additional strength for the position of Aboriginal governments in these important negotiations, as we work towards a devolution agreement that will benefit all regions of the NWT."

The AIP includes a number of provisions that directly benefit the Gwich'in, including:

- A seat at the table to negotiate the final agreement to ensure that Gwich'in concerns and interests are addressed, along with funding to support Gwich'in participation.
- A share of resource revenues from Crown land, in addition to the revenues the Gwich'in already collect from development on Crown land throughout the Mackenzie Valley.

NWT lands and resources devolution will transfer administrative authority and control over public lands, resources and rights in respect of water in the Northwest Territories from the Government of Canada to the GNWT. After devolution, the GNWT will be responsible for the management of public lands, resources and rights in respect of water in the NWT, including the delivery of related public programs, and will have the right to keep a share of the resource

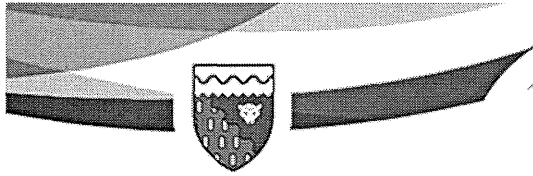
development royalties collected on NWT public lands. The GNWT has agreed to share up to 25% of its royalties with NWT Aboriginal governments – a sharing unprecedented in Canada. The governments of Canada, the NWT, GTC, IRC, Northwest Territory Métis Nation and Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated are currently in the final stage of devolution negotiations. Negotiations are expected to conclude in 2012.

For more information on NWT lands and resources devolution, visit [the GNWT's devolution website](#).

For further information, please contact:

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Government of Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NEWS RELEASE

Premier McLeod Promotes Chinese Investment in the NWT's Resources Industries

BEIJING, CHINA (September 14, 2012) – Premier McLeod spoke at the Canada China Business Council today as part of a premiers' panel to encourage foreign investment in the territory's mining, oil and gas, and hydro industries.

"The Northwest Territories economy has been built on luxury items – furs, gold and now diamonds," Premier McLeod told the Council. "Over time, mining became the driving force of our economy. Today our mineral resources are still our biggest asset and represent the best investment opportunity for China. More oil and clean natural gas deposits are being found every year. And the Mackenzie River has some of the best undeveloped hydroelectric resources in North America."

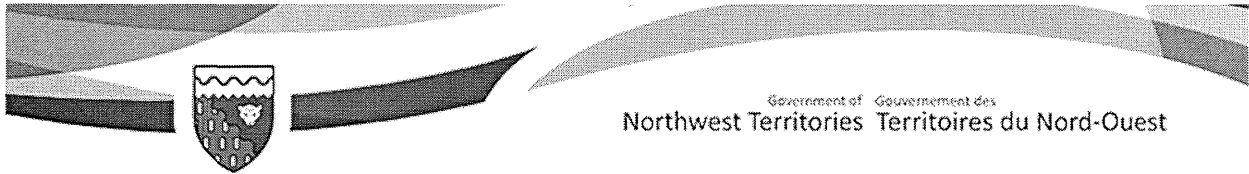
While in China, Premier McLeod will showcase the territory's resource potential, highlight the NWT as an ideal tourism destination, and encourage Chinese investment in Canada. The trade mission will build relationships with Chinese leaders and business contacts and expand knowledge of NWT products in China. Business representatives will explore new trade opportunities, gather market insights and acquire business contacts that will grow the NWT economy. Establishing new business relationships with China will diversify the economy and provide opportunities in all communities and regions.

The 2012 Trade Mission to China is an initiative of the Council of the Federation (COF). Objectives include:

- Building and deepening productive relationships between provincial/territorial governments, businesses and educational institutions and counterparts in China;
- Advancing and creating trade and investment opportunities in key sectors of importance to provinces/territories and to China; and
- Demonstrating to China's business and political leaders that Canada's provinces and territories value their collective and unique relationships with China.

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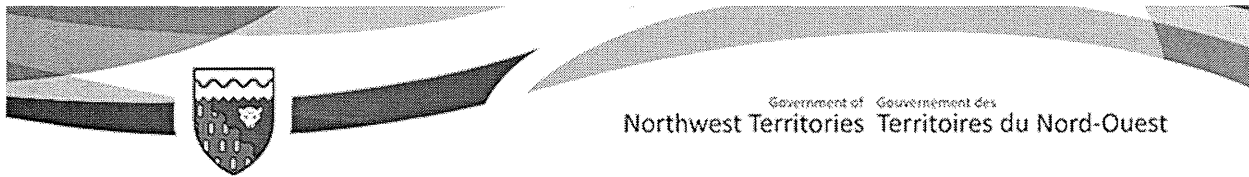


NEWS RELEASE

Statement of Condolence to the Family of Peter Lougheed, Former Premier of Alberta, From Premier Bob McLeod

This is a great loss to Canada. Premier Lougheed was a great man and role model to many throughout our country. He was a visionary who believed that by working together, all Canadians could succeed. His tireless commitment to ensuring that Albertans would be the primary beneficiaries of the development of their own resources has been a model for me personally as Premier of the NWT as we negotiate a final devolution agreement that will give our own people control over and benefits from resource development.

Over the years Premier Lougheed has been a key partner as our territory advanced in its political development. As Premier of Alberta, he understood the value of a strong, united Western Canada and continually pushed for long-term investments in our country's future. I believe this was the foundation of his tireless efforts to help our government with the planning that is needed to develop our hydro resources for the benefit of all of our people. Premier Lougheed has also been of assistance to the Aboriginal Pipeline Group in their commitment to see the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline through to completion with 1/3 Aboriginal ownership. He will be missed.



NEWS RELEASE

New Agreement Provides \$6 Million Investment in NWT Agriculture

YELLOWKNIFE (September 17, 2012) -- Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay has given his support to the multi-lateral Growing Forward 2 Agreement for Agriculture. This sets the stage for bilateral negotiations to take place between the federal and territorial governments on a new five-year joint funding agreement for agriculture in the NWT. Ministers of Agriculture and Agri-foods met in Whitehorse last week.

"Agriculture in the NWT has witnessed tremendous growth in interest and participation over the past number of years," said Minister Ramsay. "Almost all of our communities have seen the benefit of agriculture development and have expressed keen interest in seeing it continue."

Growing Forward 2 will provide up to \$1.2 million per year for the NWT agriculture sector over the next five years – a funding increase of almost \$500,000 per year.

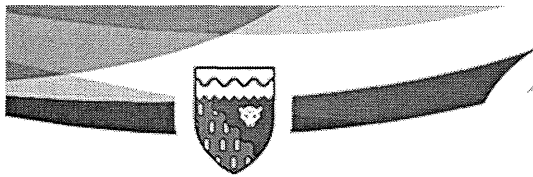
"Increasing the supply of locally produced food, diversifying the food basket and lowering the cost of food for families are priorities for the NWT. This new agreement will go a long way toward helping us address these needs," Minister Ramsay said.

The GNWT's investment in agriculture further supports the 17th Legislative Assembly's priority to support small business and the traditional economies in the interest of strengthening and diversifying the NWT economy.

The aim is to complete negotiations for this agreement by March 31, 2013.

For more information, contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

Premier McLeod Promotes NWT Tourism in China

SHANGHAI, CHINA (September 18, 2012) -- Premier Bob McLeod spoke at the Shanghai Tourism Bureau yesterday and at a Canadian Tourism Commission event in Beijing on Friday to promote the NWT as a spectacular destination for Chinese visitors.

"We offer authentic cultural getaways," said Premier McLeod. "The Northwest Territories offers you a true wilderness experience, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. You can get out of our capital city with a five-minute cab ride from your hotel, and be cross country skiing on a remote frozen lake or hiking in the woods. Or you can take a bush plane or a boat to get further into the wilderness."

Premier McLeod is promoting the NWT as an ideal tourist destination for Chinese visitors. A representative of the territory's tourism industry is participating in the trade mission to build relationships with business contacts in China and increase Chinese tourism to all regions of the NWT. Chinese tourism added \$1.5 million to the NWT economy in 2011.

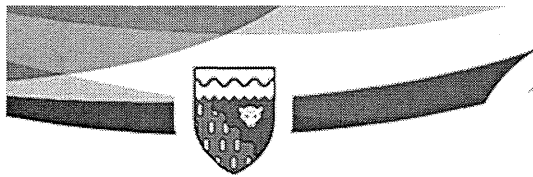
China is Canada's fastest-growing tourism market, and travel to Canada has increased dramatically since China granted Canada Approved Destination Status in 2010. This means Canada can actively market in four main Chinese cities, making this the time for the NWT to capitalize on increased Chinese interest. Chinese tourists are especially interested in the NWT's Aboriginal cultures, wilderness experiences, and outdoor adventures.

The 2012 Trade Mission to China is an initiative of the Council of the Federation (COF). Objectives include:

- Building and deepening productive relationships between provincial/territorial governments, businesses and educational institutions and counterparts in China;
- Advancing and creating trade and investment opportunities in key sectors of importance to provinces/territories and to China; and
- Demonstrating to China's business and political leaders that Canada's provinces and territories value their collective and unique relationships with China.

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NEWS RELEASE

Territorial Justice Ministers Work Together on Northern Issues

WHITEHORSE (September 18, 2012) — Territorial justice ministers Mike Nixon of Yukon, Glen Abernethy of Northwest Territories, and Daniel Shewchuk of Nunavut met today in Whitehorse to discuss justice and public safety issues of particular concern to the North.

As host, Nixon shared some of his department's recent successes and innovations including the establishment of the Yukon Police Council, the Justice Wellness Centre, and Yukon's integrated offender management program.

"I was pleased to share these important Yukon initiatives with my territorial counterparts," Nixon said. "I believe that by sharing innovations and best practices with our sister territories we can improve the administration of justice for all northerners."

In preparation for the upcoming federal, provincial, territorial justice ministers meeting the territorial ministers discussed mutual concerns, such as the high cost of administering justice in the North, the need for more legal aid funding, and the effect that federal changes to the Criminal Code will have on Aboriginal and northern communities.

"As territorial ministers we need to work together to help our federal colleagues understand the specific challenges involved in delivering justice services in the North, and the important role to be played by Ottawa in addressing these challenges," Abernethy said.

The ministers also took the opportunity to tour the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

"I was very impressed with Yukon's new correctional centre. The state of the art design and direct supervision model at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre is something Nunavut has tried to reproduce in our new facility in Rankin Inlet," Shewchuk said. "Yukon's experience and knowledge will continue to be a valuable resource when the Rankin facility opens."

Following the meeting, the ministers will attend the Symposium on Policing in Northern and Remote Canada in Whitehorse on September 19 and 20.

