

# Northwest Territories Government News Releases | 2013

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R(17)-	Feb. 07	Budget 2013-14: fiscal plan achieves surpluses for investments
R(17)-	Feb. 14	Tlicho Government and GNWT hold intergovernmental meeting
R(17)-	Feb. 19	GNWT recognized as one of Canada's best diversity employers
R(17)-	Feb. 20	ECE celebrates Education Week
R(17)-	Feb. 20	Minister Ramsay and Mayor Heyck to participate The Sky's No Limit – Girls Fly Too!
R(17)-	Feb. 26	New traditional games championship
R(17)-	Feb. 28	Tlicho Government agrees to sign on to devolution
R(17)-	Mar. 01	GNWT and partners meet to advance First Nation, Inuit and Metis cancer control
R(17)-	Mar. 05	Premier McLeod speaks at Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Conference
R(17)-	Mar. 06	Aboriginal languages celebrated during March
R(17)-	Mar. 06	Deadline for public input on economic opportunities extended
R(17)-	Mar. 07	New Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program puts the brakes on impaired driving
R(17)-	Mar. 07	New population estimates for the Beverly and Ahlak caribou subpopulations
R(17)-	Mar. 08	Tlicho Government signs Devolution AiP
R(17)-	Mar. 11	Canada confirms funding for the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway
R(17)-	Mar. 11	Update on the negotiation of the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement
R(17)-	Mar. 13	Hay River gets a doctor
R(17)-	Mar. 15	Correction: update on the negotiation of the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement
R(17)-	Mar. 15	NWT rated Best Overall Improvement in Canada for mineral investment
R(17)-	Mar. 22	Sambaa K'e Dene Band awarded First Excellence in Water Stewardship Award for the Northwest Territories
R(17)-	Apr. 04	Department of Education, Culture and Employment launches new website
R(17)-	Apr. 04	New report looks at the causes of hospitalization in the NWT
R(17)-	Apr. 08	Obstetric team wins International Award

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R(17)-	Apr. 19	GMVF program results in record prices for NWT fur
R(17)-	Apr. 19	Online reservations for NWT campgrounds to open Friday, April 19 at noon
R(17)-	Apr. 22	Premier announces senior management appointment
R(17)-	Apr. 26	FireSmart Workshop promote community protection from wildfire
R(17)-	Apr. 26	NWT has significant presence at Northern Scene in Ottawa
R(17)-	May 7	2013 outstanding volunteers honoured
R(17)-	May 10	NWT potential touted at Offshore Technology Conference in Houston
R(17)-	May 14	Go Camp! NWT Parks season kicks off tomorrow
R(17)-	May 14	NWT Medevac patients to see improved services with opening of the Air Ambulance Facility at Edmonton International Airport
R(17)-	May 15	Trapping workshops sharpen skills for optimum pelts at optimum prices
R(17)-	May 23	Akaiicho Territory Dene First Nations and GNWT Sign Memorandum of Understanding
R(17)-	May 27	Prelude Management Plan outlines planned park improvements
R(17)-	May 28	Gardens get growing across the Dehcho region
R(17)-	May 30	NWT residents honoured at Hall of Fame Ceremony
R(17)-	May 30	Report outlines opportunities for new NWT Economic Strategy
R(17)-	May 30	Safe Kids Week: Make Protecting Your Head a Healthy Choice
R(17)-	June 04	Northern Aviation Scholarship Fund accepting applications
R(17)-	June 04	Report sets the stage for strategy to guide the NWT's mining future
R(17)-	June 05	Legislative Assembly votes to approve Devolution
R(17)-	June 05	Premier's Awards honour GNWT employees and partners <sup>6</sup>
R(17)-	June 06	Corridors For Canada III proposal for federal infrastructure funding released
R(17)-	June 06	Early Childhood Development Framework will give NWT children the right start
R(17)-	June 06	Investments in efficiency and alternative energy reduce GNWT dependency on fossil fuels
R(17)-	June 06	NWT hazard identification risk assessment

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R(17)-	June 06	Strategic Framework sets priorities for the elimination of poverty in the NWT
R(17)-	June 07	Deh Cho Bridge project receives awards
R(17)-	June 07	Repairs to the runway at the Hay River Airport moving ahead
R(17)-	June 10	Celebrating the importance of industry during NWT Mining Week
R(17)-	June 10	Celebrating Tourism Week in the NWT
R(17)-	June 11	Improved Ferry Service for Beaufort Delta
R(17)-	June 12	Call for applications for the 2013 – 2014 Youth Ambassador Program
R(17)-	June 18	Media availability for Premier McLeod at Western Premiers' Conference
R(17)-	June 18	Western Premiers Focus on Jobs and the Economy
R(17)-	June 20	Aboriginal cultural awareness training released
R(17)-	June 20	GNWT officially recognizes 414 Gwich'in place names
R(17)-	June 20	New Federal Review Board to efficiently resolve land-access disputes
R(17)-	June 25	Harper Government, Government of NWT and Aboriginal Parties sign Final Devolution Agreement
R(17)-	June 25	Museum Café reopens
R(17)-	June 25	Provincial and Territorial Ministers responsible for housing call for sustainable federal funding partnership
R(17)-	June 28	GNWT and De Beers Canada sign Socio-Economic Agreement for Gahcho Kue
R(17)-	June 28	New approach to Community Emergency Preparedness Training
R(17)-	July 04	Be Water Smart – another Healthy Choice
R(17)-	July 04	Limited resident harvest for Bluenose-East and Beverly and Ahiak caribou herds proposed
R(17)-	July 04	Second Intergovernmental Meeting between Gwich'in Tribal Council and GNWT
R(17)-	July 05	CanNor fosters regional economic development in the NWT
R(17)-	July 05	GNWT reviews beach safety
R(17)-	July 10	Buckle Up NWT Campaign enters final stretch
R(17)-	July 11	Contract not renewed at Nats'ejee Keh Treatment Centre

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R(17)-	July 11	MACA Hosts Workshop to build stronger partnerships
R(17)-	July 11	Northern Aviation Scholarship – deadline approaching
R(17)-	July 16	Minister Jackson Lafferty to lead national initiative on Aboriginal education
R(17)-	July 16	Reduced wait times at Yellowknife Issuing Office
R(17)-	July 17	Through Our Lens Series: Northern films profile at popular NWT Arts Festival
R(17)-	July 18	NWT Releases 2012 Student Assessment Results
R(17)-	July 19	NWT celebrates Canada's Parks Day
R(17)-	July 22	Drowning Prevention Week
R(17)-	July 23	Premier McLeod congratulates the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on the birth of their first child
R(17)-	July 23	Stanton Territorial Health Authority announces new CEO
R(17)-	July 24	GNWT's credit rating of Aa1 confirmed
R(17)-	July 24	Lifejacket Loaner Station newest addition to Fred Henne Beach
R(17)-	July 25	GNWT recognized for innovation in diversity
R(17)-	July 29	Minister appoints Public Administrator for the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority
R(17)-	Aug. 08	Corrections Northern Recruit Program celebrates first Fort Smith Graduates
R(17)-	Aug. 13	Growing Forward 2 Agricultural Program launched in Northwest Territories
R(17)-	Aug. 15	Bison season begins in the Northwest Territories
R(17)-	Aug. 15	GNWT launches new careers website
R(17)-	Aug. 16	Buckle Up NWT winner to be announced August 22
R(17)-	Sept. 04	Ministers' Conference raises funds for Stanton Foundation
R(17)-	Sept. 09	Community Governments provided funds to recognize volunteers
R(17)-	Sept. 26	NWT chronic disease management collaboration results in better care, roadmap for system change
R(17)-	Sept. 27	Northwest Territories works with Provincial and Territorial partners on proposed Canada job grant
R(17)-	Sept. 30	Minister Ramsay discusses northern infrastructure needs at meeting of

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## Transportation Ministers

- R(17)- Sept. 30 Premier announces Deputy Minister for the Department of Lands
- R(17)- Oct. 01 Community Planning and Development Act comes into force
- R(17)- Oct. 01 Devolution re-shapes the GNWT
- R(17)- Oct. 01 The best of NWT Film on the big screen at Yellowknife International Film Festival
- R(17)- Oct. 04 Department of Human Resources launches new website
- R(17)- Oct. 07 Northern Aviation Scholarships awarded
- R(17)- Oct. 08 NWT receives results from International Literacy Assessment Report
- R(17)- Oct. 09 NWT delegation returns from Bakken trip
- R(17)- Oct. 09 Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Seniors take action on healthy aging
- R(17)- Oct. 10 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial (F/P/T) Ministers Responsible for Seniors: On-going collaboration to support the well-being of seniors living in Canada
- R(17)- Oct. 11 NWT Fire Service Merit Award recipients
- R(17)- Oct. 18 Income Security Programs continue to improve
- R(17)- Oct. 21 Celebrating Small Business Week 2013
- R(17)- Oct. 22 Stanton chosen as 2013 Bell Let's Talk Community Fund partner
- R(17)- Oct. 23 Boat safety training a top priority for NWT tourism operators
- R(17)- Oct. 23 Portion of Highway 1 to be designated the Highway of Heroes
- R(17)- Oct. 23 Project Gearshift – part of the GNWT's Strategy for Reducing Harm to Young Drivers
- R(17)- Oct. 24 Fred Henne Beach Audit Report: Recommendations Released to Improve Beach Safety
- R(17)- Oct. 28 NWT residents honoured at Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle Ceremony
- R(17)- Oct. 29 NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy connects businesses and communities to economic opportunities
- R(17)- Oct. 30 Premier Bob McLeod announces changes to the Cabinet
- R(17)- Oct. 31 Education Renewal and Innovation Framework announced
- R(17)- Nov. 01 NWT fishing industry rebounding; reaches one million pound mark

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R(17)-	Nov. 04	New Wildlife Act ensures responsible stewardship through partnership
R(17)-	Nov. 04	Pan-Territorial Permafrost Workshop to be held in Yellowknife
R(17)-	Nov. 04	Preventing Drownings on the Ice – another Healthy Choice
R(17)-	Nov. 05	Francophone residents engaged for French-language services
R(17)-	Nov. 08	Grand Opening of New Business Incentive Policy Office in Hay River
R(17)-	Nov. 12	Recognition awards draw praise for NWT trappers
R(17)-	Nov. 13	ENR seeks information on meat wastage in Yellowknife
R(17)-	Nov. 15	Government of the Northwest Territories donates to typhoon relief
R(17)-	Nov. 19	GNWT continues to track Obed Mountain Mine spill
R(17)-	Nov. 20	Road crash victims remembered across Canada
R(17)-	Nov. 21	First ever NWT Mineral Development Strategy outlines plans to revitalize the resource sector
R(17)-	Nov. 22	New vision for NWT Health and Social Services system to improve services to residents
R(17)-	Nov. 22	Partners celebrate Betty House sod-turning
R(17)-	Nov. 22	Premier McLeod to Chair Working Group of Aboriginal Affairs Ministers And National Aboriginal Organization Leaders
R(17)-	Nov. 26	Museum Alive! Open House at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
R(17)-	Nov. 27	NWT collaboration to reduce drownings receives national recognition
R(17)-	Nov. 27	Talking About Addictions – another Healthy Choice
R(17)-	Nov. 28	New Occupational Health and Safety Training Program for GNWT Employees
R(17)-	Dec. 05	New Charter confirms commitment to a poverty-free NWT
R(17)-	Dec. 06	Post-Devolution Public Service Team
R(17)-	Dec. 08	NWT Premier to attend the Commemorative Service for the passing of Nelson Mandela
R(17)-	Dec. 09	Limited resident Barren-Ground Caribou and Bison harvest approved
R(17)-	Dec. 12	Gwich'in Tribal Council and GNWT sign Memorandum of Intent on capacity building
R(17)-	Dec. 13	News Release: Four species added to NWT List of Species at Risk

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|--------|---------|--|
| R(17)- | Dec. 13 | GNWT discussing school utilization in Yellowknife and Hay River                    |
| R(17)- | Dec. 16 | Find the service you need on the GNWT's new Service Directory                      |
| R(17)- | Dec. 16 | NWT Energy Action Plan focuses on efficiency; alternative energy                   |
| R(17)- | Dec. 18 | Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment launches new website                |
| R(17)- | Dec. 18 | Inaugural NWT Restorative Justice Recognition Award presented to Paulatuk resident |



## **Budget 2013-14: Fiscal Plan Achieves Surpluses for Investments**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 7, 2013)** – Today's budget tabled by Finance Minister J. Michael Miltenberger sticks to the four-year fiscal plan developed last year while achieving operational savings to invest in urgent priorities.

"The investments we're making in prevention, diversifying the economy, energy alternatives, and improving service delivery reflect what we heard last fall," said Minister Miltenberger. "At the same time, we are holding to our commitment to live within our means to generate the operating surpluses we need to increase our infrastructure investments. The investments we're making today build the foundation for a healthier and more prosperous future for NWT residents."

The 2013-14 Budget describes the Government's four-year plan focused on fiscal discipline in managing the growth in operating expenditures to build cash reserves for an enhanced infrastructure budget. This strategy will generate enough operating surpluses to allow for \$50 million in additional infrastructure spending in each of 2014-2015 and 2015-16, while keeping the GNWT well within the \$800 million federally imposed borrowing limit.

The Budget projects an operating surplus of \$113 million in 2013-14 from revenues of \$1.61 billion and expenditures of \$1.50 billion. The GNWT expects to reduce borrowing from an estimated \$609 million at March 31, 2013 to \$581 million at March 31, 2014, allowing \$219 million in borrowing room.

Highlights of specific initiatives of the 2013-14 Budget are included in the attached [Budget Highlights document](#). The 2013-14 Budget Address and Main Estimates can be found on the [Department of Finance website](#).

**For more information:**

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## Tłı̨chǫ Government and GNWT Hold Intergovernmental Meeting

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 14, 2013)** – Members of the Executive Councils of the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly met bilaterally on Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. This was the third meeting between the two Executives and reflects the continuing development of their government-to-government relationship and commitment to working collaboratively on behalf of the Tłı̨chǫ people and all residents of the Northwest Territories.