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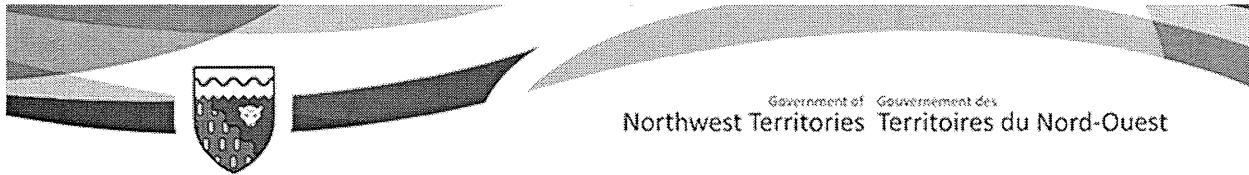
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NEWS RELEASE

Minister Beaulieu Returns From the Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Meeting

YELLOWKNIFE (September 19, 2012) – Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu attended the Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Partnership Ministers' Meeting on September 14 and 15 in Saskatoon. The meeting, chaired by Saskatchewan Social Services Minister June Draude, celebrated the achievements of the Partnership and discussed its future.

"FASD is 100% preventable, but all of us still find it difficult to diagnose and to estimate the true magnitude of the problem in our jurisdictions," said Minister Beaulieu. "We still have to rely on rough estimates of how many people are actually affected by FASD. We need more accurate information to ensure that what we are doing prevents FASD and makes a difference in the lives of people who are already affected by it."

Ministers from western provinces and territories reviewed the annual report and provided feedback and direction to the partnership's research network. A number of speakers shared their knowledge on topics such as FASD prevalence and economic impacts.

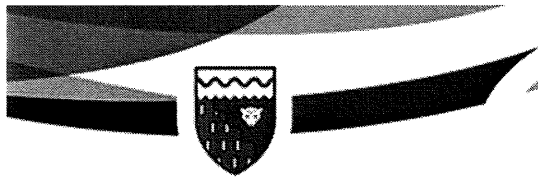
Ministers also agreed to extend an invitation to their eastern provincial colleagues and to the federal government to attend the first international conference on prevention of FASD, to be held in Alberta in September 2013.

"Prevention is the most important thing we can do to eliminate FASD," said Minister Beaulieu. "Communities have the answers we need to address the issue. As I move forward with the Minister's Forum on Addictions, I hope to hear their suggestions."

The NWT has been a member of the Canada Northwest FASD Partnership since 1999. The partnership is an alliance of seven jurisdictions that works toward the development and promotion of an interprovincial and inter-territorial approach to FASD prevention, intervention, care and support.

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NEWS RELEASE

Premier and NWT Business Representatives Explore Opportunities in China

HONG KONG, CHINA (September 20, 2012) – Premier Bob McLeod, MLA Robert Hawkins, Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, and the NWT business delegation met with potential Chinese investors and business partners to discuss ways to diversify the NWT economy and keep the territory prosperous. The meetings have focused on the potential for developing the Chinese markets for the NWT's wild fur, oil and gas.

"Relationships and transparency are key to Chinese investors," said Premier McLeod. "Every meeting we've had has focused on building relationships with Canadians and Canadian companies. We have spoken about how Chinese investment could strengthen and diversify our economy: investments in hydro initiatives, socially responsible and environmentally sustainable mining, and the NWT's traditional economy will provide all communities and regions with opportunities and choices. I share their desire to maintain relationships with political and business leaders; it has been key to my approach as Premier and it will benefit all sectors of the NWT economy. We've seen good interest in our oil and gas resources and our mineral resources, including some positive developments for Avalon Resources. And I'm pleased about the excitement I've seen here about NWT wild furs."

China is the world's lead manufacturer of fur garments and has a high demand for the NWT's natural, high-end wild fur. NWT fur is always in high demand at auctions, with China as one of the top buyers. Demand from China has been increasing year after year, with buyers interested in mink, marten, arctic fox and red fox.

While in Hong Kong, Premier McLeod and the NWT delegation have held meetings with representatives of the tourism, financial, and jewelry industries. The premier also participated in a briefing with Canada's Consul General and in a wreath-laying ceremony at Sai Wan War Ceremony.

Earlier this week, Premier McLeod witnessed an agreement signed between the NWT's Ice Wireless, Iristel and Huawei Canada to enter into a multi-year, multi-million contract to provide 3G cellular services to rural and remote communities in the Northwest Territories and toured the Huawei research and development facility. Improved access to broadband Internet would significantly improve health, education and business services throughout the Mackenzie Valley, and pursuing investments in a Mackenzie Fibreoptic Link is a priority for the 17th Legislative Assembly.

The Premier also visited the Suntech solar panel manufacturing facility in Shanghai. Suntech is a world-leading solar energy company that designs, develops, manufactures and markets high-output, cost-effective solar products for electric power applications.

Exploring the use of environmentally-friendly alternative energy solutions is part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' ongoing commitment to reducing our dependence on imported diesel and lowering our greenhouse gas emissions.

The 2012 Trade Mission to China is an initiative of the Council of the Federation (COF). Objectives include:

- Building and deepening productive relationships between provincial/territorial governments, businesses and educational institutions and counterparts in China;
- Advancing and creating trade and investment opportunities in key sectors of importance to provinces/territories and to China; and
- Demonstrating to China's business and political leaders that Canada's provinces and territories value their collective and unique relationships with China.

For more information, contact:

Megan Holsapple

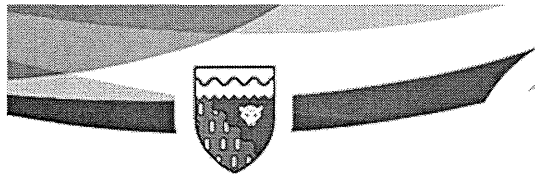
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NEWS RELEASE

NWT Celebrates Literacy Week

YELLOWKNIFE (September 24, 2012) – September 23rd to 29th is Literacy Week in the Northwest Territories.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), the NWT Literacy Council and local communities are sponsoring events and activities across our territory to highlight the importance of literacy to NWT residents.

“Literacy today is not just knowing how to read and write, but includes a wide range of communication and comprehension skills in one or more of our eleven official languages,” said Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. “These are skills all NWT residents need to make informed choices, lead productive lives and contribute to a strong and prosperous society.”

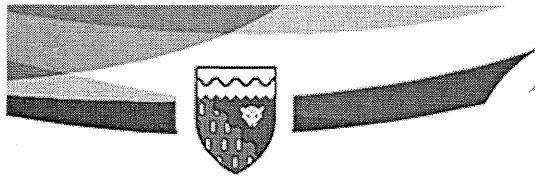
Reading text, using documents, writing, oral communication, numeracy, thinking skills, computer use and lifelong learning are all part of literacy.

Highlights of this year’s celebrations include tomorrow’s presentation of the Council of the Federation and NWT Ministerial Literacy awards at the annual Adult Learners’ Luncheon and Wednesday’s ‘Read on the Street’, part of the Read for 15 Challenge between the NWT and Nunavut, in Yellowknife.

Residents across the North are encouraged to watch for posters and announcements on how to participate in these and other local Literacy Week events.

For more information, please contact:

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Education, Culture and Employment
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NEWS RELEASE

NWT Furs Achieve Highest Sales in Over 20 Years

YELLOWKNIFE (September 25, 2012) -- Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur sales totaled over \$1.5 million this year, the highest in over 20 years. This is an increase of over 25% in the last year, and is a result of increased demand from buyers in China, Russia, Greece and Turkey.

"NWT trappers provide excellent furs for sale at auction and have earned our territory a well-deserved reputation as a provider of some of the best wild furs in the world," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. "I want to congratulate our trappers for continuing to supply a high-quality product resulting in the highest sales in over two decades, and encourage them to continue to provide top-quality furs for sale next season."

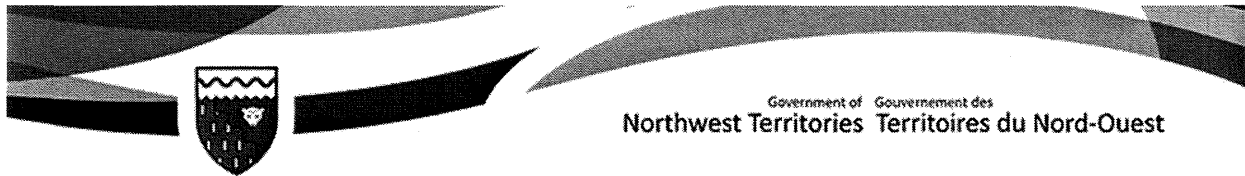
Demand for muskrat and fox continues to exceed supply at auction, and many species experienced gains over last year's prices. This includes marten (41% increase), muskrat (33% increase), and fox (25% increase).

The Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur program is a GNWT marketing service for hunters and trappers. All proceeds from fur sold at auction through the program go directly to the hunter or trapper. Participants receive a guaranteed advance fur payment, prime fur bonuses, and a grubstake payment for those who ship a high volume of pelts through the program.

By actively supporting the harvesting and marketing of wild fur, the GNWT is taking action to diversify the economy and provide all communities and regions with opportunities and choices, key goals of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

For more information, contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

Celebrating the Diversity of NWT Art During Arts Week

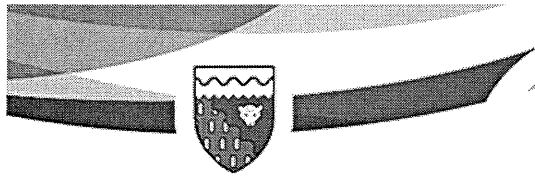
YELLOWKNIFE (September 25, 2012) -- Northwest Territories Arts Week is from September 22 to 30 and is a celebration of the contribution that the NWT arts and fine crafts community makes to our territory. "Artisans make significant cultural and economic contributions to communities across the territory and showcase the NWT as a place of artistic excellence," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) David Ramsay. "Arts and crafts production is an important element of a diversified economy and, given the talent exhibited in the arts community and the growing demand for genuine NWT art, we are confident the sector will continue to grow and excel." "The Northwest Territories is a mosaic of culturally proud and artistically gifted people," said Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE). "With more eyes looking North at our resources and Arctic coastline, we have the opportunity to further promote and preserve the arts, culture and heritage of our vast territory." Several events will be held across the territory to celebrate Arts Week, including:

- Aurora Arts Society's Arts Week (September 24-30), themed "This Business of Art".
- ITI has provided funding for arts workshops and events in each region, including an arts promotional event at Ingamo Hall in Inuvik on September 26 from 6-8pm. Artists will display and sell their art. Soup and bannock will be served and door prizes are available.
- Facing North exhibit, opening September 22 at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife.
- Inuit Art Tour, Friday, Sept. 28, 9am-6pm at Northern Images Gallery in Yellowknife.

ITI recently funded a leather crafting workshop in the Dehcho and a "Pricing Your Art"

workshop in the Sahtu to help prepare artists to price their artwork for retail sales during Arts Week. Arts, culture and heritage are the fabric of the Northwest Territories. From carving and painting to drum dancing to photography, it is a significant source of pride within the hearts of northerners and should be promoted, preserved and celebrated by all. NWT Arts Week also leads into the third annual national Culture Days, September 28-30, 2012. This coast-to-coast-to-coast celebration has raised awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement of all Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities. **For more information, please contact: Alayna Ward** Manager, Public Affairs and Communications Industry, Tourism and Investment Tel: (867) 920-8696 **Jacqueline McKinnon** Manager, Public Affairs Education, Culture and Employment (867) 920-6222 Or visit:

- [Aurora Arts Society ArtsWeek](#)
- A Guide to Arts Funding
- [NWT Artists Database](#)
- [NWT Arts Program](#)
- [Artists Newsline](#)
- [SEED funding](#)
- Culture Days



NEWS RELEASE

NWT recipients honoured during Literacy Week

YELLOWKNIFE (September 25, 2012) – Recipients of the Council of the Federation Literacy Award and the Ministerial Literacy Awards were honoured today during the annual Adult Learners' Luncheon in Yellowknife.

These awards were created by the Council of the Federation in 2005 and the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in 2002 to recognize adult learners who have overcome learning and literacy challenges or championed literacy to learners of all ages.

The award recipients for 2012:

Karra Dillon – The Council of the Federation Literacy Award is given to an adult learner who has overcome obstacles and demonstrated outstanding progress in the pursuit of literacy skills in any of the NWT's official languages.

Patrick Bailey - 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.

Kate Powell and Lucinda Summers - The Ministerial Literacy Award is given to NWT teachers, tutors or literacy facilitators who have demonstrated an outstanding dedication to literacy.

Literacy Outreach Centre - The Ministerial Literacy Award is given to NWT organizations, literacy committees or programs that 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.

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Backgrounder

Northwest Territories Recipients Honoured During Literacy Week

There are 4 Literacy Awards given out each year in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The awards are advertised throughout the NWT using print media, emails, radio ads and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) website. Once the nomination deadline has passed, a Ministerial Literacy Awards Selection Committee is formed of literacy experts from both the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Nongovernment Organizations (NGO), to choose the winners. Nominees are scored using scoring templates, and the highest scoring nominees receive the awards.

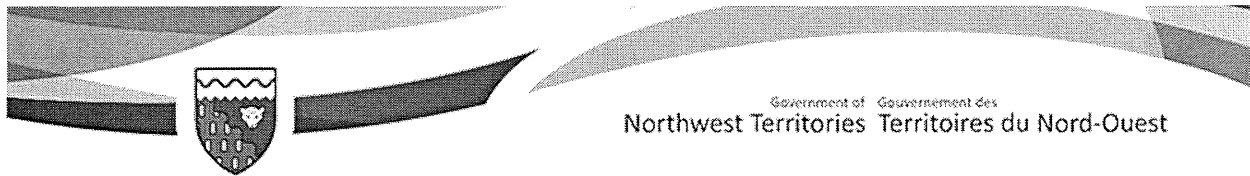
Karra Dillon - Council of the Federation (CoF) Literacy Award. Announced earlier this summer, this is a special medallion awarded by the Council of the Federation in each of Canada's thirteen provinces and territories to celebrate outstanding literacy achievements. The award is customarily presented to an adult learner. Ms. Dillon is a young Inuvialuit woman who left school at an early age to start a family. In 2010, she returned to school in order to pursue a career, and enrolled in the Aboriginal Language and Cultural Instructor Program (ALCIP) at Aurora College in Inuvik. Ms. Dillon began the program as an emerging speaker and worked hard to become very skilled and fluent in Siglitun Inuvialuktun. Her love of her language and culture is also expressed through traditional drum dancing. Ms. Dillon plans to pursue additional upgrading toward her new goal of entering the Bachelor of Education Program.

Patrick Bailey - The Ministerial Literacy Award (Youth Learner). This award celebrates a young adult's commitment to literacy and honours their literacy achievements. Mr. Bailey entered into the Adult Literacy and Basic Education (ALBE) program at Aurora College's Norman Wells Community Learning Centre in 2010 and has made great strides in pursuit of improving his literacy skills. With a near perfect attendance record, Mr. Bailey's diligence and hard work ethic over the last academic year led to his acceptance into the Bachelor of Science program at Full Sail University in Florida.

Kate Powell and Lucinda Summers - The Ministerial Literacy Award (Educator). This award honours outstanding practitioners in the field of literacy. This year's recipients are the Literacy Coordinator and Program Support Teacher, respectively, at Deninu School in Fort Resolution. Ms. Powell's and Ms. Summers' strong leadership and dedication to literacy have seen many improvements to the community and the students, including a 16% drop in students on Student Support Programs and a more than 35% increase in students' literacy rates in the last two years. As a result of their efforts, all students are now reading at or above their grade level and parents and community members are fully engaged in literacy awareness.

Literacy Outreach Centre - 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 Literacy Outreach Centre successfully provides programs that involve and engage adults with and without disabilities in Yellowknife. The

Literacy Outreach Centre partners with service providers, such as the Salvation Army, Centre for Northern Families' Women's Shelter, YWCA, Yellowknife Public Library, the Baker Centre and the Yellowknife Association for Community Living. These partnerships help deliver programming that applies adult learning principles which allow for individualized learning plans and have the flexibility to adapt measuring tools, support learner self-assessment and goal setting. The Outreach Centre has played a major role in developing the literacy, social and life skills of the city's marginalized, hard-to-reach adults and adults with disabilities over the past 12 years.



NEWS RELEASE

Coming Together to Prepare for Opportunities in the Sahtu

NORMAN WELLS (September 26, 2012) -- The Sahtu Exploration Readiness Session is taking place in Norman Wells this week, with over 100 representatives from industry, government, Aboriginal organizations and corporations, community leaders and small business in attendance to discuss and identify the best ways to prepare for the boom in exploration that will take place in the region over the coming years.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay addressed attendees at a luncheon earlier today. "We can work together to translate the potential in the Sahtu into jobs, investment, business growth, training opportunities, infrastructure development and growth for our communities and Aboriginal corporations," he noted. "We are all here today to ensure that the Canol shale oil play is understood and developed in a way that will become the new model for responsible and sustainable development and can be an economic legacy for the people of the Sahtu and Northwest Territories."

"The Sahtu is the sweet spot for energy in the North. I am pleased that ITI organized this forum to find out what the oil companies are planning this winter and future developments," said Norman Yakeleya, Sahtu MLA. "We are preparing ourselves, like our ancestors prepared themselves for hunting or trapping; we must survive."

The two-day session covers a range of topics that allows attendees to discuss and provide input on the many opportunities and possible challenges related to Sahtu development. Agenda topics range from maintaining a safe and healthy workforce, to local business preparedness, to the long-term potential and opportunity of shale oil development in the area.

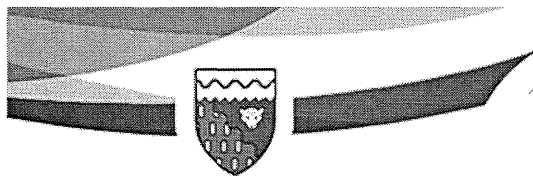
Industry will be on hand to discuss the best ways to work together for a successful work season and exploring best practices for oil exploration.

The session was developed and funded in partnership with the Norman Wells Land Corporation and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) departments of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Municipal and Community Affairs and Education, Culture and Employment. Several industry partners also provided sponsorship.

Ensuring residents and businesses are prepared to benefit from economic activity and exploring potential for economic growth are vital ways to strengthen and diversify our economy, a key goal of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

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NEWS RELEASE

Family Violence Front-Line Workers Receive Valuable Training

YELLOWKNIFE (September 27, 2012) -- People who assist and support those affected by family violence have come together from across the Northwest Territories to receive training and information and learn from each other.

"Through our partnership with the Department of Health and Social Services, we have a commitment to quality training for front-line workers," said Justice Minister Glen Abernethy. "Through focused workshops like these, workers learn to be as effective as possible. Additionally, each person received a day-long presentation about how to ensure they are giving proper consideration to their own self-care, as we know the dangers of compassion fatigue run high in their lines of work."

The three-day training continues to fulfill recommendations from the [2011 evaluation of the *Protection Against Family Violence Act*](#), as well as the GNWT's commitment to address how working with victims of crime affects workers both professionally and personally.

Front-line responders from the RCMP, shelter workers, and victim services heard from professionals on the nature of violence and the best ways to respond to victims and perpetrators. After learning best-practice concepts, participants were able to apply them in role-play through safety planning, victim impact statements and emergency protection order applications.

The main presenter, Dr. Allan Wade, spoke at École St. Patrick High School and to the public on September 24. These talks focused on the language people use when talking about violence and the effect that has on victims of violence and on offenders.

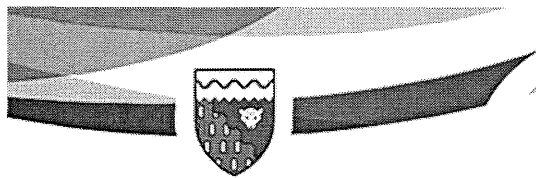
"We all need to be aware of the influence and impact of our words when we talk about the harm of spousal and partner assault," said Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu. "It's not an abusive relationship, we need to call assault what it is. It's time to bring the issue of family violence into the light where we can talk and have people understand this is not just a personal family matter."

The GNWT continues to support and provide training opportunities for front-line workers so they are better able to assist victims of violence. Training and public presentations were made possible through the contributions and support of the Departments of Justice and Health and Social Services, the YWCA of Yellowknife, and the Native Women's Association of NWT.

For more information, contact:

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Department of Justice
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Damien Healy
Department of Health and Social Services
920-8927



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NEWS RELEASE

Reel Improvement in Film Industry Heralded at Yellowknife Film Fest

YELLOWKNIFE (September 27, 2012) -- The [Yellowknife Film Festival](#) kicks off tonight, and Minister David Ramsay will be in attendance – in film form – to give his congratulations to Western Arctic Moving Pictures and the NWT Professional Media Association on behalf of the [NWT Film Commission](#). The NWT Film Commission will also be a panel member at the first-ever NWT Filmmaker and Producer Forum, to provide information about the commission and discuss what has been achieved in the past year.

The forum is supported in part by the Departments of Industry, Tourism and Investment and Education, Culture and Employment.