Areas of discussion included:

- The collaborative renewal of the Intergovernmental Services Agreement
- The collaborative approach taken towards seeking amendments to the *Tłı̨chǫ Community Government Act* to reflect the needs of the four Tłı̨chǫ Community Governments and their residents
- Northwest Territories Education Renewal
- The continued collaboration with and contribution of the Tłı̨chǫ Government on the proposed new *Wildlife Act*

These formal government-to-government meetings are part of the shared commitments within '*Working Together – the Tłı̨chǫ Government/Government of the Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding*'. Members of the Executive Councils of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly and Tłı̨chǫ Government have committed to meet bilaterally twice per year. The last meeting was held June 29, 2012.

"I feel that there has been a real benefit to the residents of the Tłı̨chǫ and the Northwest Territories in meeting regularly this way," said Premier Bob McLeod. "We have a clearer understanding of our shared interests and are better equipped to find solutions."

Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus said, "It was a short but useful meeting. Our Governments discussed a number of common issues. The Tłı̨chǫ Government needs to work with the GNWT to support the implementation of our Tłı̨chǫ Agreement, and I want to thank the Premier for the honest and frank discussions about the needs of each government."

### For more information:

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News Release

## GNWT Recognized as One of Canada's Best Diversity Employers

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 19, 2013)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has been named as one of [Canada's Best Diversity Employers](#). The prestigious annual award recognizes organizations that work to include women, Aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities, visible minorities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) peoples in the workplace. The award complements the GNWT's recognition as one of Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2013.

"Our committed and creative public service is the key to promoting an inclusive workplace," said Minister of Human Resources Glen Abernethy. "Last year over 2750 employers across the country vied for this award. Those selected are the leaders in diversity and inclusion in the workplace and we ought to be very proud of our public service for receiving this award, which highlights our efforts to promote a representative workplace and foster a spirit of inclusion".

The GNWT is committed to developing and maintaining a representative work force using a variety of tools and training that support and encourage an inclusive workplace. These include disability awareness, indigenous Aboriginal cultural awareness and gender-based analysis. The Aboriginal Employees Advisory Committee (AEAC) and the GNWT Advisory Committee on Employability (GACE) work to enhance employment opportunities within the public service for designated groups.

Canada's Best Diversity 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. As the exclusive newspaper partner, The Globe and Mail is announcing the 2013 Canada's Best Diversity Employers winners in a special national newspaper report today.

**For more information, contact:**

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## News Release

### ECE Celebrates Education Week

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 20, 2013)** – February 18-22 is [Education Week](#). The theme this year is Innovative Learning and highlights the importance of technology integration in the classroom. At the start of the school year, the Literacy with Information and Communication Technology (*Lw/ICT*) curriculum was implemented in all schools across the Northwest Territories (NWT) in order to infuse technology use and media education into the Kindergarten to Grade 12 system.

“Learning is a lifelong endeavour that goes beyond the walls of the classroom,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “We recognize that we must incorporate the progressive nature of how our world learns and communicates today, and include our northern touchstones of tradition, culture and language.”

Education, Culture and Employment has developed the *Speak Up! Video Contest* and is challenging students to actively participate in their own education as part of Education Week. The contest encourages youth to learn to speak another official language of the NWT and send in a video clip of themselves speaking it. Participants will receive a video compilation of all the entries as well as have a chance to win one of two Kobo eReaders.

This year also marks the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the Northwest Territories Teachers’ Association’s (NWTTA) [Thank You for Making a Difference](#) campaign. Each year, the NWTTA receives hundreds of nominations from students who want to recognize their teachers for the difference they have made in their lives. To date, the NWTTA has received more than 20,000 nominations.

#### **For more information, contact:**

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## Press Release

### Minister Ramsay and Mayor Heyck to Participate The Sky's No Limit - Girls Fly Too!

**Yellowknife, February 20, 2013** – Minister Ramsay and Mayor Heyck will be on hand to help inspire and encourage girls and women to pursue aviation vocations at The Sky's No Limit – Girls Fly Too! event at the Yellowknife Airport Saturday March 9.

The community outreach event is being held as part of the annual Women of Aviation Worldwide Week celebration and is designed to raise awareness of the opportunities available to girls and women in the air and space industry and spark vocations.

Minister Ramsay is excited to be part of the initiative. "I want to encourage women to consider being an important part of the future of the Northwest Territories by becoming the pilots, mechanics, airline workers, and airport managers that we need to help ensure our economic development and growth."

"Yellowknife was very proud to have our airport crowned the most Female-Pilot-Friendly Airport Worldwide last year." Says Mayor Heyck. "Women have the potential to form a very important part of the aviation industry in our community and we want to encourage girls and women to get involved. The Girls Fly Too initiative is a critical part of that effort."

As a main highlight at the event, Trinity Helicopters along with other Certified Women Friendly local partners will be sponsoring free helicopter rides for eligible girls & women (those who have not flown in a small aircraft before) and those interested must sign up in advance at [www.girlsfly2.ca](http://www.girlsfly2.ca). At the time of this release over 150 girls & women from Yellowknife, Behchoko, Fort Smith and Fort Liard had signed up to fly.

There will be fun for the whole family at the all-day event, including a static display of aircraft, free tours of the Yellowknife Air Traffic Control Tower and Flight Service Station; a search and rescue activity from the Yellowknife Civil Air Search & Rescue Association (CASARA). Sherry Beard, Manager of Safety & Security-Fire Chief for the Yellowknife Airport will be on the flight line to highlight airport firefighting careers for the girls and let them explore the airport fire trucks.

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## New Traditional Games Championship

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 26, 2013)** – A new traditional games championship hosted by the Aboriginal Sport Circle and sponsored by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and Sport Canada begins this Friday, March 1st in Yellowknife.

The first annual [NWT Traditional Games Championship](#) highlights Inuit and Dene traditional games and gives youth an opportunity to compete with others from across the territory.

“Our traditional games are an integral part of the culture and history of the NWT; keeping them alive is essential to keeping in touch with our vibrant past,” said Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod. “All types of sports contribute to a healthy lifestyle, so I encourage people to get out and support our athletes, enjoy some of the exciting traditional games action, and try some of the games for themselves.”

The inaugural championship will include ten events split between Dene and Inuit traditional games. All communities in the NWT were invited to participate and send teams to the championships.

Providing opportunities for organized, competitive sports and preserving our northern traditions helps build sustainable vibrant communities in the NWT and ensures we have healthy educated people as envisioned in the goals of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

For more information on the traditional games championship visit MACA’s website at [www.maca.gov.nt.ca](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca).

**For more information, contact:**

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News Release

### **Tłıchǫ Government Agrees to Sign on to Devolution**

**YELLOWKNIFE (February 28, 2013)** – Premier Bob McLeod and Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus announced today that the Tłıchǫ Government will become a party to the Devolution Agreement-in-Principle.

“Devolution will create benefits for all the people of the Northwest Territories, I’m very pleased that the Tłıchǫ Government will be joining us in signing the final agreement,” said Premier McLeod. “Gaining northern control over our public lands and resources has been a long-held objective for the people of the Northwest Territories. With devolution in place, the people of the Northwest Territories will be able to make the decisions about how to protect our environment and manage and develop public lands according to Northern priorities and principles.”

Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus said, "the decision to sign the Agreement-in-Principle is ours, and ours alone. This decision was made after careful work and consideration by our government. We want to ensure that the implementation of the Devolution Final Agreement respects the Tłıchǫ Agreement. We are looking forward to working with all the parties to the agreement."

With today’s announcement, the Tłıchǫ Government joins the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, NWT Métis Nation, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated and Gwich’in Tribal Council as parties to devolution along with the Governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories.

The Tłıchǫ Government will formally sign the Devolution Agreement-in-Principle at a signing ceremony in Behchokò on March 8, 2013.

#### **For more information:**

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## GNWT and Partners Meet to Advance First Nation, Inuit and Métis Cancer Control

**Yellowknife (March 1, 2013)** – Representatives from the Department of Health and Social Services together with invited community guests and the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer will meet on March 4, 2013 in Yellowknife to discuss how they can work together to reduce the impact of cancer on First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

Attendees at the meeting will explore possible synergies and opportunities to work together based on cancer control priorities in the NWT and the Partnership's [First Nations, Inuit and Métis Action Plan on Cancer Control](#).

"I am pleased that the Partnership is coming to the NWT to share their plan and explore ways we can partner with them to reduce the impact of cancer on our people," said Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu. "We are working hard to educate our residents about cancer and prevention. I look forward to results and feedback from our stakeholders".

"Advancing cancer control with and for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities is a priority for the Partnership," said Lee Fairclough, Vice-President at the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, who is attending the meeting with Partnership Board member Dr. Evan Adams of the Sliammon First Nation (Powell River, BC). "We are looking forward to meeting with a diverse group to explore how we might work together to drive meaningful improvements in health outcomes among these communities."

### Media are invited to join the meeting:

**Date:** Monday, March 4, 2013

**Time:** 11:15am to 12:00pm

**Location:** Genesis Group, 2nd floor Nunasi Building  
Suite 201 5109 48 Street, Yellowknife

**Interviews:** The following spokespeople will be available for interviews  
from 12:00 - 12:30pm:

- Dr. André Corriveau, Chief Public Health Officer
- Lee Fairclough, Vice-President, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer
- Dr. Evan Adams, Board member, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

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News Release

Premier McLeod Speaks at Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Conference

**TORONTO (March 5, 2013)** – Premier Bob McLeod is in Ontario this week to promote the Northwest Territories model of ensuring Aboriginal participation in the economy, especially resource development.

“Consultation is in our governance DNA,” Premier McLeod told the [Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Conference’s Aboriginal Forum: Promoting Excellence in Engagement](#) session yesterday morning. “Our territory is moving forward in greater self-reliance and self-determination. One of the benefits of the partnership with Aboriginal people in our territory is a focus on sustainable, responsible development.”

The Aboriginal Forum brings Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal-owned companies together with the mineral industry to share experiences and learn about becoming more involved in the mineral sector. The event is a platform for discussion on fostering mutually cooperative, respectful and successful relationships and was chaired by Don Bubar of Avalon Rare Metals and Michael Fox. Greg Rickford, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development also provided remarks. Presenters from the NWT included Steven Nitah and Vice-Chief Emily Saunders from Lutselk’e and Darrell Beaulieu from Denendeh Investments Inc.

Premier McLeod visited the Toronto Stock Exchange yesterday afternoon accompanied by John Kearney, Chairman of Canadian Zinc Corporation and former President of the NWT Chamber of Mines, and by a number of other mining company executives. Canadian Zinc’s shares are listed and trade on the TSX.

“The Northwest Territories is open for business with socially responsible companies that ensure benefits from development accrue to the northern economy and residents,” said Premier McLeod. “Our socio-economic agreement with Canadian Zinc Corporation has been a model for other agreements throughout the north that will create opportunities for northerners. The Prairie Creek mine has the potential to provide significant employment and business opportunities throughout the Dehcho Region. We are committed to working with industry and regional Aboriginal governments to increase employment opportunities where they are most needed and make our territory prosperous.”

In acknowledging the support of Premier McLeod for mine development in the Northwest Territories, John Kearney, Chairman and CEO of Canadian Zinc Corporation said, “The Prairie Creek silver/zinc/lead mine, which is now in the final stages of permitting and is on track to become the NWT’s next new zinc/lead mine, will provide many business opportunities and

significant direct and indirect employment in the Northwest Territories and in particular to the Dehcho Region. Working closely with the Government of the Northwest Territories, we are committed to developing and operating the Prairie Creek Mine in a manner that contributes to the social, economic and cultural well-being of the Northwest Territories and, in particular, to the aboriginal communities in the Dehcho Region with whom Canadian Zinc has signed impact and benefit agreements.”

Combined, the NWT’s four producing mines and different projects at various stages of development contribute \$770 million annually in spending and employ more than 3,000 people. There are seven significant mineral projects in various stages of development in the NWT. Together, these projects could have a significant effect on the NWT economy – doubling the territorial GDP by 2020 and creating up to 2000 new jobs as the mining sector expands. The GNWT’s Mineral Development Strategy, currently in development, will outline a clear policy and framework for continued sustainable mineral development in the NWT.

**For more information, contact:**

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News Release

### Aboriginal Languages Celebrated During March

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 6, 2013)** – March is Aboriginal Languages Month and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) will be using some innovative technology to deliver important messages to youth and residents across the territory.

“Languages are about identity – who we are and how we understand and interact with each other,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “We are seeing some interesting shifts in how youth and residents are promoting our official languages and the opportunities we have to help support those shifts. People are exploring our languages and cultural identities through film, technology and art, which are garnering much attention with our neighbours to the south. These are exciting times and an opportunity for us to create a platform to showcase our culture and languages to the rest of the world.”

In 1993, the Assembly of First Nations declared March as *Aboriginal Languages Month*. Since then, highlights during March include language initiatives and activities, and a focus on preservation and revitalization of NWT official languages and cultures. The theme for this year’s Aboriginal Languages Month is *Speak Up! Use your Northern Voice!* and is directed both towards youth and the general public, with activities in all of the regions, including a territory-wide online *Jeopardy!* Competition, and a photo contest featuring traditional activities.

The Aboriginal Languages Symposium, scheduled for March 20-21, 2013, focuses on strengthening Aboriginal languages in the NWT through discussions with Aboriginal language speakers, community leadership, Elders, youth, stakeholder groups and governments. The symposium will include themes of innovation in language preservation and revitalization, and discuss and validate the plan for the Aboriginal Languages Secretariat.

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News Release

## Deadline for Public Input on Economic Opportunities Extended

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 6, 2013)** - The deadline to provide written submissions on the NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy has been extended to March 31. NWT residents and organizations can submit their feedback on the economic opportunities and barriers they see in their communities and regions via the [Strategy website](#).

Minister of Industry Tourism and Investment David Ramsay says grassroots input is critical to ensuring that the Economic Opportunities Strategy reflects the needs of all regions and sectors in the NWT.

“Our goal is a strategy that will serve as a launch pad for maximizing economic opportunities across the NWT,” the Minister said. “To do that, it will need to be responsive to changing circumstances in the North and contain tangible recommendations for investments and decisions that will advance and sustain our territory’s economy at the local and regional level.”

The Economic Opportunities Strategy for the NWT being developed in partnership by the [NWT Chamber of Commerce](#), the [Northern Aboriginal Business Association](#), the [NWT Association of Communities](#), [Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency](#) (CanNor) and the Government of the Northwest Territories’ Department of [Industry, Tourism and Investment](#).

An Advisory Panel tasked with hearing from residents, the private sector, governments and other key stakeholders recently concluded its scheduled engagements with key stakeholders and will also be contributing its findings and recommendations to the development of the new strategy.