“We have been working closely with the NWT film industry to advance this industry and are pleased with the success we have achieved together in this year alone,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. “Although we realize there is much more to do, we will continue to work with the NWT film community to ensure this industry grows. This will strengthen and diversify the NWT economy with the work of our talented filmmakers while showcasing the NWT as a filming destination.”

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment works through the NWT Film Commission to provide assistance to production companies filming in the NWT, and also to promote the local film industry through the [Film Suppliers Guide](#) and other initiatives. A dedicated fund of \$100,000 is available for the film industry through the [Support for Entrepreneurs and Development \(SEED\) Policy](#), which was oversubscribed in its first year with several NWT filmmakers receiving funding for various film production and promotion activities.

“We have a strong mandate to help support and promote the arts and film communities in the NWT,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “It is imperative that we continue to provide opportunities for support and create open discussions on how best to accomplish our goals for the artists across the territory. Events like the NWT Filmmaker and Producer Forum help contribute to our rich cultural mosaic, and further assure our efforts to preserve and revitalize our collective heritage in the North.”

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment supports training and careers in the arts and cultural industries, arts education, public access to and participation in the arts, and art creation through the NWT Arts Council and Northern Film and Media Arts Contributions programs.

The NWT was recently profiled in [The Location Guide](#), a comprehensive online guide containing information for production companies looking for information on filming in various international locations.

Supporting programming for the NWT film industry is one way to maximize opportunities and support economic diversification of the NWT, a key goal of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

For more information, contact:

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COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM FIRST OF ITS KIND IN CANADA

YELLOWKNIFE (October 2, 2012) – A comprehensive curriculum on Residential Schools was launched today at the start of a three day information session for teachers from the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Launched by the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment with the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Honourable Eva Aariak, Minister of Education with the Government of Nunavut at an opening ceremony, this curriculum is the first comprehensive teaching guide of its kind in Canada. Marie Wilson, Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, was on hand to receive the first copy of the teacher's guide and deliver the keynote address.

"A significant part of our history is in this curriculum," said Minister Lafferty. "The coursework and resources enclosed are the result of exhaustive research and provide a deeper understanding of the impacts of residential schools on the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. This will give our students insight into the challenges faced by survivors, and a context for healing and reconciliation."

With support from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Legacy of Hope Foundation, the Residential Schools curriculum is now a key section of the Northwest Territories Northern Studies course and the Nunavut Social Studies course. It covers topics ranging from the history and legacy of residential schools, traditional education and learning, colonialism, assimilation, the *Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement*, the Federal apology, the TRC and what reconciliation may look like. It also includes literature and stories of former residential school students shared through audio and video clips, allowing students to learn of both the positive and negative impacts that school life had on individuals.

"I hope this resource enables and challenges students to think about the past and the impact of education on the future," said Premier Eva Aariak. "This is the first time Nunavut and Northwest Territories have worked together on a project like this and this ground-breaking curriculum is the result of a strong partnership between our two territories."

The curriculum was piloted in March of 2012 with a select number of schools across the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

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Catriona Macleod

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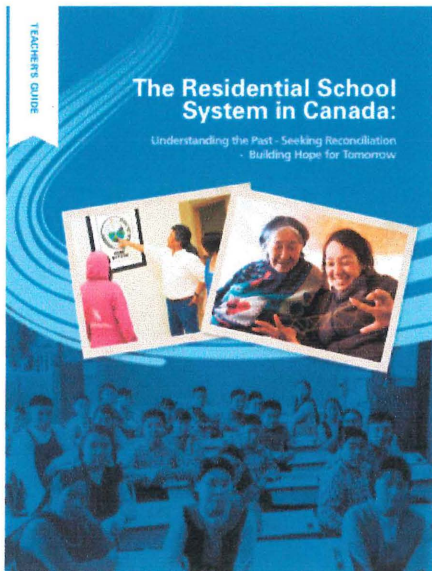
Communications Manager
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Residential School Curriculum Chronology

1991	Northern Studies becomes a mandatory high school course in the NWT focusing on issues, events and people of the North.
1999	Nunavut continues this course, while starting to work on a Nunavut approach to Social Studies.
2006	Nunavut decides against continuing to use Alberta Social Studies courses and starts developing its own curriculum for grades 7-12.
2007	Nunavut publishes <i>Inuit Qaujimagatuqngit: Education Framework for Nunavut Curriculum</i> , which supports the Nunavusiutit strand for heritage, history, geography, environmental science, civics, economics, current events and world events.
2008	Nunavut publishes <i>Staking the Claim</i> , which is the first grade 10 unit on Nunavut history.
2008	Nunavut develops a framework for this work.
2009	Nunavut starts a process of developing units bilingually, rather than translating them from one language to another. This has been done for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights, Responsibilities and Justice • Governance and Leadership • Residential School
2010	In the NWT, a process to revise the Northern Studies course was initiated, to address students' superficial understanding of the North, and explore in depth the issues and events that have shaped and continue to shape people and events.
June 2011	Nunavut approaches the Legacy of Hope to see if they would support a joint project to create a Nunavut unit on residential schooling.
June 2011	Nunavut approaches the NWT to see if they want to join the northern residential school unit development process.
June 2011	The Ministers of Education in Nunavut and the NWT commit to a joint project to develop curriculum, learning resources and teacher in-services to explore issues related to the history and legacy of residential schools in Canada and the North. They announce at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearing in Inuvik.
September 2011	A partnership with the Nunavut and NWT Departments of Education and the Legacy of Hope Foundation was formed and development work began.
November 2011	Interviews with a wide range of former northern residential school students begin.
Fall-Spring 2011-12	Development of learning activities and teaching resources associated with these interviews undertaken.
November 2011	Development of a new NWT 5 credit Northern Studies 10 begins.
March 2012	Teachers in 8 NWT and NU communities pilot the residential schools teaching and learning materials.
May-September	With feedback from pilot teachers, revision of the curriculum begins, and

2012	teaching and learning resources related to the modules are developed.
October 2012	In-service of residential school teaching and learning materials with NWT Northern Studies teachers and Nunavut Social Studies teachers. TRC, Healing Drum and Health Canada are involved in this in-service.
October 2012	Territory-wide implementation begins.

Select pilot teacher feedback:



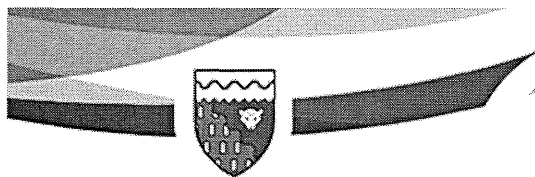
A very useful unit to have students begin to see the possible connection between the effects of residential schools and the issues that face them and their community.

Students were really moved by what happened to earlier generations at residential school. One student asked, "Why can't we just forget about it?"

I could tell that Shi-Shi-etko was a little emotional for a couple of the students so I decided to have students respond in their journals.

Can really see how the students are progressing and understanding this idea of loss and what was lost, identity. Starting to have some great conversations come out of these activities.

The audio files, timeline and essay all worked really well together. It led to a great discussion on the cultural/political context of colonization around the world. We talked about Africa and the mess that ensued there as a result of this time period, and I had the great question, "I thought the word aboriginal was only used in the Americas?"



Second Antipoverty Roundtable Held in Inuvik

INUVIK (October 5, 2012) – Building on the success of the June 2012 roundtable, the second antipoverty roundtable was held this week in Inuvik to further shape the Antipoverty Strategy. This strategy is a partnership between the Government of the Northwest Territories and Aboriginal governments, business, industry, non-profit and nongovernmental organizations.

At the roundtable in Inuvik this week, Minister Glen Abernethy and Alfred Moses, MLA Boot Lake, welcomed the group and acknowledged the importance of their work. Participants continued work on the foundation of the strategy, including the goals and actions that will make a difference in the lives of people who most need support. They discussed topics such as increasing affordable housing; providing supports to children, youth and families; and contributing to sustainable communities. The participants also focused on ways services can be integrated and seamless along a continuum that both prevents poverty and increases opportunities for self-sufficiency among those already living in poverty.

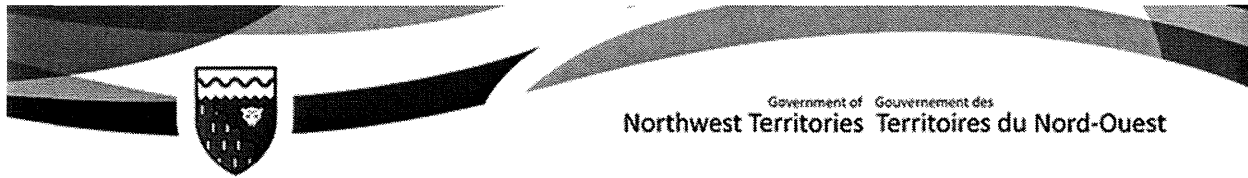
"Poverty is complex and requires a wide array of perspectives in order to address the challenges," said Gloria Iatridis, Associate Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and Chair of the *Poverty-Free NWT* Steering Committee. "By having a collaborative process and involving various stakeholders, we allow for those different views and ideas. Our biggest challenge is to narrow down the priorities."

"It is encouraging to see the commitment and goodwill around the table in this collaborative process," said Julie Green, a steering committee member representing the No Place for Poverty Alliance. "Regardless of the role and expertise of everyone at the table, each is passionate about addressing poverty and making life better for everyone in the NWT."

There will be opportunities for public input into the draft strategy later this fall and winter. In the meantime, people are encouraged to contribute their ideas through a new [*Poverty-Free NWT Facebook page*](#) or by email to povertyfreenwt@gov.nt.ca.

Contact:

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Poverty Free NWT Roundtable Participants - Inuvik, October 1-3, 2012

- Aggie Brockman, Alternatives North
- Annemieke Mulders, Status of Women Council of the NWT
- Bob Simpson, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Caroline Yukon, Sahtu Dene Council
- Christine King, Student, person who experienced living in poverty
- Darlene Brown, Service Canada
- Franklin Carpenter, NWT Housing Corporation
- Garry Hubert, Yellowknife Side Door Youth Centre
- Gloria Iatridis, GNWT – Education, Culture and Employment
- Helen Balanoff, NWT Literacy Council

- Ian Legaree, GNWT – Municipal and Community Affairs
- Ioan Astle, GNWT - NWT Housing Corporation
- Janet Grinsted, GNWT – Education, Culture and Employment
- John Colford, GNWT – Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Julie Green, No Place for Poverty Alliance
- Kathryn Walker, GNWT – Education, Culture and Employment
- MaryLou Cherwaty, Northern Territories Federation of Labour
- Mike Kalnay, GNWT – Executive
- Natasha Harris, GNWT - Education, Culture and Employment
- Peggy Day, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Rai Brown, GNWT – Health and Social Services
- Rebecca Latour, GNWT – Justice
- Richard Anthony, NWT Disabilities Council

- Susan Ross, Gwich'in Tribal Council
- Clarence Wood, NWT Association of Communities
- Newton Grey, Inuvik Chamber of Commerce

Facilitator - Barb Curtis, GNWT - Education, Culture and Employment
Coordinator - Mike Argue, GNWT - Education, Culture and Employment

News Release

Colville Lake Celebrates Bigger and Better Airport

Colville Lake, Northwest Territories, October 9, 2012 — A celebration was held in Colville Lake to mark the completion of a new airport terminal and runway, built by the Government of Northwest Territories Department of Transportation with support from the Government of Canada and the community.

The longer and wider runway enables larger planes to land, which helps to reduce the cost of goods and supplies delivered to the area. As well, the relocation of the runway will free up land for community development. Thirty-four Colville Lake residents were hired to complete the work.

"Like many Northern communities, Colville Lake depends on its airport for the delivery of essential goods and services," said the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, Regional Minister for the North, and Member of Parliament for Nunavut. "Thanks to this new terminal, the Sahtu region will benefit from safer, more efficient transportation year-round. Our Government is proud to have invested in this important initiative that created local jobs and will serve Colville Lake residents now and into the future."

"Economic opportunities accompany infrastructure development, and the new airport at Colville Lake is an excellent example of this principle," said GNWT Transportation Minister David Ramsay. "As the Sahtu region continues to prepare for the development of its natural resources, investments in transportation infrastructure will provide ongoing benefits. Our partnership with the Government of Canada to build this airport will pay dividends for the community, the region, the NWT, and all Canadians."

This \$12.8-million initiative received financial support through the Provincial-Territorial Base Fund, which is part of the Building Canada plan. Through this program, the governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories work together to support infrastructure priorities across the Territory.

The Government of Canada has engaged provinces, territories, municipalities and key stakeholders in a series of roundtables to guide the development of a new long-term infrastructure plan that will support job creation, economic growth and prosperity. We have heard that we are on the right track: there is a need for strong, sustained investment and we must continue to work together moving forward. To improve infrastructure across Canada and ensure affordability and sustainability over the long term, our new plan will encourage greater use of public-private partnerships. This will help leverage new investments in infrastructure, while respecting the capacity of Canadian taxpayers.

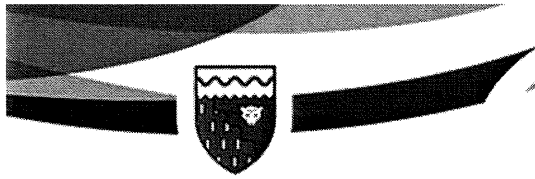
For information about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

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NEWS RELEASE

Inuvik's East Three School Official Grand Opening

INUVIK (October 10, 2012) – This morning marked the official grand opening of Inuvik's new super school, East Three.

"Students need sound infrastructure with a healthy and safe environment to learn and grow in," said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "A new school means a fresh start for the community and endless possibilities for students. I want to congratulate everyone involved with this project, and thank them for all their hard work."

The Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and MLA for Inuvik-Twin Lakes, spoke on behalf of Minister Lafferty at the event.

Eagerly anticipated by the residents of Inuvik, the official opening of East Three School marks the beginning of a new chapter in education for the community. Involving students, teachers and community members and leaders throughout the design and construction of the project has helped make the school and the learning environment a community-wide priority.

Designed by Pin Taylor Architects, the super school replaces both Sir Alexander Mackenzie School and Samuel Hearne Secondary School. The school's distinctive architecture complements the cultures and heritage of Inuvik and in many areas, cultural imagery is incorporated into the layout such as Northern Games etchings in the walls of the gymnasium.

"Building high quality facilities that improve the lives of our residents is always a goal of the Department," said the Honourable Glen Abernethy, Minister of Public Works and Services. "The new school is a true collaboration between government, the community and industry and proves that beauty and functionality can be energy efficient in the North. We are pleased to see that this collaboration also resulted in the facility being ready a full school year ahead of schedule."

Hosted by the Beaufort Delta Education Council and the Inuvik District Education Authority, the event involved many people and organizations that had participated in the school planning and building, as well as noteworthy personnel from the Government of the Northwest Territories. The event concluded with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Speakers at the event included:

- Honourable George Tuccaro – Commissioner, NWT
- Honourable Robert C. McLeod – Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, MLA, Inuvik - Twin Lakes

- Honourable Glen Abernethy – Minister of Public Works and Services
- Robert Alexie Jr. – President, Gwich'in Tribal Council
- Nellie Cournoyea – Chair/CEO, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Roy Cole – Superintendent, Beaufort - Delta Education Council
- Alfred Moses – MLA, Inuvik - Boot Lake
- Jozef Carnorgursky – President, Nihtat Gwich'in Council
- Duane Smith – Chair, Inuvik Community Corporation
- Denny Rodgers – Mayor, Town of Inuvik
- Gilbert Thrasher Sr. – Chair, Beaufort - Delta Education Council
- Paul Watters – Chair, Inuvik District Education Council

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GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES SELECTED AS ONE OF CANADA'S TOP 100
EMPLOYERS

YELLOWKNIFE (October 10, 2012) -- The GNWT has been named as one of [Canada's Top 100 Employers](#), an annual award recognizing employers who provide exceptional workplaces for their employees and lead their industries in recruitment and retention practices.

"Our committed, innovative and creative public service is the key to providing effective and efficient government services to the people of the Northwest Territories," said Glen Abernethy, Minister of Human Resources. "Our staff know their clients: they are friends and neighbours. It is very satisfying to know that the GNWT is being recognized as one of the best employers in Canada. This award enhances our ability to attract even more talented individuals who are committed to their professions and their communities."

The GNWT has over 6,000 employees in fields that range from natural resource management to cultural revitalization to community development. Employees can have lifelong careers, gaining progressive experience and working throughout the Northwest Territories. The GNWT has a comprehensive benefits package including paid vacation time, a defined-benefit pension plan, a health plan including vision and dental, flexible work arrangements, and annual raises according to the terms of the collective agreement. Training opportunities are available throughout employees' careers, including developmental assignments, education leave, secondments and workshops. The GNWT is committed to workplace diversity and the development of a northern workforce.

Canada's Top 100 Employers is prepared and published by Mediacorp Canada Inc., manager of the popular job search website [Eluta.ca](#) and one of Canada's largest publishers of employment periodicals.

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News Release

Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk and Tuktoyaktuk Celebrate Completion of New Airport Terminals

Northwest Territories, October 10, 2012 — Significant infrastructure investments in three northern communities have improved air transportation across the region.

Most of the year, the Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk and Tuktoyaktuk airports are the only means by which goods and supplies can reach these remote Arctic communities. Thanks to joint funding from the governments of Canada and Northwest Territories, three new energy-efficient airport terminals have replaced aging facilities, improving transportation infrastructure and providing residents and visitors with a better travel experience.

"These new airport terminals are vital to supporting the increasing growth and prosperity of Canada's Northern communities," said the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, Regional Minister for the North and Member of Parliament for Nunavut. "Our Government is proud to have invested in these three important projects that created local jobs and will have a positive economic impact in each region."

Transportation Minister David Ramsay said "We are pleased the Government of Canada partnered with us to improve airport facilities in these northern communities. Strategic investments in transportation infrastructure help strengthen and diversify our economy, and increase economic opportunities throughout the NWT."

The Government of Canada contributed \$700,000 towards the construction of the Tuktoyaktuk Airport through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, with the Government of the Northwest Territories contributing the balance of the total project cost of \$2.32 million. The Government of Canada contributed \$450,000 to both the Sachs Harbour and Paulatuk Airport terminals through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, part of Canada's Economic Action Plan. The Government of the Northwest Territories contributed the balance of the Sachs Harbour terminal's \$1.10 million total project cost and the Paulatuk airport's \$1.12 million total project cost.

The Government of Canada has engaged provinces, territories, municipalities and key stakeholders in a series of roundtables to guide the development of a new long-term infrastructure plan that will support job creation, economic growth and prosperity. We have heard that we are on the right track: there is a need for strong, sustained investment and we must continue to work together moving forward. To improve infrastructure across Canada and leverage new investment, our new long-term plan will encourage greater use of public-private partnerships. This will help leverage new investments in infrastructure, while respecting the capacity of Canadian taxpayers.

For additional information about Infrastructure Canada's projects in the Northwest Territories and to stay up-to-date with Web feeds, visit www.infrastructure.gc.ca.

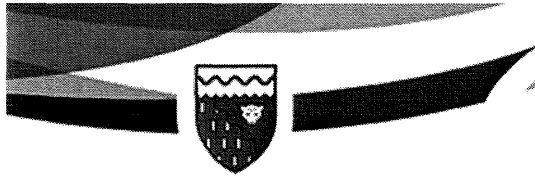
For further information about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

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NEWS RELEASE

GNWT Exceeds Greenhouse Gas Emissions Target

YELLOWKNIFE (October 11, 2012) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has exceeded its greenhouse gas emissions target. The 2007 NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy set a target to reduce emissions from GNWT operations to 10 percent below 2001 levels by the year 2011. Actual reductions were 30 percent lower, from 54 kilotonnes (Kt) in 2001 to 37 Kt from GNWT operations in 2011. “We are committed to responsible stewardship of our environment, to help it sustain present and future generations,” said Environment and Natural Resources minister J. Michael Miltenberger. “This achievement gives our government confidence that we know what actions to take to meet, and potentially exceed, our next target to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions from all of the NWT.” The NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy 2011-2015 territorial targets for the entire NWT are:

- Stabilize emissions at 2005 levels (1,500 Kt) by 2015:
- Limit emissions increases to 66 percent about 2005 levels (2,500 Kt) by 2020; and,
- Return emissions to 2005 levels (1,500 Kt) by 2030.

A recent greenhouse gas inventory released by Environment Canada reports NWT emissions in 2010 at 1,325 Kt. The GNWT 2011 Corporate Greenhouse Gas Inventory, which reports on greenhouse gas emissions from GNWT operations for the 2011 calendar year, has been submitted to The Climate Registry. The Registry is a non-profit collaboration among North American states, provinces and territories. It sets transparent standards to calculate, verify and publicly report greenhouse gas emissions in a single registry.