Panel Chair Joe Handley says the its work will help to identify economic opportunities throughout the territory and build a common understanding of what barriers need to be addressed.

Between December and February the NWT Economic Opportunities Advisory Panel hosted eight public forums across the NWT and met and heard from 81 different NWT governments, groups and organizations. A report of what they heard is expected to be released in May.

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## News Release

### New Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program Puts the Brakes on Impaired Driving

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 7, 2013)** - The Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program launches today. This voluntary program makes NWT roads safer by preventing drivers from using their personal vehicles while impaired.

Transportation Minister David Ramsay says the new program is part of the department's strategy for dealing with and reducing the risk from high-risk drivers. "We are joining with other Canadian jurisdictions to address the problem of impaired driving," he said. "The NWT Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program uses a proven approach to reduce the numbers of impaired drivers on NWT roads. We are making our communities sustainable, vibrant and safe."

Interlock-equipped vehicles will not start if the driver's blood alcohol concentration exceeds a pre-set limit. Drivers must also pull over at random intervals to provide breath samples while the motor is running.

Those who have been convicted of impaired driving under Sections 253 or 254(5) of the Criminal Code of Canada may become eligible for early return of their driving privileges if they agree to the installation and operation of an alcohol interlock device in their vehicles. The ignition interlock records data on each use and the Registrar will regularly review this data to ensure the driver is compliant.

The use of ignition interlock systems is known to reduce impaired driving offences for both first-time and repeat offenders during the period when the interlock is in place. All Canadian provinces and Yukon provide ignition interlock services.

The NWT Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program uses devices made by Alcohol Countermeasure Systems Corp., a nationally recognized Canadian service provider. The devices meet national standards, resist tampering, and are fully operational in winter temperatures.

For more information about the ignition interlock program in the NWT, including how to participate, please contact Road Licensing and Safety at (867) 873-7972, or toll-free at 1-888-803-8773. You can also visit the DOT website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca).

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## News Release

### New Population Estimates for the Beverly and Ahiak Caribou Subpopulations

**IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 7, 2013)** – The Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment, successfully completed a population estimate of the Beverly and Ahiak barren-ground caribou herds. The June 2011 survey examined caribou abundance on the Beverly calving grounds in the vicinity of Beverly Lake and the Queen Maud Gulf, as well as the calving range of the Ahiak subpopulation in the vicinity of the Adelaide peninsula, east to Pelly Bay. The survey estimates suggest that there are an estimated 124,000 caribou within the Beverly herd and an estimated 83,300 caribou within the Ahiak herd.

“Caribou are an essential component of Nunavut’s terrestrial ecosystem,” said James Arreak, Nunavut Minister of Environment. “They represent an indispensable source of sustenance, clothing, and economic opportunities through guided hunts, tourism, and commercial hunts. The importance of caribou to Nunavummiut and our cultural heritage cannot be overstated.”

Survey efforts were led by the Government of Nunavut’s Department of Environment, and included representatives from Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and biologists from the Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories governments. In addition, 38 community representatives, including 34 Nunavut beneficiaries, two Saskatchewan representatives and two GNWT representatives participated in the field program.

“The survey results are good news,” said Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources Minister J. Michael Miltenberger. “Given the population numbers, the GNWT will be discussing the potential of a limited resident harvest on the Beverly and Ahiak herds with the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board and the governments of Nunavut and Saskatchewan.”

The last calving ground population survey of the Beverly Herd, flown in June 1994, estimated the herd at 276,000 caribou. This survey effort also represents the first time a calving ground visual population survey of the Ahiak Herd has been undertaken. The development and application of a new method, designed specifically for this survey using four observers, increased the accuracy and precision of the estimates. The estimates surpassed all expectations and resulted in the most accurate estimate for the Beverly herd to date.

“The herd size is just under half of the June 1994 population estimate,” said Minister Arreak. “The Government of Nunavut recognizes that ongoing monitoring is critical if co-management partners are to effectively manage this herd in a way that will meet the needs of current and future generations.”

In addition to the new abundance estimates, a recently completed range-wide spatial analysis of collared caribou movements suggests that the Beverly herd has shifted its calving grounds about 200 to 300 km north. Reasons for this shift in the calving area are unknown, but it may be related to numerous human and natural factors, including: range-wide human disturbances, such as road construction and increased hunter access to caribou; harassment by biting insects; food limitations; predation, and forest fires. Similar shifts have been documented for other barren-ground caribou herds.

The Government of Nunavut plans to monitor any changes from the June 2011 results, so timely and effective decisions about management actions can be made. The financial value of caribou as a staple to Nunavummiut can be conservatively estimated to be well over 22 million dollars per year territory wide. The Qamanirjuaq and Beverly herds alone are estimated to provide 15 million dollars and 5 million dollars per year, respectively, of nutritional benefits to subsistence hunters.

Results of the population surveys are being shared with the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board and other users of the herds.

The full report is available on the GN website at: [env.gov.nu.ca](http://env.gov.nu.ca)

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Canada



News Release

### Tłı̨chǫ Government Signs Devolution AiP

**BEHCHOKO (March 8, 2013)** – In a public ceremony in BehchokQ today, the Tłı̨chǫ Government signed the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement-in-Principle (AiP). “The Tłı̨chǫ have the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement that recognizes our self-government, ownership of 39,000 square kilometers of land, and our right to have a meaningful say in development within the Mowfwi area. The Tłı̨chǫ Agreement is constitutionally protected; devolution will not change what is written in the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement,” said Grand Chief of the Tłı̨chǫ Eddie Erasmus. “We think the decision to enter into devolution has the potential to be a great benefit to the Tłı̨chǫ. It will require the GNWT and Aboriginal organizations to work together in ways they never have before. Devolution provides the opportunity to build a strong and prosperous NWT. The Tłı̨chǫ Government is ready to do our part to help make the AiP strengthen our communities.”

“We are pleased that the Tłı̨chǫ have expressed their support for the devolution agreement now being finalized and welcome them as we move forward,” said Premier of the Northwest Territories, Bob McLeod. “The Tłı̨chǫ are significant land owners in the NWT, and we look forward to working government-to-government with them and our other partners in this agreement to collaborate and cooperate in the management of land and resources.” “Dene, Métis and Inuvialuit have long played an integral role in the political development of the Northwest Territories,” said the Honourable Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. “On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to see the Tłı̨chǫ Government seize this opportunity to help shape the future of the territory and share in the economic benefits that will flow from devolution.”

“Northern politics generally runs on consensus and consensus sometimes takes its own sweet time,” said President of the Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Garry Bailey. “The NWTMN happily welcomes the Tłı̨chǫ to the devolution family.”

“I would like to offer my congratulations to the Tłı̨chǫ leadership,” said President Robert A. Alexie of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. “All Aboriginal residents of the NWT are better off with the Tłı̨chǫ government at the table. I look forward to working with them on this important initiative.”



Devolution will transfer responsibility for the management of NWT public land, resources and rights in respect of water from the Government of Canada to the GNWT. The GNWT will also be responsible for the design and delivery of related public programs, and will benefit from the resource revenues collected from mineral and oil and gas development on public land in the NWT. The GNWT has committed to share up to 25% of its new resource revenues with participating Aboriginal governments – a resource revenue-sharing arrangement that is unprecedented in Canada.

Before the final Devolution Agreement is officially approved and signed, the Government of the Northwest Territories, Government of Canada, Inuvialuit Region Corporation, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated and Tłı̨ch̨ Government will share the Agreement with Aboriginal governments, key stakeholders, and the public to explain its content and benefits.

For more information on NWT lands and resources devolution, visit the GNWT's devolution website at [devolution.gov.nt.ca](http://devolution.gov.nt.ca).

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### **Backgrounder: Tłı̨ch̨ Sign NWT Lands and Resources Devolution AiP**

The Devolution Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) includes a number of provisions that will directly benefit the Tłı̨ch̨:

- The GNWT has committed to share up to 25% of its resource revenues with participating Aboriginal governments to help them grow, build capacity and meet community needs - a revenue-sharing unprecedented in Canada. If devolution was in place this year, up to **\$17.5M** would be available for participating Aboriginal governments to share.  
*Note: This is in addition to the resource revenues the Tłı̨ch̨ already receive from development on public land throughout the Mackenzie Valley pursuant to their self-government agreement.*
- The Tłı̨ch̨ Government will also be eligible for **\$628K** per year in program funding from Canada, including \$200K a year to participate in a Waste Sites Management Committee.

- Approximately **\$440K** in one-time transition funding will also be provided by Canada to the TłjchQ Government after signing the final Agreement, to assist with preparing for devolution.
- In addition to these financial benefits, devolution will establish an intergovernmental council for the GNWT and participating Aboriginal governments to collaborate and cooperate in the management of land and resources.
- Devolution will provide opportunity for the TłjchQ Government to provide advice to the Government of Canada on its clean up responsibilities for contaminated sites.
- TłjchQ people will also benefit from the resource revenues that flow to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), which will be used to improve quality of life for all residents of the territory.

Before a final Devolution Agreement is approved and signed by the participating governments, it will be shared with the public, Aboriginal governments and key stakeholders to explain its contents and benefits. This period of engagement and consultation may take several months. Other regional Aboriginal governments may sign the AiP or the final Agreement whenever they are ready. The transfer of authorities is expected to take place on April 1, 2014.

For more information on NWT lands and resources devolution, visit [devolution.gov.nt.ca](http://devolution.gov.nt.ca).



## Canada Confirms Funding for the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 11, 2013)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories today received confirmation that Canada will provide an additional \$50 million in support for the construction of an all-weather highway from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk, raising their total commitment for the project to \$200 million.

The road would be the northernmost portion of the Mackenzie Valley Highway project, which would extend all-weather road access from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk, starting with the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk portion. If approved by the Legislative Assembly in this Session, construction can begin within days.

Premier Bob McLeod welcomes Canada's commitment, calling it a positive step forward for a project that is important to the Northwest Territories and all of Canada. "Providing all-season access to the Arctic coast will further Canada's sovereignty interests, improve capabilities for search and rescue, and enhance economic opportunities," he said. "The Government of Canada's commitment underscores the importance of this project for Canadians."

Transportation Minister David Ramsay says the federal government's support is an important milestone for a project that will improve the economy of the Northwest Territories and the economic well-being of the Beaufort Delta's residents. "Improvements to transportation infrastructure are a proven way to develop opportunities for growth and employment," he said. "The Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway project is the right project, coming at a time when it will benefit the residents of the Beaufort Delta region the most. We thank the Government of Canada for its commitment to the people of the Northwest Territories."

The Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk project is a strategic infrastructure investment that will strengthen and diversify the economy of the Northwest Territories and create employment and business opportunities where they are most needed, priorities of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

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## **Update on the Negotiation of the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement**

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 11, 2013)** – I am pleased to advise you that negotiations for the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement have concluded.

This is an important step towards devolution, but there are several steps yet to go before the Agreement is approved, and before devolution itself takes place.

Before the Agreement is finalized by the participating governments in a public signing ceremony, it will be shared with Aboriginal governments, key stakeholders and the public.

Next steps in the process are outlined in “Devolution Final Agreement – Next Steps”, following this message.

To prepare for the integration of transferring programs into the GNWT, our organizational structure will undergo some changes:

- A new Lands Department will be created;
- Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) will become two departments: Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (EMPR) and Economic Development, Investment and Tourism (EDIT);
- The lands functions currently in Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) will move to the new Lands Department; and
- New functions will be added to Environment and Natural Resources.

Decentralization is a priority for the Legislative Assembly and will be a consideration when the GNWT is doing its planning for the program transfer.

More information will be available about the number of jobs being created and their locations once the GNWT has completed its detailed organizational design. This work is expected to be complete in the summer.

To learn more about devolution visit the GNWT’s website at <http://devolution.gov.nt.ca/>. A Plain Language version of the Agreement will be posted soon. Questions about devolution can also be directed to the Office of Devolution at (867) 873-7519.

Devolution is an historic step in the political and economic development of the Northwest Territories. It has been a long-term goal for the GNWT and is a key part of the Government of Canada's Northern Strategy.

This is an exciting time to be living and working in the Northwest Territories, and with the Government of the Northwest Territories, and I hope you will join me in celebrating this important step in the process.

I would like to acknowledge and thank those that have worked long hours, over many years, to complete this negotiation.

Robert R. McLeod  
Premier

### **Devolution Final Agreement – Next Steps**

Although devolution negotiations have concluded, there are a few more important steps before the transfer or 'devolution' of public land and resource management responsibilities takes place in the Northwest Territories:

1. **Public Engagement** – Before the Agreement is approved and signed by the participating governments, it will be shared with Aboriginal governments, stakeholders and the public to explain its contents and benefits. This period of public engagement and Aboriginal consultation is expected to take up to 60 days.
2. **Approval** – Once the engagement phase is complete, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), Government of Canada and participating Aboriginal governments will decide whether to approve the Agreement.
3. **Signing** – The approving governments will finalize the Agreement by signing it in a public ceremony.
4. **Implementation** – Although planning for implementation has been taking place for more than a year, this phase will require Canada and the GNWT to work closely together on many details to prepare for a seamless transfer, including the drafting of legislation.
5. **Consideration of New Legislation** – Once the new GNWT legislation has been drafted, the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories will review it.

and finally...

6. **Devolution** - On April 1, 2014, legislative authority, programs, budgets, records and assets related to public land, water and resource management will transfer from Canada to the NWT. The territorial government will also welcome affected federal employees to their first day on the job with the GNWT.



## News Release

### Correction: Update on the Negotiation of the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 15, 2013)** – Please be advised that the Messenger message sent Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> contained an error.

It is important to note that the creation and reorganization of the Departments listed in the message is *proposed only* as part of a draft high-level organizational design. This proposed design is subject to final approval and may change as we are provided with more information from the federal government and as our detailed design progresses.

Our sincere apologies for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused.

For more information on the GNWT's organizational design work please visit [devolution.gov.nt.ca/gnwt-organizational-design/](http://devolution.gov.nt.ca/gnwt-organizational-design/) or contact us directly at [devolution@gov.nt.ca](mailto:devolution@gov.nt.ca).



## News Release

### Hay River Gets a Doctor

**Yellowknife (March 13, 2013)** – Hay River will be getting a doctor next month when Dr. Coralie Boudreau begins a three-year contract on April 2, 2013.

“It was through the hard work of the recruitment team at the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority and the Departments of Health and Social Services that we were able to get a doctor for Hay River and the surrounding communities,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu. “We are committed to recruiting doctors to NWT communities, but we need to make sure that we use them more effectively as a territorial resource.”

The Department of Health and Social services is actively looking to recruit permanent doctors to practice in communities outside of Yellowknife and continues to work on developing new methods of recruitment and retention in partnership with doctors themselves.

The Department is also working on innovative solutions for using doctors in the NWT health system to address the ongoing challenge of finding doctors to practice in rural and remote settings. Using e-health technology to create virtual teams that expand the reach of specialists and family practitioners is one way the department is ensuring that all residents of the NWT have access to physicians. Solutions like this allow nurses to provide care to residents in their own communities while consulting doctors online to make better treatment decisions.

For information on recruitment opportunities for health and social services professionals, please visit [www.practicenorth.com](http://www.practicenorth.com)

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NWT Rated Best Overall Improvement in Canada for Mineral Investment

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 15, 2013)** – The world is taking notice of the Northwest Territories' mineral potential, with the territory ranking 29<sup>th</sup> most attractive jurisdiction for mineral exploration and development in the world and the best overall improvement in Canada according to the Fraser Institute's 2012-2013 annual survey of mining companies.

The Northwest Territories saw improvement in all policy factors used to rank jurisdictions, including current mineral potential; labour and skill availability; and uncertainty concerning the administration, interpretation, and enforcement of existing regulations.

"Our hard work to attract investment and ensure NWT residents and businesses benefit from mineral development has not gone unnoticed," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. "The Northwest Territories is a great place to invest and we have a lot in our favour right now: the onset of Devolution, which investors see as a positive sign that will allow us to provide certainty to industry; the commitment by the GNWT and the Federal government to improve our regulatory system; and our work on a sustainable Mineral Development Strategy, all show we are serious about addressing our investment challenges and unlocking the mineral potential in the territory."

Minister Ramsay also acknowledged that there is room for improvement and that the GNWT will continue to work with the Federal government for improved infrastructure and additional improvements to the regulatory process.

The Fraser Institute's *Survey of Mining Companies* is performed annually and ranks the investment climates of mining jurisdictions around the world, based on the opinions of mining industry executives and managers. The Institute surveyed almost 800 industry executives around the world and ranked more than 100 jurisdictions on factors affecting decisions to invest in exploration or mines.

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## News Release

### Sambaa K'e Dene Band Awarded First Excellence in Water Stewardship Award for the Northwest Territories

**YELLOWKNIFE (March 22, 2013)** – The Sambaa K'e Dene Band is winner of the first Council of the Federation (COF) Excellence in Water Stewardship Award for the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The award recognizes outstanding achievement, innovative practice and in leadership in the area water stewardship and is presented to organizations, partnerships, business, institutions and communities in each province and territory.

“Congratulations to the Sambaa K'e Dene Band, Chief Dolphus Jumbo and the people of Trout Lake for promoting and practicing water stewardship at a local level,” said Premier Bob McLeod in announcing the winners of the award today, World Water Day. “This is an excellent example of what communities can do to protect their local water resources and encourage water stewardship activities.”

The Sambaa K'e Dene Band collected old drums of hazardous materials from the community landfill. Forty-four drums, containing 8,000 litres of hazardous liquids, were shipped to a registered hazardous waste facility for disposal. The used oil and flammable liquids in the rusty drums had the potential to leak into the ground and groundwater and, eventually, into Trout Lake. Trout Lake is the source of the community's drinking water.

The Band is planning other activities to manage contaminants in the community and protect their source water.

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## News Release

### Department of Education, Culture and Employment Launches New Website

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 4, 2013)** – Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) Jackson Lafferty announced the launch of an expanded and improved departmental website today.

“As Internet access in the Northwest Territories (NWT) expands and people require and expect quicker access to government information and services, we have enhanced our website to meet their changing needs,” said Minister Lafferty. “Our new website offers residents, families, employers, employees and educators many new features and improvements to help them find the resources they are looking for.”

The launch of the new website, which offers users easier access to the department’s resources online, is part of ECE’s ongoing efforts to enhance the quality and availability of its resources and services to residents of the Northwest Territories. Powered by a new content management system, information will be kept current and relevant, ensuring that residents have access to the latest news and updates as they are announced, as well as online services previously unavailable.

The new departmental website has been developed from the ground up with a modern design and offers users multiple ways to navigate the site including a robust search system and user focused menus. Other new features include a French mirror version of the site under development, the ability to request information in all NWT official Aboriginal languages, real-time updating popular searches/pages, and a full refresh of site content.

You can visit the new website at [www.ece.gov.nt.ca](http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca).

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## News Release

### New Report Looks at the Causes of Hospitalization in the NWT

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 4, 2013)** – A new report from the Department of Health and Social Services shows that a significant number of hospitalizations in the Northwest Territories between 2008/09 and 2010/11 were preventable. The *NWT Hospitalization Report* released today identifies why NWT residents were hospitalized and looks at the top five causes by age, focusing on hospitalizations associated with mental illness and chronic disease.

“One of this government’s goals is healthy, educated people and this report helps us understand what we can do to reduce the number of hospitalizations,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu. “Underlying factors like mental health issues, addictions, poor diet and lack of physical activity contribute to too many hospitalizations for our people. We need to continue to encourage people to lead healthier lives by eating well, not smoking, limiting their drinking and being more physically active. By making healthier choices, our residents will be less likely to get diabetes, heart disease and cancer.”

Evidence from the *NWT Hospitalization Report* shows that the Government of the NWT is on the right path. [Building on Our Foundation 2011-2016](#), the strategic plan for the NWT health and social services system, and [A Shared Path Towards Wellness - Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan 2012-2015](#) have outlined steps to address the factors that contribute to poor health for our residents. The department has also formed partnerships with communities, Aboriginal governments, non-government organizations, health care providers and other GNWT departments to identify community-specific solutions that address the root causes of poor health. One example of this is the Minister’s Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness.

Electronic copies of the *NWT Hospitalization Report* can be found on the Department of Health and Social Services website at [www.hss.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hss.gov.nt.ca).

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## Obstetric team wins International Award

**INUVIK (April 8, 2013)** – Congratulations are being extended to the Inuvik Regional Hospital Obstetric team of physicians and nurses who have been awarded the prestigious MORE OB Salus Global Patient Safety Award.

This award is presented to only three maternity teams in North America.

The team was recognized for the “great leadership for their exceptional efforts in teamwork in the adoption of the MORE OB program.” The program is based on improving patient safety and improving the delivery of obstetrical services to the region..

The team’s submission, “Bi-Weekly Multi-disciplinary Prenatal Rounds North of 60” was praised for its application of high reliability principles that incorporate communication, safety and team effort, which improve the outcome for mothers and babies.

“This award is a great example of how our staff manage our resources to work together to achieve the best possible outcome for our patients“, said Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority CEO Ruth Robertson. “Furthermore, the MORE OB Team has also been nominated for the NWT Premier’s Award.”

Co-Chairs Dr. Peter Boronowski and Lisa Burns, Team Leader for Acute Care and Emergency will accept the award on behalf of the BDHSSA MORE OB team at the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada annual clinical meeting being held in Calgary in June. The team was also recommended to develop an abstract for its submission and publish the paper in a medical journal of choice.

According to the Salus Global corporate website, Salus Global is a leader and innovator in the delivery of patient safety solutions. They are dedicated to building safer healthcare systems in the United States, Canada and around the world. For more information on Salus, visit [www.salusgc.com](http://www.salusgc.com).

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NEWS RELEASE

### GMVF Program Results in Record Prices for NWT Fur

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON (April 19) -- Record prices for Northwest Territories (NWT) furs marketed under the Government of the Northwest Territories' Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur (GMVF) label means strong returns to NWT trappers.

In a reflection of the fur world's increasing demand for luxury goods, last month's fur auction in Seattle was the most successful sale in the history of the Fur Harvesting Association and will result in a total projected return to NWT trappers of almost \$1.5 million.

Record auction prices were led by NWT marten at an average of \$164.50 (up 60% from 2012) and included a select lot of GMVF marten, which sold for \$1,300 per pelt.

Through its Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) provides NWT trappers with one window access to the international fur auction market and works with the Fur Harvesters' Auction to promote wild NWT fur while educating and training resident trappers to maximize their returns through best practices for trapping and pelt preparation.

"As a result of the GNWT's support, Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur is now the best wild fur on the market and is recognized world-wide as the highest-quality wild fur that money can buy," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay.

In total, the value of NWT fur purchased in March exceeded the entire value of of sales made at last year's four fur auctions combined. Top overall prices were also realized at auction for NWT mink, lynx, wolf, arctic and red fox.

"Everybody wins," Minister Ramsay notes. "Trappers benefit from increased support, training and income from fur provided at auction; buyers have the assurance that they are getting top-of-the-line, humanely harvested wild fur; and, with harvest data and monitoring provided by trappers, the GNWT is able to ensure our valuable fur resources are harvested wisely and in a manner that will allow NWT residents to benefit from the sustainable use of wildlife and fur for generations to come."

The next auction will be held on May 20, 2013

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NEWS RELEASE

Online Reservations for NWT Campgrounds to Open Friday, April 19 at Noon

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 19, 2013)** People eager to book camping spots online in select parks throughout the Northwest Territories will have their opportunity starting at noon today.

Most parks in the South Slave, North Slave, Dehcho and Inuvik Regions are available for online booking. To book a campsite, campers must first register on [www.campingnwt.ca](http://www.campingnwt.ca). Booking is as simple as selecting a park, clicking the camping date and selecting the available site. Registration will also open at noon on Friday.

Nightly prices for camping spots at Reid Lake Territorial campground have also been reduced from Sunday - Thursday this summer for campers who prefer to leave their camper or RV in the park through the week to enjoy the park on weekends.

Most NWT parks open on Wednesday, May 15.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Premier Announces Senior Management Appointment

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 22, 2013)** – Premier Bob McLeod has announced Martin Goldney as the Deputy Minister for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations. This appointment will be effective as of 5pm on June 1.

Mr. Goldney is a lifelong northerner and a lawyer with extensive experience in Aboriginal and constitutional law. Mr. Goldney joined the Department of Justice in 2000, where he provided legal support to a number of self-government and land claims negotiations. He has been an important part of the GNWT's devolution team since 2002, serving as legal counsel, executive director, and most recently as chief negotiator, where he helped finalize the draft devolution agreement.

"I am pleased to welcome Mr. Goldney to his new position," said Premier McLeod. "With the successful end of devolution negotiations, he is well-positioned to further the GNWT's commitment to renewed and improved relationships with Aboriginal governments and to strengthened relationships with the federal government. His work will include promoting a common governance vision for the NWT with the federal government; furthering positive relationships with Aboriginal leadership to ensure Aboriginal interests are fully considered in GNWT policy development and program delivery; advancing negotiations with Aboriginal governments to successfully conclude outstanding land, resources and self-government agreements and ensuring that all GNWT obligations within treaties and Aboriginal rights agreements are met."

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NEWS RELEASE

## FireSmart Workshop Promote Community Protection From Wildfire

**YELLOWKNIFE (APRIL 26, 2013)** – The first Northwest Territories Local FireSmart Representatives Workshop will be held in Fort Smith from April 30 - May 1, 2013.

“A collaborative FireSmart approach will help us reduce the wildfire risk to our communities,” says Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) J. Michael Miltenberger. “This workshop will help communities develop capacity to adopt and promote FireSmart principles while working towards becoming recognized as FireSmart communities.”

The FireSmart Program provides a proactive approach to Community Wildland Fire Protection, planning and implementation to mitigate wildland fire risk; reduce wildland fire severity; and prepare homeowners and communities for wildland fire occurrences. Community Wildfire Protection Plans have been developed for all communities in the forested areas of the NWT. ENR is working with communities to implement these plans and identify and reduce wildland fire risk.

More than 40 local representatives from NWT communities and agencies are expected to attend the workshop, which is being held at the Thebacha Campus of Aurora College.

Information on the FireSmart Program can be found on-line at [www.nwtfire.com](http://www.nwtfire.com), at your regional ENR office or your local FireSmart representative.

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NEWS RELEASE

## NWT has Significant Presence at Northern Scene in Ottawa

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 26, 2013)** – Northwest Territories (NWT) Commissioner George Tuccaro and Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty took part in the launch of *Northern Scene* at the National Arts Centre (NAC) yesterday. More than 70 artists from multiple disciplines will be representing the NWT during the festival, which will be held in Ottawa from April 25 to May 4, 2013.

This year's *Scene* is the sixth in the series of national biennial festivals produced by NAC to showcase the work of artists from a specific region in Canada. The 2013 multi-disciplinary festival features the work of 250 of the best established and emerging artists from the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, as well as Nunatsiavut and Nunavik. Northern music, theatre, dance, visual and media arts, film, literature, storytelling, food and fashion events will be presented at six venues over the ten-day run.

"Our artists truly reflect the cultural mosaic of the North," Minister Lafferty said at the Northern Scene launch. "We are known as a land of opportunity, rich in resources and everyone assumes this refers to natural resources. One of our greatest resources is our talented, creative and innovative people, that successfully represent and promote the North wherever they go."

"Our government is proud of the talented traditional and contemporary artists, performers and musicians who help make our territory one of the most interesting and unique parts of Canada," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Dave Ramsay. "We want to share that with Canada and the world and are pleased that the National Arts Centre has given us this opportunity to showcase NWT arts and culture as part of *Northern Scene*."

The Departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Industry, Tourism and Investment provided \$200,000 to support the participating artists at the festival.

A complete line-up and information about the festival is available at [www.northernscene.ca](http://www.northernscene.ca).

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PRESS RELEASE

## 2013 Outstanding Volunteers Honoured

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 7, 2013)** – NWT volunteers will be recognized at the 2013 Outstanding Volunteer Award ceremony in Hay River on Friday, May 10, 2013. The annual awards provide an opportunity to recognize volunteers and volunteer organizations for their outstanding contributions in communities across the territory.

“The people we recognize with the Outstanding Volunteer Awards selflessly devote their time to making our communities a better place,” said Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod. “MACA and our partner, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, are grateful to these outstanding volunteers who add so much to our communities. The people nominated for these awards always lead by example and inspire others to take action and make our territory a better place for everybody.”