For more information, visit nwtclimatechange.ca

or contact:

Judy McLinton

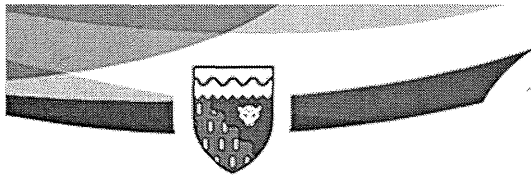
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NEWS RELEASE

2012 Fire Service Merit Award Recipients

YELLOWKNIFE (October 11, 2012) – 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, recognizes those individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty while protecting residents across the territory.

“Fire fighters provide an essential service in all communities across the NWT, and in many cases they put themselves at risk to protect residents and their homes,” said Minister McLeod. “Many firefighters volunteer their time to not only fight fires in our communities but also to educate residents on fire prevention and safety. These awards help recognize those important contributions.”

NWT Fire Service Merit Awards are given out each year during national Fire Prevention Week, based on nominations from community members and fire chiefs, to honour and recognize individuals and community fire departments for their significant contribution to fire safety and fire service across the territory.

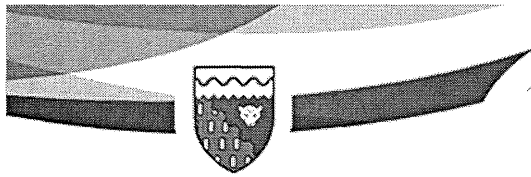
The 2012 award recipients are:

- Noela Cockney- Tuktoyaktuk Fire Department
- Roger Pilling - Fort Simpson Fire Department
- Paul Currie - Fort Smith Fire Department
- Jason Panter- Fort Smith Fire Department
- Ross Potter- Hay River Fire Department

Recognizing the contributions and achievements of fire fighters is an important part of promoting and recognizing the NWT fire service which provide vital education and protection services that contribute to sustainable, vibrant, and safe communities as outlined in the 17th Assembly's vision of *Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners*.

For more information, please contact:

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Government of / Gouvernement des
Northwest Territories / Territoires du Nord-Ouest

NEWS RELEASE

Small Businesses Make Big Contributions to the NWT Economy

YELLOWKNIFE (October 15, 2012) -- Small Business Week is October 14-20 and celebrates the achievements of entrepreneurs and small businesses across Canada and the Northwest Territories.

“NWT entrepreneurs are innovative, resourceful and hardworking, while managing to keep on top of an ever-changing business climate,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) David Ramsay. “Small Business Week gives us an opportunity to thank and celebrate the contributions and achievements of NWT entrepreneurs. They play a key role in employing residents, supplying necessary goods and services, and keeping our economy strong.”

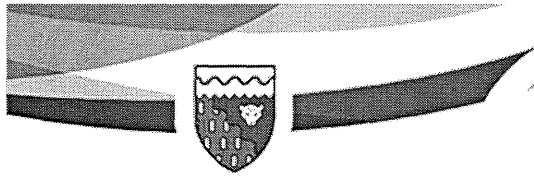
The Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce is hosting several seminars on a range of topics including starting your own business, recruiting employees, and preparing business plans.

By providing support for Small Business Week events and through programs such as 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 is providing support to small businesses, which strengthens and diversifies the economy, a major priority of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

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NEWS RELEASE

Graduates from Recreation Leader Certificate Program Recognized

YELLOWKNIFE (October 15, 2012) – The Minister of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs recently recognized graduates of the School of Community Government's Community Recreation Leaders Certificate Program and Recreation Leaders completing Occupational Certification in the recreation field. Four NWT residents were recognized this year and will go on to continue to develop recreation programs in communities across the NWT.

"Programs through the School of Community Government build capacity in our communities and help to improve the quality of life for NWT residents," said the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. "Graduates of the Recreation Leader Certificate program will create opportunities for people to get involved in healthy activities and come together as a community."

The 2012 graduates are:

- Gloria Gaudet – Charter Community of Deline – Occupational Certification in Recreation
- Joanne Ogina – Hamlet of Uluhaktok – Occupational Certification in Recreation
- Mary Gordon – Hamlet of Aklavik – Recreation Leader Certificate
- Stacey Sundberg – Yellowknives Dene First Nation – Recreation Leader Certificate and Occupational Certification

The Community Recreation Leaders Certificate program started in 2009 and was developed to help build capacity in recreation programming across the north. To date 16 courses involving participants from 30 communities have been delivered. The certificate program involves 10 courses and fieldwork assignments students complete in their home communities. All courses in the program are accredited for transfer to the College of the Rockies' Tourism and Recreation Management Certificate and Diploma programs, which provide opportunities for graduates to further their education.

By providing training opportunities that also increase recreation opportunities for NWT residents, the Government of the Northwest Territories is meeting its goal of developing sustainable, vibrant communities of healthy, educated residents as outlined in the 17th Assembly's vision of *Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners*.

For more information, contact:

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GNWT AND GTC SIGN AGREEMENTS TO FORMALIZE RELATIONSHIP

AKLAVIK (October 15, 2012) – Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Premier Bob McLeod and Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) President Robert A. Alexie signed three agreements on Friday to formalize their government-to-government relationship.

The three agreements were:

- the *Devolution Agreement-in-Principle*
- a *Gwich'in Tribal Council – Government of the Northwest Territories Umbrella Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding Intergovernmental Cooperation and Coordination*,
- a *Memorandum of Understanding for Contracting within the Gwich'in Settlement Area (Contracting MOU)*, and

"The signing of these agreements strengthens the relationship between the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Government of the Northwest Territories, which is a priority for the 17th Assembly," said Premier McLeod. "These agreements represent a commitment to the way we will work together as partners to achieve shared priorities that support the Gwich'in."

"We hope to get three things from these three agreements," said President Alexie. "A place at the decision table. More economic opportunities in our communities. And control over our own economic and political future. That's the intent. That's the goal. We are action oriented."

The new intergovernmental agreement lays out a series of formal information-sharing commitments by both governments. This includes the commitment that the members of the GNWT Executive Council and GTC Board of Directors will meet each year in the Gwich'in Settlement Area to establish priorities, identify areas of cooperation and set timelines. The Contracting MOU establishes a process to improve the participation of Gwich'in businesses in GNWT contracting within the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Today's event was also an opportunity to formalize the GTC's return to devolution negotiations through a formal signing of the Devolution AIP by Premier McLeod, President Alexie and the Presidents of the four Gwich'in Councils: Jozef Carnogursky, Danny Greenland, Carolyn Lennie and William Koe. The Devolution Agreement in Principle was agreed to and signed in Yellowknife on September 11, 2012. GTC negotiators have been meeting with GNWT representatives regularly since the signing.

Main table negotiations on devolution are targeted to conclude this year, with devolution planned to take effect on April 1, 2014.

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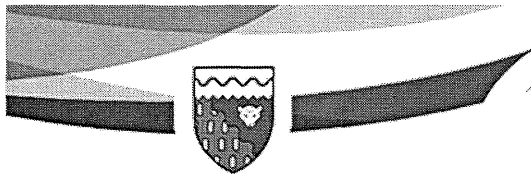
Backgrounder:

Memorandum Of Understanding For Contracting Within The Gwich'in Settlement Area – The Contracting MOU establishes a process towards improving the participation of Gwich'in businesses in GNWT contracting. There is a target of a minimum of 50 percent by value of all GNWT contracts in the Gwich'in Settlement Area over the term of the MOU going to Gwich'in businesses through the regular GNWT contracting process. For the overlap communities of Aklavik and Inuvik, it is the intention of the parties that the minimum target of 50 percent of GNWT contracting by value would include both Gwich'in and Inuvialuit businesses. The MOU's term will be from October 12, 2012 to September 30, 2017. The GNWT will provide lists of planned capital and O&M projects according to a schedule, and will provide a one-time contribution of \$20,000 to assist the GTC in updating the registry of Gwich'in businesses. Senior officials from both governments will meet regularly to discuss and review the GNWT's proposed contracts in the GSA.

Devolution Agreement-in-Principle (AiP) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada, along with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated and Gwich'in Tribal Council, are currently in the final stage of negotiations to transfer or 'devolve' responsibility for the management of public lands, resources and rights in respect of waters in the NWT from the

federal to the territorial government. The Devolution AiP is an important step towards the development of a final agreement, and outlines financial and other terms that the signatories have agreed upon so far. The AiP is not a legally binding document but represents the honourable intentions of the signatories to include these terms in the final agreement. Negotiations are anticipated to conclude in 2012, with the transfer to take effect on April 1, 2014. For more information about how transferring these responsibilities will benefit all NWT residents, business and investors, visit devolution.gov.nt.ca.

Gwich'in Tribal Council – Government of the Northwest Territories Umbrella Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding Intergovernmental Cooperation and Coordination --
The Intergovernmental Agreement will enhance government-to-government relations between the GTC and GNWT by strengthening and encouraging interaction, cooperation and coordination. The agreement outlines protocols for communication, commitments for regular meetings and priority areas for discussion between the two governments. It also establishes a formal process for issues to be raised and resolved in a manner that reflects both Gwich'in and public interests. The agreement is for a four-year term with options to review, update and extend.



NEWS RELEASE

NWT Residents Honoured at Minister's Cultural Circle Ceremony

YELLOWKNIFE (October 17, 2012) – Five Northwest Territories residents and organizations were honoured this morning at the second annual Minister's Cultural Circle Award Ceremony. The event took place in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly and was as a way to recognise the important and lasting contributions of those dedicated to the arts and cultures of the North.

"Arts, culture and heritage play an important role in the Northwest Territories," said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. "They 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 their outstanding achievement and passion."

The Minister's Cultural Circle provides lasting recognition of those who contribute to the preservation and promotion of culture and heritage in the NWT. It helps build awareness among 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.

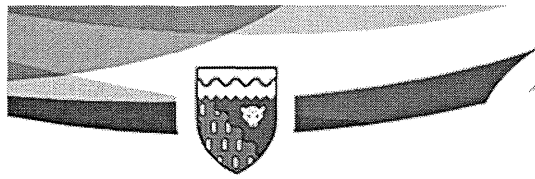
The 2012 Minister's Cultural Circle recipients are:

- Doris Taneton from Deline – Youth Category;
- Lillian Elias from Inuvik – Elder Category;
- Melaw Nakehk'o from Fort Simpson – Individual Category;
- Tlichó Imbe Program – Group Category; and
- Jean Harry from Sachs Harbour – Minister's Choice Award.

More information about each recipient is available on the attached backgrounder.

For more information contact:

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Backgrounder

Purpose: To provide lasting recognition and gratitude to those who contribute to the preservation and promotion of cultures and heritage in the Northwest Territories. The Cultural Circle helps build awareness among 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.

2012 Minister's Cultural Circle Award Recipients:

Spending time with Elders and working with language, traditional knowledge and cultural projects, 23-year-old **Doris Taneton** is a strong young aboriginal leader. She is fluent in both English and North Slavey, participates in northern governance conferences and dedicates time to working with local projects such as the Deline Knowledge Project.