Recipients of the 2013 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards are:

- Outstanding Elder Award – Ron Ogilvie, Yellowknife
- Outstanding Youth Award – Alannis McKee, Yellowknife
- Outstanding Individual Award – George Koe Jr., Aklavik
- Outstanding Group Award – Children First Society, Inuvik

MACA presents the Outstanding Volunteer Awards annually to individuals and groups who have helped improve the quality of life in the NWT through volunteerism. For further details about the Outstanding Volunteer Awards, please visit MACA’s website at [www.maca.gov.nt.ca](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca).

Recognizing and supporting volunteers who build sustainable, vibrant, safe communities is a way that MACA contributes to achieving the goals of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

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NEWS RELEASE

## **NWT Potential Touted at Offshore Technology Conference in Houston**

**HOUSTON (May 10, 2013)** Northwest Territories' resource potential was front and centre at the [Offshore Technology Conference](#) in Houston, Texas this week.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay and Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure Robert Hawkins attended the conference, which is focused on offshore resource development and attracts more than 80,000 attendees, many of whom are global leaders in the oil and gas industry.

Minister Ramsay promoted the NWT's onshore and offshore resource riches to an audience of over 600 people as part of a panel discussion with energy ministers from Oman and Angola and senior oil company executives from Petronas, Kuwait Petroleum Company, Petrobras, and Pemex Exploration and Production.

"We know that the Arctic holds a special and strategic place in the world – politically, environmentally and especially economically, and a lot of that is because of our abundant petroleum potential," said Minister Ramsay. "The world-class potential of the Canol shale oil as a major energy source continues to grow, and the Offshore Technology Conference helped us to spread the message that the Northwest Territories is open for business to socially responsible companies that ensure benefits from development accrue to the northern economy and residents."

Minister Ramsay and MLA Hawkins also attended meetings with senior executives of Exxon, Shell, ConocoPhillips and Statoil and discussed their interests and future plans for development in the NWT. At an NWT-hosted breakfast, Minister Ramsay had discussions with Norwegian, Scottish, American and Canadian representatives who have interests in offshore development. The meeting provided an opportunity to share experiences, learn what others have done to develop their respective industries in a sustainable way, and to discuss made-in-the-north solutions to unique energy supply and development challenges.

The Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) is the world's largest event for the development of offshore resources in the fields of drilling, exploration, production, and environmental protection. OTC is held annually at Reliant Center in Houston. Each year, OTC attracts more than 80,000 attendees from more than 110 countries and 2,700 exhibiting companies.

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## NEWS RELEASE

### Go Camp! NWT Parks Season Kicks Off Tomorrow

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 14, 2013)** –The 2013 parks season officially begins tomorrow, with all North and South Slave Regional parks opening their gates to visitors. Inuvik Region parks open June 1 and the official openings of a few parks in the Dehcho Region are slightly delayed due to excess snow and muddy conditions.

“This was one of our busiest years for campsite bookings, and we are excited that so many people are eager to get out and enjoy our beautiful parks and campgrounds around the territory,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. “We are continuously looking at ways to improve our parks to enhance the experience for all visitors, and I encourage all residents and visitors to get out and experience our amazing system of parks and campgrounds this summer.”

Blackstone Territorial Park and Fort Simpson Territorial Park will be open on May 24, 2013. Sambaa Deh Territorial Park will open on Friday, May 17 instead of May 15. Campers should be aware they may encounter snowy, wet, or muddy conditions at camp sites at Sambaa Deh Park but it will be open over the Victoria Day weekend.

Any campers who have made reservations at Sambaa Deh, Blackstone Territorial Park or Fort Simpson Territorial Park prior to the revised opening dates may cancel these reservations free of charge.

Due to its popularity last year, the North Slave multi-park seasonal day-use permit will also be available to park users. The permit gives parks users full summer access to day-use facilities at the Fred Henne, Prelude Lake, and Reid Lake campgrounds for \$50.

For more information on all of the NWT’s 34 parks, visit [www.nwtparks.ca](http://www.nwtparks.ca). To book a campsite online, visit [www.campingnwt.ca](http://www.campingnwt.ca).

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## NEWS RELEASE

### NWT Medevac Patients to See Improved Services With Opening of the Air Ambulance Facility at Edmonton International Airport

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 14, 2013)** – Effective May 14, the new Air Operations Centre at the Edmonton International Airport will begin taking NWT patients through the GNWT medevac program.

“Our government is committed to ensuring that our patients receive good medical care while being transported to Edmonton hospitals in a safe and timely manner,” said Minister of Health and Social Services, Tom Beaulieu. “We have worked in partnership with Alberta Health Services to develop procedures and plans so that our patients are able to get to the hospitals in a safe and timely way, while maintaining high standards for their medical care. I believe that we have achieved our goal and in fact have improved the quality of their care.”

The Alberta Health Services air ambulance facility is located in the same building as the STARS helicopter. In rare circumstances, the most urgent NWT patients can be flown by helicopter to a hospital. The facility itself has a six bed patient transition room with paramedic staff to support in-bound and out-bound stable patients and aid in coordinating medevac flights held in Edmonton. It also has dedicated ground ambulance shuttles with paramedic staff that allows the medevac crew to transfer most patients at the airport, so that they can return to full service more quickly.

“The Air Operations Centre at the Edmonton International Airport offers a greater level of patient care and ensures timely, safe transport for northern patients,” says Dr. Ian Phelps, Senior Medical Director for Alberta Health Services Emergency Medical Services.

“The new facility offers many advantages such as the ability to transfer patients indoors in a controlled environment and dedicated ground transportation vehicles and crews to support the arriving air ambulance crews.”

The GNWT has been using tertiary level care services at Edmonton hospitals for several years, and has transported NWT patients requiring this level of care through the medevac program. Following Alberta Health Services’ decision to relocate the Edmonton medevac operations to Edmonton International Airport, the GNWT has worked as equal partners towards accessing the Edmonton International Airport services for medevacs to Edmonton.

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## NEWS RELEASE

### Trapping Workshops Sharpen Skills for Optimum Pelts at Optimum Prices

**ULUKHAKTOK (May 15, 2013)** A workshop in Ulukhaktok today will give hunters and trappers additional training to help ensure trappers get top dollar for their quality pelts at auction.

As part of the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs (GMVF) program, representatives from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), in partnership with Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) and Fur Harvesters Inc., will be holding this one-day workshop. Located at the ENR Shop, the workshop will run from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., with evening sessions available if necessary. A stew and bannock lunch will be provided for all participants.

Representatives from both ITI and Fur Harvesters will give live demonstrations using traditional tools on how to grade and handle seal. The workshop will also provide high quality beaver pelts and sealskin for sale to local crafters.

“Training is vital to ensure continued success in the international fur market, and we want our trappers to get the best financial returns for their hard work,” said ITI Minister David Ramsay. “Workshops demonstrate industry best practices in pelt handling and fur grading, and help ensure the wild fur harvested in the NWT remains of the highest quality.”

The GMVF program helps the Government of the Northwest Territories work in partnership with local harvesters and the fur industry to promote the traditional fur economy in the territory. Trapper workshops are an integral part of the ITI mandate to keep trappers knowledgeable about current trapping regulations, trap standards and new technology as it arises.

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## NEWS RELEASE

### Akaiitcho Territory Dene First Nations and GNWT Sign Memorandum of Understanding

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 23, 2013)** – Chiefs of the Akaiitcho Territory Dene First Nations and Members of the Executive Council of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly met today in Yellowknife and signed an intergovernmental memorandum of understanding (MOU) recognizing the importance of their government-to-government relationship.

The agreement acknowledges the unique and evolving relationship between the two governments and identifies areas of shared interest and cooperation.

“The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to working closely with Aboriginal governments to advance the common interests of their members and all NWT residents. The *Akaiitcho Territory Dene First Nations and Government of the Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding* is a direct result of the principles and points discussed in ‘*Respect, Recognition, Responsibility*,’” said Premier Bob McLeod. “I look forward to continuing to further strengthen this commitment with the Akaiitcho and with all Aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories.”

The Akaiitcho chiefs provided a shared statement that “We are signing the Intergovernmental MOU to establish the government to government relationship with the GNWT to work on common issues and hopefully through this MOU we can build a better working relationship to move forward.”

In addition to signing the MOU, the first government-to-government meeting based on the MOU was held. Discussion included a range of topics of shared interest including:

- Funding for the community of N’dilo,
- Trespass on Commissioner’s and Crown land,
- Abandoned fuel distribution lines in Fort Resolution,
- Lutsel K’e Dene School renovation,
- Dettah Access Road, and
- Devolution.

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*.

Through the MOU, the Akaiitcho Territory Dene First Nations are hoping to build a better relationship in moving forward in dealing with community and regional issues that Akaiitcho see as priority for both governments in finding solutions and successes.



The MOU sets out a commitment to meet bilaterally twice per year. The next meeting will be held in an Akaitcho community this fall.

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NEWS RELEASE

### **Prelude Management Plan Outlines Planned Park Improvements**

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 27, 2013)** – The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment released the Prelude Management Plan (PMP) today. The Plan will improve users' enjoyment of [Prelude Lake Territorial Park](#) and address specific issues arising from its increased popularity.

"Prelude has always offered a great camping experience and is one of the most popular parks in the Northwest Territories," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. "And now that we have received input from the community, we look forward to making changes that will make that experience even better."

The PMP addresses some of the major concerns that can affect park users' enjoyment, including: parking space, all-terrain vehicle use, marina congestion and the need for additional camping space.

During the Plan's development, the Department engaged with the public through a series of facilitated workshops and an online survey. All public consultation documents can be found [online](#).

In response to concerns from park users, ITI will be increasing the number of parking spots at the marina and has launched an expansion project that will roughly double parking availability by 2014. Other initiatives that have already been completed include the installation of bear-proof garbage bins and the hiring of more patrol officers for the 2013 summer season. Issues raised by park users concerning ATV use are also being addressed.

Future plans include building a new marina complex and docking structures and improving the landscape of the beach to create more usable space

By providing support to improve NWT parks and campgrounds, the GNWT is promoting tourism in the Northwest Territories and helping to meet the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly's priority for a strong, diversified economy.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Gardens Get Growing Across the Dehcho Region

**FORT SIMPSON (May 28, 2013)** – Encouraged by the thoughts of fresh and nutritious produce, creating a vibrant neighbourhood space and potential savings on grocery bills, residents are working together on building community gardens across the Dehcho, thanks in part to support from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI).

Plans are underway to create community gardens – the first in several years – in both Jean Marie River and Fort Liard. In addition, Wrigley’s garden location will be changed to ensure an optimum growing season with varied produce. Nahanni Butte’s community garden will be restarted this summer after the original garden was washed out during last year’s flooding.

“With average food costs in the NWT almost the highest in Canada, sustainable agricultural initiatives play a key role in lowering the cost of living across the territory and diversifying our economy,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. “Creating these gardens really is a group effort, and it is great to see everyone work together to create a shared space that the entire community can benefit from.”

Fort Simpson already has three established community gardens and ITI recently hired an agricultural specialist to provide advice and technical assistance to residents to help ensure optimum and healthy produce yields this season.

ITI Regional Superintendent for the Dehcho Mike Mageean recently gave a presentation to the Fort Simpson Garden Society, where he answered questions on how ITI can provide support and also gave an overview of the [Growing Forward 2 program](#), which 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.

The GNWT’s investment in agriculture further supports the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly’s priority to support small business and the traditional economy in the interest of strengthening and diversifying the NWT economy.

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NEWS RELEASE

## NWT Residents Honoured at Hall of Fame Ceremony

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 30, 2013)** – Seven Northwest Territories residents were honoured this morning as inductees into the Education Hall of Fame, which recognizes the important and lasting contributions of those dedicated to education in the North.

“Healthy, educated people is a goal of this Assembly and the foundation of a happy and successful life,” said the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “Inductees to the Education Hall of Fame have all made positive and lasting impressions 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 chooses one inductee from each region of the NWT with a seventh inductee chosen to receive the Minister’s Choice Award.

The 2013 Education Hall of Fame inductees are:

- Janie Jones from Tuktoyaktuk;
- Beverly Masuzumi from Fort Good Hope;
- Mary Adele Flunkie from Whati;
- Bill Gilday from Yellowknife;
- Andy Norwegian from Fort Simpson;
- Jill Taylor from Hay River; and
- Anne-Mieke Cameron from Yellowknife as the Minister’s Choice Award.

Since the Education Hall of Fame was established in 2010, First Air has supported the event by providing flight vouchers for the inductees. More information on the 2013 inductees is available on the attached backgrounder.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Report Outlines Opportunities for New NWT Economic Strategy

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 30, 2013)** – The NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy (EOS) Advisory Panel has completed and delivered its *What We Heard Report* to the project's Governance Committee.

As part of the process to develop the Strategy, the panel was tasked with engaging NWT residents and economic stakeholders in a series of discussions to identify regional economic opportunities and challenges.

Chair of the Advisory Panel Joe Handley says engagement was strong, "people recognized that this is more than an exercise in increasing the GDP of the NWT," Handley said. "It is an exercise in increasing the wellbeing of NWT residents and their communities. 'Do something now' was a common message in many of the sessions."

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay says the Advisory Panel's report highlights the diversity that exists outside of the NWT's rich resource sector. "We cannot build a steady and sustainable economy for our territory on resource development alone," he noted. "Especially in our communities, economic health hinges on sectors such as tourism, agriculture, fishing, manufacturing and the traditional economies."

In addition to documenting what they heard, the Advisory Panel's report includes observations and recommendations to guide the drafting of a final strategy.

Work to develop the final strategy is already underway, guided by a Governance Committee that includes the NWT Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Aboriginal Business Association, the NWT Association of Communities, Canada's Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI).

"The strategy that we are developing is one of pan-territorial impacts and importance – and not one that can be completed in isolation," says EOS Governance Committee Chair Peter Vician. "Thanks to the work of the Advisory Panel, the partnered approach that we are taking has now been extended to our territory's many leaders, stakeholders, and organizations and residents." Vician says the EOS Governance Committee recognizes that any strategy development for the NWT will need to be responsive to changing circumstances in the North and address – in some way – business opportunities in all regions of the NWT.

The final report is expected to be presented to the Legislative Assembly in October.

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# **Backgrounder**

## **Report Outlines Opportunities for new NWT Economic Strategy**

### **Background**

The need for a strategy to diversify and strengthen the NWT economy was recognized by the 17th Legislative Assembly in its vision: Believing in People and Building on the Strength of Northerners.

In the spirit of collaboration embraced by its Members, work to prepare this strategy – the NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy – began in November 2012 under the direction of the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment and guided by a partnered Governance Committee comprised of the NWT Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Aboriginal Business Association, the NWT Association of Communities, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and the GNWT's Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

An independent four-member Economic Opportunities Advisory Panel was tasked with engaging NWT residents, the private sector, governments and other key stakeholders in a series of discussions on the economy. Over 100 specific invitations and opportunities were provided to NWT residents and organizations to meet and speak with Panel Members

### **Public Engagements**

Between December 2012 and February 2013 the Advisory Panel held over 80 public forums and meetings in all regions of the NWT. They encouraged residents to speak frankly about barriers and challenges but, most importantly, asked for their suggestions about economic opportunities.

The participation of the NWT Association of Communities enabled representatives from outlying communities to travel to meetings in regional centres and to contribute to an overall understanding of economic circumstances and opportunities throughout the NWT.

Input was also received on-line (website and social media) and in separate written submissions. (A summary record of all of these meetings is available: [www.NWTOpportunities.com](http://www.NWTOpportunities.com).)

The Panel engagements were supported by a significant communications campaign incorporating both traditional and social media sources.

### **Advisory Panel's Report**

The Advisory Panel's Report is: a reporting of what people had to say; it includes informed observations based on the perspectives and expertise of individual Panel members; and provides recommendations to guide the drafting of the final Economic Opportunities Strategy

The Advisory Panel's Report compiles and presents the results of the Panel's engagements and discussions under five broad themes:

- Renewable Resources and Small Business
- Non Renewable Resources
- Our Most Important Resource: People
- Infrastructure
- Government Programs and Support

Following each theme, recommendations are provided. In total, there are 90 recommendations.

### **Development of Economic Opportunities Strategy**

The process of drafting the final EOS has now begun under the guidance of the EOS Governance Committee. In its presentation to the Committee, the EOS Advisory Panel highlighted five key "overarching" messages for the Governance Committee as it develops its Strategy:

- People are essential – the NWT cannot grow its economy with a stagnant population. Similarly, community wellness will be reflected in a healthy economy;
- The NWT's potential, as it is represented in renewable and non-renewable resources, is largely unrealized – as are its people;
- Economic incentives must begin with local entrepreneurs and community based businesses that provide sustainability and growth in community economies;
- Economic opportunities and development must be considered and measured according to the benefits provided to the NWT and its people; and
- The NWT's dependence on southern resources and people is not conducive to the economic health of the NWT. NWT Residents were unified in their desire to realize more effective uses for northern resources like power, wood pellets, farm produce, fish – and especially people.

It is anticipated that the NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy will be drafted by the early August and delivered to the Minister of ITI this fall for tabling during the Legislative Assembly's October sitting.

### **EOS Advisory Panel – Biographies**

#### **Joseph L. Handley (Chair)**

Mr. Handley joined the Government of the NWT in 1985 and served as Deputy Minister in a wide number of portfolios including: Education; Renewable Resources; the NWT Housing

Corporation; Transportation; and Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. In 1999, he was elected to the NWT Legislative Assembly and became Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board, Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Minister of Transportation, and Minister Responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. In 2003, Mr. Handley was re-elected to the Legislative Assembly and became Premier until he retired from territorial politics in 2007.

### **Gordon Van Tighem**

Born in Calgary, Alberta, Mr. Van Tighem is a graduate of the University of Manitoba. He moved to Yellowknife from Edmonton in 1992 with his family to work in a senior position at a bank. In October 2000, Mr. Van Tighem was elected Mayor for Yellowknife and held this position until his retirement in 2012.

### **Heather Bourassa**

Ms. Bourassa was born and raised in the NWT. The family business, Arctic Circle Enterprises Ltd., was formed in 1998 and received its first contract in 2000. Besides working as a full-time co-owner of the company, Ms. Bourassa also takes part in many community boards. She has served as a Director of the Yamoga Land Corporation for five years and President for one year. Ms. Bourassa also held a position as Director of North-Wright Airways, and mostly recently as the Chair for the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board.

### **Rory Campbell**

Mr. Campbell began his career in the Alberta government as a Cabinet Committee Secretary in the Premier's office in 1979. Over the next three decades, he held progressive leadership roles in a wide range of Alberta Ministries, before becoming Alberta's Deputy Minister of Economic Development in 2003, and Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food in 2006. Mr. Campbell retired from the Government of Alberta in 2008.





NEWS RELEASE

### Safe Kids Week: Make Protecting Your Head a Healthy Choice

**YELLOWKNIFE (May 30, 2013)** – Safe Kids Week is May 27 to June 3 in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is marking the Week by encouraging NWT residents to show that they have the helmet habit and post a video or picture of themselves wearing a properly fitting helmet online.

“We all know that helmets can save lives and reduce the severity of head injuries,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu, who stressed that it is important for parents, teachers, and coaches to make the prevention of brain injuries, such as concussions, a priority. “We have to ensure our children and young people are wearing their helmets when they are bicycling, skateboarding or engaged in other recreational activities.”

Helmet use in organized sports is already saving lives and preventing serious injuries says Municipal and Community Affairs Minister Robert C. McLeod, “In our school and recreation programs across the NWT, young people are wearing their helmets to avoid potential head injuries,” he said. “It’s important to bring that same good habit to the recreation activities both children and adults participate in.”

A concussion is a brain injury that affects the way a person thinks and remembers and can cause a variety of symptoms that affect health and behaviour. Until August 31, 2013, the GNWT is encouraging NWT residents to post a video or picture of themselves wearing a properly fitting helmet on Twitter using the hashtag #gotthehelmethabit to show that they have the helmet habit. Residents who email [commcoordinator@gov.nt.ca](mailto:commcoordinator@gov.nt.ca) with the time and date of their tweet will be entered in a draw to receive one of three GoPro HERO3: Black Edition helmet cameras. Names will be drawn in September.

Safe Kids Week is an initiative of Parachute, Canada’s injury prevention leader. Visit the [Parachute website](#) for more information and resources related to Safe Kids Week 2013.

The Healthy Choices Framework is the GNWT’s initiative to encourage NWT residents to make the right choices to protect their health, safety and wellbeing. The prevention of injuries is one of the pillars of the Framework intended to help meet the priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly to ensure a fair and sustainable health care system by investing in prevention, education and awareness. Visit [www.choosenwt.com](http://www.choosenwt.com) for more information on the Healthy Choices Framework.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Northern Aviation Scholarship Fund Accepting Applications

**(YELLOWKNIFE) June 4, 2013** – The Government of Northwest Territories and its partners the Government of Nunavut, Discovery Air, Keewatin Air, North-Wright Airways, and First Air are pleased to advise residents of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut that applications for one of 16 \$5,000 Northern Aviation Scholarships are now being accepted. The deadline for the receipt of applications is July 26, 2013.

The Northern Aviation Scholarship program (formerly the Aviation Career Development Program) helps northern residents to cover some of the high costs associated with pursuing training for a career in northern aviation. Some of the careers being pursued by past scholarship winners are: airport operations specialists and airport managers, aircraft maintenance engineers, and pilots.

Minister of Transportation David Ramsay says the Northern Aviation Scholarship program is an important part of building a sustainable northern aviation sector. "Aviation is a field that requires specialized knowledge and training," he said. "When we assist our young people to acquire those skills and then return for employment to the north, we are making an important investment in the future of the territory."

The GNWT's contribution to the Northern Aviation Scholarship program helps support priorities of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly to strengthen and diversify the NWT economy and increase employment opportunities. The Department of Transportation contributes up to \$30,000 annually for Northern Aviation Scholarships.

Further information can be found at [www.bit.ly/NASprogram](http://www.bit.ly/NASprogram) or on the Department of Transportation website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca).

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NEWS RELEASE

## Report Sets the Stage for Strategy to Guide the NWT's Mining Future

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 4, 2013)** – A stronger, environmentally sustainable and industry-friendly mineral development sector in the Northwest Territories is one step closer to reality following the release of [Pathways to Mineral Development](#). The report was prepared by the Mineral Development Strategy (MDS) Stakeholder Engagement Panel and includes recommendations to support a sustainable mineral exploration and development sector in the NWT.

The Engagement Panel identified actions in five broad areas that could ultimately define the core of the MDS and ensure the NWT is able to address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities facing it. The five areas for action are:

1. Creating a competitive edge;
2. Creating a new NWT regulatory environment;
3. Aboriginal engagement and community capacity building;
4. Sustainability; and
5. Workforce development and public awareness.

To complete the [report](#), the panel held over 40 meetings, where they heard from more than 120 individuals representing 65 different organizations.

“The NWT is a land rich in resource potential. One of the priorities of this Assembly is to strengthen and diversify the economy and, as part of that priority, we identified the need to have a comprehensive, environmentally sustainable Mineral Development Strategy in place,” said Minister Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. “This report will help us to prepare a clear plan of action to ensure our territory enjoys strong economic growth from responsible mineral development.”

“The quality and thoughtfulness of the advice and suggestions the panel received during its consultation process was impressive,” said Angus Robertson, Chair of the MDS Engagement Panel. “The fact that many organizations were represented by their most senior officials also speaks to the importance that invested stakeholders attached to this process.”

The NWT Mineral Development Strategy will be finalized in early fall 2013.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Legislative Assembly Votes to Approve Devolution

**YELLOWNIFE (June 5, 2012)** – The Legislative Assembly has officially approved the *Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement*.

“This is an historic day for the Northwest Territories,” said Premier Bob McLeod. “The people of the NWT are ready to take charge of decisions that affect their future, and their democratically elected representatives have given us a clear mandate. I look forward to signing the agreement with our partner governments, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, NWT Métis Nation, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, Gwich’in Tribal Council, Tłı̨chǫ Government and the Government of Canada. We continue to reach out to the Dehcho First Nations and Akaitcho Territory Government and are hopeful that they will one day choose to become parties to the agreement, as well.”

The devolution agreement will transfer responsibility for public land, water and resource management from the federal to the territorial government. The target date for the transfer of responsibilities is April 1, 2014. Previous devolutions have transferred responsibility for health care, education, social services, highways, forestry, and airports.

“I am particularly proud of the process we followed in developing this agreement,” said Premier McLeod. “Aboriginal governments helped to draft the agreement and decided on a process for collaborating on land and resource management and I thank them for their support and leadership. This is the only devolution agreement in the NWT to undergo extensive public engagement before approval, and the only one to be put to a vote by all Members of the Assembly. We are also the only government in Canada to share resource revenues from public lands on this scope and scale with participating Aboriginal governments.”

Since announcing the end of negotiations in March 2013, the GNWT has held more than 45 public and stakeholder meetings in all regions of the territory to answer questions about devolution’s benefits. This is in addition to hundreds of meetings held throughout the territory since the territorial, federal and Aboriginal governments agreed to a memorandum of intent to negotiate devolution in May 2001. Formal consultations with Aboriginal governments will ensure that nothing in the agreement affects Aboriginal or treaty rights.

The Government of Canada and participating Aboriginal governments will undertake their own processes to approve the agreement. A date for the signing of the final agreement has not yet been set.

To learn more about the benefits of devolution for all NWT residents, businesses, and governments, including a report on the recent public engagement process, visit [devolution.gov.nt.ca](http://devolution.gov.nt.ca).

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NEWS RELEASE

## Premier's Awards Honour GNWT Employees and Partners

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 5, 2013)** – Premier Bob McLeod will honour individual employees, teams of employees and partners from outside the public service with Premier's Awards for Excellence and Collaboration. Over 97 individuals will be honoured, including the recipient of the Dave Ramsden Career Excellence Award.

The Premier's Awards acknowledge the exceptional work of individual employees and teams of employees. Collaboration awards recognize the outstanding achievements of employees who work in partnership with individuals outside the Government of the Northwest Territories (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 Government of the Northwest Territories and our partners.

Mr. Ian Legaree, Director of Sport, Recreation and Youth with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, will receive the Dave Ramsden Career Excellence Award, which recognizes the outstanding achievements of an individual with 20 or more years of experience in the GNWT public service. Mr. Legaree has worked in the NWT and Nunavut for nearly 30 years in recreation, sport, community and leadership development and municipal affairs. During his tenure he has played important roles in a wide range of national and international projects including the Arctic Winter Games, the Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council, the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games – Northwest Territories Program and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association.

The list of 2013 Premier's Awards recipients is below.