Reflecting on what it means to practice traditional culture in a contemporary world, **Melaw Nakehk'o** demonstrates a strong level of commitment and enthusiasm to share her journey of learning the knowledge of her elders. Earlier this year, she set out to learn the art of tanning moosehides and has since been supporting other women wanting to learn the art form, thereby beginning a cultural revitalization movement among the younger generations of the Northwest Territories.

Since retiring from her position as an Inuvialuktun teacher, **Lillian Elias** has only increased her pride and passion in preserving her language and culture. She continues teaching the language to adults in her community in the evening; she hosts an annual language camp for youth and young children at her bush camp; and she assists the cultural centre, aboriginal languages programs and elementary language teachers with the making of language materials. Her passion is to see all young adults in her community speak Inuvialuktun.

Recognizing that youth were struggling to be “strong like two people” after leaving their communities to attend post-secondary school or employment opportunities, the **Tlicho Government** introduced the **Tlicho Imbe Program** in 2011. This summer employment program hires Tlicho youth to spend eleven weeks in their own communities, working with and learning from community Elders, and learning modern safety skills and technology. Youth earn first aid, canoe safety and GPS mapping certification as well as learning traditional skills, such as fishing, drum and paddle making, sewing, hide preparation, traditional medicines and travel routes. The Tlicho Imbe Program is the beginning of a successful cultural revitalization in all the Tlicho communities.

As both an artist and an Inuvialuktun language teacher, **Jean Harry's** work has profoundly impacted the younger generations of Sachs Harbour residents to continue learning their language. Through her love of her language and culture, she has influenced the development of many leaders, teachers and young Inuvialuit across the North. For all her work in and support of the Inuvialuktun language and culture, Jean Harry receives the Minister's Choice



NWT Credit Rating of Aa1 / Stable Confirmed for GNWT

YELLOWKNIFE (October 23, 2012) – The Government of the Northwest Territories' Aa1 credit rating has been confirmed by Moody's Investors Service. A high investment grade credit rating provides assurance that the GNWT's fiscal plans are sound.

The [credit analysis](#) was published October 18th following Moody's annual review of the GNWT's fiscal plans, outlook, and borrowing activity. While economic growth in the north has been uneven due to the volatility of the global economy, the credit risk is mitigated by the territory's low debt burden.

"We have adopted fiscal policies that have supported the economy by maintaining spending and by investing significantly in infrastructure, but remain committed to our goal of long-term fiscal sustainability," said Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Finance.

Moody's credit rating recognizes the GNWT's ongoing good financial management in uncertain economic times, based on a well-developed fiscal framework and [Fiscal Responsibility Policy](#). The analysis noted the potential for higher resource revenues and greater fiscal flexibility in the future as a result of devolution and expects the GNWT's debt burden to remain stable under the new federal borrowing limit. A territorial economy that generates high employment rates and GDP per capita contributed to the GNWT's credit rating.

The GNWT's rating is on par with Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The highest possible credit rating issued by Moody's is Aaa, one level above the GNWT's. The NWT's debt burden is low when compared to that of most Canadian regional governments.

The GNWT has retained an Aa1 credit rating since 2008-09. A high credit rating allows the GNWT to build a strong, sustainable future for our Territory by making strategic infrastructure investments that will increase northern capacity, strengthen and diversify the economy, and increase employment opportunities where they are most needed.

For more information, contact:

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Announcement: Moody's Releases Annual Report on the Northwest Territories

Global Credit Research - 19 Oct 2012

Toronto, October 19, 2012 -- In its annual report on the Northwest Territories (NWT), Moody's Investors Service says that the Canadian territory's Aa1 issuer rating is supported by a well-developed fiscal framework and a low debt burden. The high investment-grade rating also reflects the territorial economy, which, while narrowly based and focused on resource development, generates high employment rates and GDP per capita.

The NWT's fiscal plan is guided by a Fiscal Responsibility Policy that includes guidelines with respect to the types of activities for which debt can be issued as well as limits on total debt and debt servicing costs to ensure affordability. "The Fiscal Responsibility Policy includes reporting and accountability mechanisms to ensure compliance and, as such, should help to ensure continued fiscal discipline," says Moody's Assistant Vice President Jennifer Wong, lead analyst for the NWT.

On a non-consolidated basis, the territory is estimated to have registered a deficit position of C\$33.7 million (2.4% of revenues) in 2011-12. However, the territory's 2012-13 Budget projected that growth in federal transfers and taxation revenues will offset planned increases in expenses, resulting in an operating surplus of C\$74.1 million (4.9% of revenues) in 2012-13. "By keeping expenditure growth close to the projected revenue growth, surpluses are projected to continue in the medium term. Given the territory's prudent policies, NWT's plan to return to operating surplus appears achievable," explains Ms. Wong.

The NWT, like the Canadian provinces, maintains substantial control over expenditure and revenue levers, although at present, resources revenues are controlled at the federal level. The territory, however, has signed a devolution agreement-in-principle with the federal government, and while negotiations are on-going, an agreement could mean a transfer of legislative authority over lands and resources to the NWT and potentially higher resource revenues and greater fiscal flexibility.

In recent years, deficits and an increase in capital expenditures have led to additions to NWT's net debt, which measured 22.6% of revenues at March 31, 2011. However, NWT's debt burden remains relatively low compared to the Canadian provinces, and is expected to remain relatively stable in the medium-term.

With an economy limited primarily to natural resources and associated industries, growth in real GDP has been volatile in NWT. In 2011, real GDP contracted by an estimated 5.8%, reflecting weak diamond production and a fall in capital investments. The territory projects growth to resume at 6.5% in 2012, as investments and exports recover strongly from 2011 levels.

The rating agency's report is a yearly update to the markets and does not constitute a rating action.

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How will borrowing be approved?

Answer:

The Legislative Assembly will annually approve the Government's long-term borrowing requirements as well as the maximum short-term (repayable within one year) borrowing requirements in the Appropriation and Borrowing Authority Act.

In the unlikely event that short-term borrowing cannot be repaid in one year and must be repaid through long-term debt, approval of the Legislative Assembly will be sought.

How will the Government monitor this Policy?

Answer:

The Minister of Finance is committed to annually review and, where required, update the borrowing and performance measurement criteria for the management of debt.

How will the Government be held accountable?

Answer:

Annually, when the *Public Accounts* are presented to the Legislative Assembly, the Minister of Finance will report on the debt management results of the Government.

What are the performance criteria that borrowing will be measured against?

Answer:

Debt to Revenue Ratio

In the lowest 4 among provinces.

Debt per Capita

In the lowest 5 among provinces and territories.

Debt Servicing Costs (Interest), as a % of Revenue

In the lowest 4 among provinces.

Debt Servicing Payments, as a % of Revenue

Not to exceed 5%.

Net Debt, as a % of GDP

In the lowest 4 among provinces.

Net Debt per Capita

In the lowest 5 among provinces and territories.



For the full text of the new Fiscal Responsibility Policy, visit the Government of the Northwest Territories FMBS Library, Financial Administration Manual, Chapter 300 www.gov.nt.ca/FMBS/documents/FAMWeb

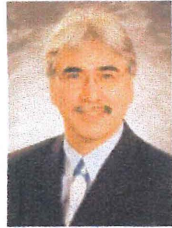
or, call the Financial Management Board Secretariat, at (867) 920-6196 or, visit www.gov.nt.ca/FMBS/contact.html for contact information



Fiscal RESPONSIBILITY POLICY



Northwest
Territories



Message from the Chairman of the Financial Management Board

The Government of the Northwest Territories must make investments every year to respond to the needs of the people of our Territory.

The Government must invest in programs and services, in capital infrastructure, and in a wide array of other needs. Often the Government does not have the immediate cash to make these investments and must borrow the money required. But how much can the Government afford to borrow? What investments should the Government borrow for? What investments should it not borrow for? How can the Government be held accountable for these borrowing decisions?

These are the questions the GNWT asked itself. The answers it came up with have been incorporated into a new Fiscal Responsibility Policy. The Government is committed to making fiscal decisions within the guidelines and limits contained in this Policy. It is also committed to reporting to NWT residents on how well it is managing the fiscal affairs of the CNWT.

We are committed to providing NWT residents with responsive and responsible government. This new Fiscal Responsibility Policy is one of the ways we intend to honor that commitment.

Hon. Floyd K. Roland
Chairman

The Fiscal Responsibility Policy provides the following answers to the tough questions on fiscal management and borrowing:

What will this Government borrow for?

Answer:

- Capital infrastructure.
- Self-liquidating investments (e.g. those that generate immediate or direct savings or new or enhanced revenue streams).
- Repayable loan programs (e.g. student loans, working capital advances for the Business Credit Corporation).
- The Government will not borrow for day to day operating requirements.

How will the Government finance investment in infrastructure?

Answer:

- 50% minimum from cash generated from operating surpluses.
- 50% maximum through short or long-term borrowing.

How much debt will be considered affordable?

Answer:

"Affordable debt" will be considered the level of debt where the corresponding annual debt servicing payments do not exceed 5% of total annual revenues.

Debt servicing payments will include interest, incidental costs associated with the administration of debt, and the principal repayments and/or contributions to sinking funds.

How will the Government repay its debt?

Answer:

Infrastructure debt will be repaid over a period not to exceed the lesser of 20 years or the useful life of the asset.

Debt for self-liquidating investments will be repaid from the new revenues such as user fees, tolls, or expenditure savings.

Debt incurred to finance repayable loan programs will be repaid from cash generated from the loan repayments and corresponding interest revenue.

What if the Government does not manage its investments, borrowing and debt within the parameters of the Policy?

Answer:

If debt servicing payments exceed 5% of total revenues, the Government is required to generate additional operating surpluses in the following two years.

The additional surpluses must be used to repay sufficient debt principal so that debt servicing payments will decrease to 5% of revenues by the third subsequent year.



MINISTER OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND EMPLOYMENT CALLS FOR OTHER JURISDICTIONS TO DEVELOP DEDICATED RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS CURRICULUM

YELLOWKNIFE (Wednesday, October 31, 2012) – To build on the success of the early October launch of the Northern Studies 10 curriculum, the Honourable Jackson Lafferty today officially introduced the materials to the public with a call to jurisdictions across Canada to develop their own dedicated residential schools curricula.