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### **Premier's Award for Excellence (Individual)**

Barry Ward, Facility Planner, Department of Public Works and Services  
John Stewart, Director of Education Renewal and Innovation, Department of Education, Culture and Employment  
Ralph Sanguiez, Senior Researcher, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs

## **Premier's Award for Excellence (Team)**

### **Devolution Negotiations Team**

Martin Goldney, Executive Director, Devolution, Department of Executive  
Mark Salvor, Devolution Negotiator, Department of Executive  
Tara Naugler, Expert Policy Advisor, Department of Executive  
James Fulford, Legal Counsel, Department of Justice  
Ian Blackstock, Legal Counsel, Department of Justice  
Dr. Hal Gerein, Senior Devolution Advisor, Department of Executive  
Hugh Richardson, Executive Director, Devolution, Department of Executive  
Peter Bannon, Executive Director, Devolution, Department of Executive

### **Anthrax Emergency Response Team**

Tony Vermillion, Renewable Resource Officer II, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Danny Beaulieu, Renewable Resources Officer III, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Gerald Doucet, Seasonal Warehouse Person, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Terry Armstrong, Wildlife Biologist (Bison) , Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Brett Elkin, Disease/Contaminants Specialist, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Judy McLinton, Manager Public Affairs & Communication, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Thomy Matto, Regional Fire Technician, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Edward Landry, Renewable Resource Officer II, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Leeroy Andre, A/Renewable Resources Officer III, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Shawn Maxwell, Fire Technician / Crew Leader, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Brendan Tsetso, Renewable Resources Officer II, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Heather E. Beck, Renewable Resources Officer I, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Adrian Lizotte, Renewable Resources Officer II, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Kelvin Kotchilea, Renewable Resources Officer II, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Karl Cox, Wildlife Technician III, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Marti Lys, Renewable Resources Officer II / Crew Leader, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Brent Starling, Forest Officer, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources  
Heather Hirst, Fire Clerk, Department of Environmental and Natural Resources

### **North Slave Correctional Centre Project - Truth and Reconciliation Committee**

Greg Debogorski, Director Corrections Service, Department of Justice  
Blair Van Metre, Assistant Director, Corrections Service, Department of Justice  
Sue Glowach, Senior Communications Advisor, Department of Justice  
John Nahanni, Deputy Warden, Programs NSCC, Department of Justice

Felix Lockhart, Traditional Counsellor, Liaison Officer, Department of Justice

**Premier's Award for Collaboration**

**Staff of the North Slave Young Offender Facility**

Tanya Ashley, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Ivan Gloeden, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Chris Pedersen, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Matthew Simms, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Chris Potyok, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Michelle Richards, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Shawn Vassallo, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Bernie Ritchie, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Morgan Wouters, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Clayton Bell, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Linda Morrison, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Richard Deutschmann, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Greg Brandford, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Mark Wouters, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Shari Manyika, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Julia Fowler, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
John Dzurka, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Nicole Krivan, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Damien Ramm, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Margaret Hope, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Greg Krivda, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Luciano Marrai, Training Officer, Department of Justice  
Derek Bran, Youth Officer, Department of Justice  
Justin Bailey, Corrections Supervisor, Department of Justice  
Everett McQueen, Deputy Warden, Department of Justice  
Mike Desjarlais, Corrections Supervisor, Department of Justice  
Amanda Washburn, Case Manager, Department of Justice  
Hiedi Yardley, Counsellor, Department of Justice  
Sharon Lambert, Facility Administration Officer, Department of Justice  
Chris Comeau, AWARDEN, Department of Justice  
Jacqueline Simpson, (Former) Assistant Warden, Department of Justice  
Leo Ehrenberg, Teacher, Non-GNWT (YK1 School District)  
Russell Ives, Teacher, Non-GNWT (YK1 School District)  
Spencer Lyman, Teacher, Non-GNWT (YK1 School District)

**Energy Charette Working Group**

Philip Duguay, Senior Analyst, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment  
Mark Henry, Senior Analyst, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment  
Irene Vasa, Resource Economist, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment  
James Tolley, Senior FMB Analyst, Department of Finance  
Bryan Pelkey, Alternative Energy Specialist, Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Wade Carpenter, Alternative Energy Specialist, Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Darha Phillipot, Strategic Planning Analyst, Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Matthew Kennelly, Energy Management Specialist, Department of Public Works and Services  
Michael Ball, Economic Policy Analyst, Department of Finance  
Remi Gervais, Energy Coordinator, Non-GNWT (City of Yellowknife)



Leanne Robinson, Energy Management Specialist, Non-GNWT (Arctic Energy Alliance)  
Linda Todd, Program Coordinator, Non-GNWT (Arctic Energy Alliance)  
Myra Berrub, Manager, Non-GNWT (NTPC-Energy Services)  
Sara Brown, CEO, Non-GNWT (NWT Association of Communities)  
Geraldine Byrne, Energy Officer, Non-GNWT (NT Energy)  
Peter Lennie-Misgeld, Manager, Hydro Advancement, Non-GNWT (NT Energy)  
David Mahon, Manager, Hydro Development, Non-GNWT (NT Energy)  
Doug Ritchie, Board Member, Non-GNWT (Ecology North)

**Colville Lake Tommy Kochon Airport**

William Chapple, Project Manager, Construction, Department of Transportation  
Daniel Michaud, Airport Manager, Norman Wells, Department of Transportation  
Laura Love, Technical Officer, Department of Transportation  
Jesse Casey, Technical Officer, Department of Transportation  
Ted McKnight, Airport Electrician, Department of Transportation  
Erin Scott, Project Coordinator, Department of Transportation  
Pat Ayiku, Senior Project Engineer, Electrical, Department of Transportation  
Rene Balcaen, Project Technician, Department of Transportation  
Alexander Hanna, Manager, Operations, Safety and Security, Department of Transportation  
Community Government of Colville Lake, Non-GNWT (Colville Lake)  
Berah Gutone Tue, Non-GNWT (Colville Lake)

**Dave Ramsden Career Excellence Award**

Ian Legaree, Director, Sport, Recreation and Youth, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs



NEWS RELEASE

## Corridors For Canada III Proposal for Federal Infrastructure Funding Released

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 6, 2013)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories is seeking an investment in transportation infrastructure of \$600 million over ten years under the federal New Building Canada Fund. Minister of Transportation David Ramsay released the funding proposal, *Corridors for Canada III: Building for Prosperity*, in the Legislative Assembly today.

Minister Ramsay said the proposal meets the challenges that come with growing social and economic needs in the territory while promoting growth and development. “This plan proposes strategic investments in transportation infrastructure across all regions of the Northwest Territories,” he said. “In coming years, it will lay in place a foundation for the economic growth and prosperity of the NWT.”

Premier Bob McLeod says strategic investments in the North’s infrastructure benefit all Canadians. “The investments proposed in *Corridors for Canada III* are needed to develop the potential of the Northwest Territories. This proposal moves us closer to having in place the transportation infrastructure needed for a sustainable and prosperous future.”

*Corridors for Canada III* proposes strategic infrastructure investments in the following areas:

- Rehabilitation and improvement of all-weather and winter road systems and bridges;
- Highway safety improvements;
- Incremental improvements in the Mackenzie Valley corridor to improve and add to the winter road system and contribute to the future all-weather highway;
- Expand capacity at high traffic airports; and
- Research and develop successful methods for mitigating climate change and reducing its effect on existing and new transportation infrastructure.

The publication released today outlines part of the response of the Government of Northwest Territories to the 10 year federal New Building Canada Fund starting in 2014-2015.

The proposed activity under *Corridors for Canada III* contributes to the priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly to strengthen and diversify our economy by making strategic infrastructure investments.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Early Childhood Development Framework Will Give NWT Children the Right Start

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 6, 2013)** – A renewed Early Childhood Development Framework from the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Health and Social Services will give NWT children the right start by focusing on the important early years from prenatal to age five. The departments collaborated on renewing the original 2001 Framework, incorporating new research, emerging information, best practices and techniques that reflect the most effective approaches to early childhood development.

“The renewed Framework will ensure we are meeting the needs of our children and families,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “The prenatal period and first five years of life are critical for a child’s development and will affect the quality and success of their entire lives. We are committed to creating a foundation of access, dedicated programs and services and collaboration across government and with Northern stakeholders in early childhood development.”

Early childhood development is often defined as the stages of mental, physical and social development that happen during a child’s first five years of life. The child’s brain grows most rapidly during this period, and connections and neural pathways are set that frame their decision making and perceptions as they grow. Accessible, consistent programs and services will ensure children and families have the opportunity to become successful, productive Northerners with fulfilled lives.

“This framework will guide our actions over the next decade and is an investment in our people, economy and environment. A framework like this creates benefits that far exceed program costs - every dollar invested in early childhood development can yield up to a sevenfold return,” said Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu.

There are many factors that can influence a child’s life, like poverty, inadequate housing, mental health and addictions and safety and security. The Government of the Northwest Territories is working on numerous initiatives that recognize these linkages. This will ensure a coordinated and informed approach to providing programs and services that best meet the needs of Northerners.

Over the summer the Departments will finalize an action plan to support the commitments in the Framework. The action plan will outline priorities for action over the next three years and will be supported by a monitoring and evaluation framework.

To read the report and for more information, visit [www.ece.gov.nt.ca](http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca) or [www.hss.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hss.gov.nt.ca) or [www.rightfromthestart.ca](http://www.rightfromthestart.ca)

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NEWS RELEASE

Investments in Efficiency and Alternative Energy Reduce GNWT Dependency on Fossil Fuels

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 6, 2013)** – The GNWT is on track to reduce the use of heating fuel in its buildings by 13.5 million litres by the end of 2013/14. This decreases greenhouse-gas emissions by more than 36,000 tons since the government first started tracking its fuel and greenhouse gas reductions in 2007.

“We’ve seen energy savings of more than \$3 million since 2010,” said Glen Abernethy, Minister of Public Works and Services. “That’s money that can be reinvested in alternative and renewable energy projects across the territory. A third of the total energy used in the buildings we manage is renewable, and we have more projects underway.”

In the 2012/13 fiscal year, new biomass boilers were installed in Fort Providence, Behchoko, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson and energy retrofits were completed in Aklavik, Inuvik, Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk, Fort Providence, the Hay River Reserve, Fort Smith, Behchoko, Norman Wells, Yellowknife, and Fort Simpson.

New buildings such as the East Three School in Inuvik and the Hay River Health Centre are designed to be energy efficient, and new GNWT buildings in Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Providence and Norman Wells are currently being built with wood-pellet boilers. Four GNWT buildings in Fort Smith now receive surplus electricity from the Taltson Dam, displacing over a million litres of fuel since 2008/09. Heat-recovery systems in Yellowknife, Fort McPherson, Whati and Fort Liard use the heat produced from generating plants and electronics to keep other buildings warm.

“This is heat that would otherwise be vented outside and lost forever,” said Minister Abernethy. “By planning to be energy efficient, we can capture it and use it in other public buildings. This is the North; we need all the heat we can get.”

Strategic investments in efficient infrastructure protect the environment and have long-term financial savings that can be reinvested in future Assemblies’ priorities. The Department of Public Works and Services’ 2012/13 report on energy conservation projects is available [at this link](#).

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NEWS RELEASE

## NWT Hazard Identification Risk Assessment

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 6, 2013)** – Workshops being held across the NWT will help residents identify hazards and risks in their communities. Information gathered during these regional hazard identification risk assessments will be used to improve emergency planning and preparedness in the Northwest Territories. The workshops are being hosted by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

“Understanding the hazards and risks that our communities face and gathering information from residents, community governments and other stakeholders is an important step in emergency planning,” said Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod. “Through the hazard identification risk assessment workshops we can aid territorial and municipal governments in planning for emergency situations.”

A diverse selection of authorities, interest groups, experts, industry representatives and stakeholders will take part in the hazard identification risk assessments. Workshop participants will help identify risks and assess their potential impacts on communities, including how they could affect critical infrastructure, property and the environment. A report on workshop results will help inform future emergency planning activities.

Stakeholders and residents can take part in the assessments through an online survey available at [www.maca.gov.nt.ca](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca) or by attending a workshop.

The schedule for regional workshops is:

- Fort Simpson on June 11, 2013 at the Community Hall from 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- Fort Smith on June 13, 2013 at Aurora College from 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- Norman Wells on July 8, 2013 at the Royal Canadian Legion from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
- Inuvik on July 10, 2013 at Ingamo Hall from 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- Yellowknife (session for community governments only) on July 12, 2013 at the Tree of Peace from 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- Yellowknife (open session) on July 12, 2013 at the Tree of Peace from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

Ensuring the NWT is prepared for emergencies by having informed territorial and municipal emergency plans in place is a part of realizing the goal of creating sustainable, vibrant and safe communities as envisioned in the goals of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Strategic Framework Sets Priorities for the Elimination of Poverty in the NWT

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 6, 2013)** – A new strategic framework for the elimination of poverty outlines the GNWT's commitment to ensuring all residents of the NWT have the chance to enjoy the benefits of living in a prosperous, well-governed territory and to participate fully in a healthy, just society. [\*Building on the Strengths of Northerners\*](#) is an integrated approach that will position NWT residents to achieve long-term economic and social sustainability.

"Poverty is complex, and there is no single solution," said Glen Abernethy, Chair of the Social Envelope Committee of Cabinet. "Social policies that help our residents achieve their full potential make our communities attractive and welcoming. Those communities create a strong, diversified economy that shares its benefits and keeps residents healthy. We know that investments in healthcare and education pay off in our economy. Investments in our economy make our people and the programs and services they rely on flourish. We hope that people in every region and every sector will want to partner with us to achieve a poverty-free NWT."

The strategic framework identifies five main priorities for action:

1. Children and Family Support
2. Healthy Living and Reaching Our Potential
3. Safe and Affordable Housing
4. Sustainable Communities
5. Integrated Continuum of Services

The GNWT will now develop an action plan to address these priorities in partnership with community and regional agencies.

The priorities for action identified in *Building on the Strengths of Northerners* align with the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly's goals and priorities of supporting residents to be healthy, educated people free from poverty; addressing housing needs; ensuring sustainable, vibrant, safe communities; and effective and efficient government.

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NEWS RELEASE

### Deh Cho Bridge Project Receives Awards

**FORT PROVIDENCE (June 7, 2013)** – The Deh Cho Bridge Project has been recognized for its innovative design and construction, aesthetics, positive community participation and harmony with the environment. Dr. Matthias Schueller of Infinity Engineering, the project’s design engineer, accepted the award on behalf of the project team.

The recognition was given at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual International Bridge Conference, held June 2-6 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Deh Cho Bridge Project received the prestigious Gustav Lindenthal Medal which is awarded annually for a recent outstanding achievement in bridge engineering. Past winners included France’s Millau Viaduct, the tallest bridge in the world, and the Juscelino Kubitschek Bridge, which crosses Paranoá Lake in Brasilia, Brazil.

Minister of Transportation David Ramsay says the award shows the quality of the redesign and construction of the Deh Cho Bridge. “All residents of the Northwest Territories can be proud of the world class achievement the Deh Cho Bridge Project represents,” he said. “This recognition speaks well to the hard work and dedication of those who oversaw this project and brought it to a successful completion.”

The Gustav Lindenthal Medal is named for one of the most celebrated bridge engineers in North America. Gustav Lindenthal brought innovation and an aesthetic approach to some of the best known bridges in the United States. The design and engineering for the Deh Cho Bridge continues in that tradition.

In addition to the Gustav Lindenthal Medal, the Deh Cho Bridge recently received the Award of Merit for Soft Engineering at the 2013 Awards for Engineering Excellence sponsored by the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of British Columbia. It was also recognized for its innovative steel construction by winning the 2013 CISC British Columbia Steel Design Award of Excellence.

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## BACKGROUNDER

The International Bridge Conference, which was held this year in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, annually recognizes outstanding achievements in bridge engineering. Categories of achievement meriting an Award of Distinction are:

- John A. Roebling Medal for individual lifetime achievement;
- George S. Richardson Medal for outstanding achievement in bridge design;
- Eugene C. Figg, Jr. Medal for outstanding achievement for bridge engineering considered an icon to the community for which it is designed;
- Arthur G. Hayden Medal for outstanding achievement in bridge engineering demonstrating vision and innovation in special use bridges;
- Abba G. Lichtenstein Medal for outstanding achievement in bridge engineering demonstrating artistic merit and innovation in the restoration and rehabilitation of a historical bridge; and
- Gustav Lindenthal Medal for an outstanding structure that is also aesthetically and environmentally pleasing.