The completed curriculum was announced earlier in October at a three day inservice for teachers that will be using the new curriculum in schools across the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The curriculum was launched by the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), the Honourable Eva Ariak, Minister of Education with the Government of Nunavut (GN), and Marie Wilson, Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

“Our original hopes for this curriculum have been exceeded by the overwhelming response we had with the launch to our teachers,” said Minister Lafferty. “We built on the valuable research gathered by the Legacy of Hope Foundation with the intent of both informing our students and communities of the broad impact residential schools had on our aboriginal people, as well as providing them with a path to reconciliation and healing. The exposure through the media and the requests for more information from across Canada has shone a light on the need for other jurisdictions to develop their own dedicated curricula. As Commissioner Wilson stated, this is not just Aboriginal history; this is Canadian history.”

The Residential Schools curriculum is now a key section of the Northwest Territories Northern Studies course and the Nunavut Social Studies course. It covers topics ranging from the history and legacy of residential schools, traditional education and learning, colonialism, assimilation, the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the Federal apology, the TRC, and what reconciliation may look like. It also includes literature and stories of former residential school students shared through audio and video clips, allowing students to learn of both the positive and negative impacts that school life had on individuals.

Minister Lafferty was joined by Mr. Richard Kistabish, Chair of the Legacy of Hope Foundation, to highlight the GNWT and GN’s materials and the educational products developed by the Legacy of Hope. Through the exhaustive research and careful handling of this sensitive subject matter, both the Governments’ and Legacy of Hope’s products are providing a more comprehensive look at the history and legacy of the residential schools in Canada, and resources for healing and reconciliation.

For more information, visit www.legacyofhope.ca or www.ece.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

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DEH CHO BRIDGE TO OPEN NOVEMBER 30

FORT PROVIDENCE (November 6, 2012) The official opening of the Deh Cho Bridge will be held on Friday, November 30, 2012.

In a Minister's Statement read in the Legislative Assembly this afternoon, the Honourable David Ramsay, Minister of Transportation, advised Members that final construction work is being completed on the bridge. He expressed satisfaction with the project's imminent completion. "The Deh Cho Bridge represents a tremendous improvement in the level of service over the current ferry and ice road crossing, and will increase economic development in our territory," he said. "Children born today will still be using this bridge in their retirement years."

Minister Ramsay credited the decision of the Legislative Assembly to provide additional resources for the Bridge with ensuring completion this year. The money was used to settle claims and accelerate construction, bringing the total construction cost for the Bridge to \$202 million. The Minister noted that a delay in the Bridge opening could have meant substantial additional costs and the loss of toll revenue that will now be avoided.

The Deh Cho Bridge will provide year-round access to the North Slave Region of the Northwest Territories, eliminating the uncertainty that comes from the current ferry and ice crossing system. The Bridge will reduce environmental risks and impacts by no longer needing the half a million litres of fuel used annually to power the ferry.

The Department of Transportation is working closely with the community of Fort Providence to plan a celebration the afternoon of November 30, honouring the contributions of the community and those involved in the design, construction, and oversight of the project. More detailed information on the celebration will be posted beginning November 22 on the project website at www.dehchobridge.info.

The Deh Cho Bridge will provide year-round access to the North Slave Region of the Northwest Territories, eliminating the uncertainty that comes from the current ferry and ice crossing system. The bridge will reduce environmental risks and impacts by eliminating the need for idling, half a million litres of fuel annually to power the ferry, and the possibility of a spill into the Mackenzie River.

A toll on commercial vehicle operators is in place, and information on toll collection and enforcement has been provided to commercial operators. Further information on the Deh Cho Bridge toll can be found at www.tolling.ca.

Strategic investment in public infrastructure is one of the ways the Government of the Northwest Territories is meeting the 17th Legislative Assembly's priority of strengthening and diversifying our economy.

For further information, please contact

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EXCELLENCE IN TRAPPING RECOGNIZED

YELLOWKNIFE (November 6, 2012) Trappers in each region of the Northwest Territories have been honoured for their achievements during last year’s trapping season.

“These awards recognize those trappers that go the extra mile in pursuit of their craft and I want to offer my congratulations to all of the recipients for their well-deserved awards,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. “We are especially pleased with our youth trappers and the number of youth involved in the trapping industry, and hope they continue to follow in the footsteps of the generations before them with their trapping traditions.”

Awards are given to the top regional trapper 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.

Trapper Recognition Awards 2011/12

	REGION	HIGHEST SALES \$	HIGHEST # PELTS	SENIOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	YOUTH ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
2011-2012	SouthSlave	Kyle Marty Mandeville (Ft Res)	Devon Beck (Fort Res)	Frederick Sabourin (Ft Prov)	Jordan Hordal (Hay River)
	North Slave	Joseph P. Mantla (Behchoko)	Harry Rabesca (Behchoko)	Jonas Football (Behchoko)	Krystal Anderson (YK)
	SAHTU	Mark W M Kochon (Colville)	Mark W M Kochon (Colville)	Frank Yallee (Tulita)	Leroy Jr. Andre (Deline) ***NWT***
	DEH CHO	Charlie Tale (Wrigley)	Roger Bertrand (Ft Liard)	Edward Jumbo (Trout Lake)	Ernest Jr. Timbre (Ft Liard)
	INUVIK	Patsy Ekpakohak (Ulukhaktok)	James B Firth (Inuvik)	Edith Hogak (Sachs Harbour)	Andrea Carmichael (Aklavik)

Leroy Jr. Andre received the *Youth Trapper NWT* award for being the most productive youth trapper in the territory.

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.

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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FIRST TERRITORIAL HEALTH BEHAVIOURS IN SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN REPORT RELEASED

YELLOWKNIFE (November 6, 2012) – The Department of Education, Culture and Employment, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Services, released a report today exploring the health perceptions, choices and experiences of school-aged children in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The report, titled [*Health and Health-Related Behaviours Among Young People: Northwest Territories*](#), is based upon data collected through the national [*Health Behaviours in School-Aged Children \(HBSC\) study*](#).

“Every student deserves a good education and a high quality of life and NWT schools play a more central role in promoting healthy choices and behaviours than in many other parts of Canada,” said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. “By working with the Department of Health and Social Services, we have a significant opportunity to foster both a positive learning environment and help encourage constructive choices and healthy behaviour.”

The HBSC study aims to gain new insight and increased understanding of the health, wellbeing and health behaviours of young people and their social contexts, especially in the school environment. The 2010-11 report is the first time that information on the health behaviours and choices of NWT youth has been provided to the territory. It provides valuable information to identify areas of concern in the Northwest Territories and to help focus programming to improve the health-related behaviours of our young people.

“Healthy behaviors and best practices for life start in the school environment, everyone has a role to play to encourage children to make healthy lifestyle choices. I am pleased with the results of this report,” said Minister of Health and Social Services, Tom Beaulieu.

“In examining the connections between contextual factors and mental health, one key theme emerges: interpersonal relationships matter,” said Dr. John Freeman, Director of the Social Program Evaluation Group at Queen's University and co-Principal Investigator of the HBSC study. “No matter how mental health is measured and no matter what interpersonal relationship is concerned, adolescents with positive interpersonal relationships tend to fare better in terms of mental health.”

The HBSC is conducted every four years by Queen’s University in partnership with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Health Canada. Data is collected through school-based self-report surveys among 11 to 15 year-olds. This age group represents the life-period when physical and emotional changes take place and important life and career decisions are beginning to be made. These results can reveal much about the long-term health choices our young people are making

The national 2010 HBSC report, [*The Health of Canada's Young People: a mental health focus*](#), was released earlier this year.

For more information, please contact:

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PLANNED APPROACH TO NWT HC-HELD HOMEOWNERSHIP MORTGAGES

YELLOWKNIFE (November 6, 2012) – The Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) has announced a revised approach to helping homeownership clients address their mortgages and arrears. This approach aims to provide client homeowners with a fresh start while meeting their responsibilities as homeowners.

“Addressing housing needs is a priority of the 17th Legislative Assembly. The NWT HC has committed to improving homeownership supports for NWT residents in [*Building for the Future*](#)” said Minister McLeod. “I have heard our clients’ frustration regarding their mortgage payments and arrears. This is an opportunity for us to work together, to reset the clock for our clients and to put these households in a better position to address their housing needs.”

The adjusted approach brings historical mortgage client files more into line with the NWT HC’s current approach to homeownership support. Applying current practices to existing mortgages will reduce the amount of arrears owed by clients. Approximately 400 clients will have their outstanding mortgage balances significantly reduced, depending on household individual circumstances, and affordable re-payment options will be offered.

In the coming weeks, NWT HC staff will be contacting each client to review a new agreement and to discuss payment options available to them. “We hope that clients welcome the chance to adjust their debt in a positive direction” says Minister McLeod.

Clients may also take steps on their own to contact their NWT HC District Office to find out more about the new approach to mortgages and how it affects them.

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LONGEST-SERVING MLAS RECEIVE DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDALS

YELLOWKNIFE (November 7, 2012) – Commissioner George Tuccaro, Premier Bob McLeod, and Speaker Jackie Jacobson presented Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals to the longest-serving members of the Legislative Assembly yesterday.

Michael Miltenberger, MLA Thebacha, and Jane Groenewegen, MLA Hay River South, have served in the Legislative Assembly continuously since their first elections in October 1995. Both have served as Cabinet Ministers, including terms as Deputy Premier.

“This medal recognizes people who have helped to build the Canada of today,” said Commissioner Tuccaro. “At the conclusion of the 17th Assembly, MLAs Miltenberger and Groenewegen will join Tom Butters and Ludy Pudluk as the only Members to have served a fifth consecutive term in the history of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.”

“Both MLAs were instrumental in laying the foundation of our work as a government after the creation of Nunavut,” said Premier McLeod. “I look to both of them as visionaries as we take on the responsibilities and rights of a mature government. They believe in people, and they build on the strengths of northerners.”

The Diamond Jubilee Medal was created by the Government of Canada to recognize the outstanding contributions of Canadians of all ages and from all walks of life. This medal program is one of the elements of the year-long [Diamond Jubilee](#) celebrations. [Thirty-four NWT residents](#) have been presented with medals to date. Further medal presentation ceremonies will be organized to recognize other NWT recipients before the Diamond Jubilee celebrations end in February 2013.

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DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LAUNCHES NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE

YELLOWKNIFE (December 14, 2012) – Today, Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) announced the launch of a new website for the department.

“Today, people want quick access to information and services from their government. Our new website provides this and much more,” said Minister McLeod. “The new site will improve MACA’s approach to e-services for programs and includes new features that will help the department better serve the residents of the NWT.”

The new website has been completely redesigned with a focus on user needs. Site content is organized by user group and makes information easier to find and access. With improved search features, online forms and applications, and a design optimized for mobile devices and smartphones, the website will help residents and community governments find information on MACA’s programs and services.

MACA continues to improve its departmental websites to better serve NWT residents and to further reduce any barriers to accessing government programs and services.

Visit the new website at: www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

For more information, contact:

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