For more information on the awards, go to <http://www.eswp.com/bridge/awards.htm>

The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of British Columbia represents 90 consulting engineering companies in British Columbia. For more information on the Award of Merit for the Deh Cho Bridge, go to [www.acec-bc.ca/media/20068/acecbcAwards13-5M.pdf](http://www.acec-bc.ca/media/20068/acecbcAwards13-5M.pdf).

The Canadian Institute of Steel Construction represents Canada's structural steel, open web steel joist, and steel platework fabricating industries. The organization formed in 1930 as a non-profit industry association that promotes good design and safety and the effective use of structural steel. Its website is at [www.cisc-icca.ca/](http://www.cisc-icca.ca/).



NEWS RELEASE

## Repairs to the Runway at the Hay River Airport Moving Ahead

**HAY RIVER (June 7, 2013)** – The Government of Northwest Territories has set aside \$2.5 million dollars for needed repairs at the Hay River Airport.

The Hay River Airport is one of six hub airports in the Northwest Territories (NWT). It is also an important alternate runway, particularly for the Yellowknife airport. Since 2012, runway conditions at the airport have been viewed by air carriers as no longer viable for their high speed jet traffic, requiring carriers to use other alternates in their flight plans.

MLA for Hay River South Jane Groenewegen welcomed the news. “The Hay River Airport is a vital hub for transportation in the Northwest Territories,” she said. “The decision to move these repairs forward will restore the level of service that the air industry has come to expect.”

Robert Bouchard, MLA for Hay River North, said the improvements will help ensure the Hay River Airport can continue its role as an intermodal hub. “Restoring the runway to an expected level of service is important for all northerners,” he said. “I am pleased the government is taking this important step.”

Minister of Transportation David Ramsay said the repairs will contribute to a strong, sustainable transportation system in the Northwest Territories. “The northern aviation industry is vital to the economic well-being of NWT residents,” he said. “This investment will help support a safe, reliable, and efficient airline industry.”

The required work will be tendered shortly, with needed repairs expected to be undertaken in July and August, depending on the contractor’s schedule. Repairs are expected to be complete this summer. The repairs are not expected to disrupt scheduled air traffic at the Hay River Airport.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Celebrating the Importance of Industry During NWT Mining Week

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 10, 2013)** – Held this year from June 10-15, NWT Mining Week is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the crucial role that mining plays in our daily lives. The mining sector employs more than 3,000 people in the territory and its four producing mines contribute \$770 million in annual spending.

“The mining industry continues to be a driving force of our economy,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. “NWT Mining Week provides an opportunity for us to celebrate the hard work of people working in this industry, to recognize the importance of developing our mineral resources in an environmentally sustainable way, and to showcase how the mining industry benefits NWT residents.”

To ensure the long-term growth of a sustainable mining industry, the GNWT, in partnership with the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, is currently working towards the NWT’s [first Mineral Development Strategy](#) (MDS).

Another milestone for the industry was the release of [Pathways to Mineral Development](#) a report prepared by the MDS Stakeholder Engagement Panel earlier this month. The Panel was made up of mining experts, and their recommendations were a reflection of what they heard in the course of over 40 meetings held with more than 120 people and organizations from throughout the territory. The report includes recommendations to support a sustainable mineral exploration and development sector in the NWT – recommendations which are invaluable to the GNWT because they represent the collaborative voice of the territory.

By taking the opportunity to celebrate all the people and businesses that make up our vital mining sector, the GNWT is demonstrating its support towards having an economy that is strong and diversified, a key priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

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NEWS RELEASE

### Celebrating Tourism Week in the NWT

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 10, 2013)** – National Tourism Week in Canada is June 10-16, 2013 and events to celebrate the week and highlight the economic opportunities tourism brings to the territory are being held across the Northwest Territories.

“Tourism is a vital industry and has the potential to drive economic growth in every region of the NWT,” said Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister David Ramsay. “I would like to recognize the contribution that tourism operators and service providers make to our tourism industry, and encourage everyone across the NWT to continue to show our visitors our great northern hospitality.”

Activities are planned around the NWT to celebrate Tourism Week:

- **June 12:** A BBQ will be held at the Norman Wells Visitor Information Centre/Museum from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- **June 14:** A BBQ will be held at the Fort Simpson Visitors Information Centre (VIC). Prizes donated by regional tourism operators will be drawn throughout the event, and historical walking tours will be offered.
- **June 14:** NWT Tourism will host the Fourth Annual Fun in the Sun golf tournament in Yellowknife. Registration starts at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at noon, and includes a golfer’s pack, an 18-hole round and dinner.
- **June 14:** An open house will be held at the Western Arctic Regional Visitors Centre in Inuvik. Refreshments and door prizes will be provided.
- **June 15:** An open house will be held at the 60<sup>th</sup> Parallel Visitor Information Centre from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Guests can enjoy coffee, tea and bannock and learn about tourism opportunities in all regions of the NWT

NWT Tourism will be promoting each region through a Twitter and Facebook campaign that encourages locals to comment and highlight must-see and must-do activities in their home communities throughout the week.

By providing additional funding to help expand marketing to key target markets in Europe and the Asia-Pacific, as well as other parts of Canada and areas identified in the United States, the GNWT is taking steps to strengthen and diversify the economy – a key priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

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### Improved Ferry Service for Beaufort Delta

**INUVIK (June 11, 2013)** – Residents of Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik will see greater energy security and reduced costs for businesses following a decision to extend fall ferry services in the Beaufort Delta.

Beginning this October, the Abraham Francis ferry, which crosses the Peel River, and the Louis Cardinal Ferry, which crosses the Mackenzie River, will for the first time operate past the fall freeze-up period. The objective of the extended service is to maintain operations until ice crossings are in place that can support commercial traffic. Short term disruptions in service can still be expected.

MLA for Mackenzie Delta Frederick Blake Jr. welcomed the news, “every fall, the cost of living in our communities along the Dempster is affected by the outage of ferry service. This is going to mean a lot for the residents of those communities as they can expect improved access to fresh food and more timely deliveries.”

MLA for Inuvik Boot Lake Alfred Moses said his community will benefit from the extended service, “Inuvik needs solutions for its energy security needs. This decision will provide that security while reducing the cost of living for all residents.”

Minister Robert C. McLeod, MLA for Inuvik Twin Lakes, was pleased that road access to and from Inuvik will be greatly improved because of the extended ferry season. “The ability to drive out of the community and for goods to come in during the period before ice crossings are in place will improve the quality of life for all our residents. Our economy will also be strengthened as businesses become more competitive.”

Transportation Minister David Ramsay says the decision is good news for the people of Inuvik in particular. “With dwindling natural gas supplies in Inuvik, a way had to be found to truck in energy supplies to the community without incurring large costs for storage. The Department of Transportation has experience in winter-period operations at Fort Providence, and is able to apply that knowledge to meet this need.”

The annual cost of the extended ferry service is expected to be \$1.4 million plus a one-time upgrading cost for the Louis Cardinal ferry of \$400,000.

The benefits to Beaufort Delta residents include:

- Reduced costs to merchants to stock up for the fall road outage;
- Reduced spoilage for fresh produce and dairy;
- Reduced isolation for residents of the Beaufort Delta;
- Reduced costs for power generation in Inuvik;
- Elimination of the need to spend \$15 million on storage capacity in Inuvik; and
- Greater energy security for the residents of Inuvik

The decision to extend fall ferry service on the Dempster Highway helps meet the priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly to strengthen and diversify the economy of the Northwest Territories by providing improved energy security and reducing the cost of living for residents of the Beaufort Delta.

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NEWS RELEASE

### Call for Applications for the 2013 – 2014 Youth Ambassador Program

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 12, 2013)** – Youth are encouraged to develop their leadership skills by applying for the Youth Ambassador Program. Youth Ambassadors develop significant life and job skills and participate in special events across Canada. In the past, they have attended the Arctic Winter Games, Canada Winter Games, and the North American Indigenous Games.

“We are excited to bring in the next group of vibrant young people who, through their collective efforts, will gain the skills to help us build a strong future for the NWT,” said Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and Minister Responsible for Youth Robert C. McLeod. “Year after year, our Youth Ambassadors have consistently impressed people from across Canada and around the world. I encourage all of our youth to apply for this life-changing experience.”

In addition to being a Youth Ambassador volunteer, youth may apply for specialized roles mentoring new ambassadors or demonstrating Inuit and Dene games. Applicants are selected based on their 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 December 31, 2013. The deadline to apply is September 23, 2013.

The Youth Ambassador Program is part of the Government of the Northwest Territories’ Healthy Choices Framework and maximizes opportunities for NWT residents by helping young people improve their skills and make healthy choices. 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.nwtyouth.com](http://www.nwtyouth.com). Applications are accepted over the phone at (867) 873-7329 or by email at [dawn\\_moses@gov.nt.ca](mailto:dawn_moses@gov.nt.ca).

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MEDIA RELEASE

### Media Availability for Premier McLeod at Western Premiers' Conference

Premier McLeod is in Winnipeg to attend the Western Premiers' Conference. Tomorrow he will travel to Charlottetown to meet with Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women.

The Western Premiers' Conference is an annual forum for Premiers to discuss issues that are of interest or concern to British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Premier McLeod led discussions on infrastructure and housing. Premiers also discussed energy, bullying prevention and the economy.

Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women will discuss violence against women, bullying and school-based programs, and gender-based analysis.

Premier McLeod will be available by teleconference Wednesday, June 19 at 10:30 NWT time.

Teleconference instructions:

Call 1-866-969-8429

Conference ID 7007230

If you will join the teleconference, please call to confirm.

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## WESTERN PREMIERS FOCUS ON JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

In Winnipeg today, Western Premiers focused on jobs and the economy. They discussed labour market shortages and skills training, strategic infrastructure investments, immigration, energy, and international trade and investment. Premiers also discussed other important issues that affect the lives of Canadian families, such as managing natural disasters, improving water quality, and addressing the growing problem of bullying and cyber-bullying.

Premiers also met with Canada's Ambassador to the United States, Gary Doer, reaffirming Western Canada's commitment to ensuring a strong relationship with the United States.

### **A Skilled Workforce**

Western Premiers discussed the acute labour and skills shortages affecting their jurisdictions. To ensure these shortages do not restrict economic growth, Premiers agreed on the need to:

- expand the labour force through skills training;
- attract workers through an effective approach to immigration;
- ensure Aboriginal people are well-positioned to fully participate in the economy; and
- engage with the private sector to encourage and support its necessary involvement in solving the skills shortage.

Premiers support a flexible approach to skills training that reflects the diverse needs of the West. Premiers support greater involvement by employers in skills and job training reflecting diverse provincial and territorial economies. There is concern that the proposed Canada Job Grant could interfere with provincial and territorial priorities in skills training and jeopardize the success of training programs already in place, particularly those that help the most vulnerable people, including persons with disabilities, who need additional supports to find jobs.

As an area of provincial and territorial jurisdiction, any federal initiatives in skills training should allow any jurisdiction to opt out with full compensation.

New federal initiatives should also take into account the unique skills training required for Canada's Aboriginal people. Canada's Aboriginal people represent an important part of Canada's workforce. Premiers' priority is to ensure Aboriginal people have the necessary skills and job readiness to participate fully in the Canadian economy.

A more responsive and flexible immigration system is a vital component of developing a skilled Canadian workforce. Premiers expressed support for efforts to create new models for economic immigration, but noted that existing Provincial and Territorial Nominee Programs continue to be essential tools to help meet economic and labour market needs.

Premiers emphasized the importance of federal-provincial-territorial collaboration in reforming Canada's immigration system and agree that reforms must:

- increase overall immigration levels;
- provide a greater role for provinces and territories in the selection of all immigrants;
- ensure Provincial and Territorial Nominee Programs are not negatively affected by the implementation of the Expression of Interest model;
- include a streamlined visa processing system that is client-focused and ensures Canada is competitive in the global market for talent and tourism; and
- ensure timely and reliable access to Temporary Foreign Workers in order to fill legitimate labour and skills shortages, recognizing that Provincial and Territorial Nominee Programs provide an effective path for these workers to become Canadian citizens.

### **Strategic Investments in Infrastructure**

As the primary funders of infrastructure, provinces and territories are making strategic investments to maximize economic benefits, create jobs, and improve productivity.

Western Premiers welcomed the federal government's commitment to a new Building Canada Plan and are pleased the new program will include a "base plus per capita" formula. Premiers look forward to discussions with the federal government regarding the renewed program and emphasized that infrastructure funding programs should be fair, flexible and align with provincial and territorial priorities. An effective infrastructure program is critical in supporting economic growth.

Sustained economic growth in the West requires adequate and affordable housing to support business investment and to attract workers. In areas where there is limited supply of housing, particularly in remote areas, adequate and affordable housing helps to reduce the cost of living. Western Premiers discussed the critical importance of an effective partnership with the federal government in the housing field. They also agreed to explore joint procurement opportunities in social housing.

### **Building Canada's Energy Future**

Growing established markets and opening new ones for all Western energy exports will help strengthen our economies and create jobs across Canada. From liquefied natural gas to uranium to oil and hydroelectricity, enhancing energy infrastructure to get our products to markets in an environmentally sustainable manner and working collaboratively are priorities of Western Premiers. Enhanced market access is essential for ensuring that Western provinces and territories receive full value for their resources.

Premiers agreed that in order to continue to seize available opportunities, Canada must further diversify its energy export markets internationally while ensuring continued fair and open access to North American energy markets. Premiers also discussed domestic energy interests, including the movement of oil from west to east; the need to improve integration of electrical grids throughout the West and North; and the importance of reducing remote communities' reliance on diesel. Premiers emphasized Canada's responsibility to continue to transition to a lower-carbon economy.

### **Growing International Trade and Investment**

Canada is a trading nation and western provinces and territories make a significant contribution to the nation's economy through their international trade and investment activities.

Securing market access with the United States, Canada's largest trading partner, is vital. Premiers are concerned by the growing number of states considering Buy American procurement restrictions and calls for new fees at the Canada-US border. Amendments to US Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) regulations in May 2013 will worsen discrimination against Canadian livestock and do not bring the US into compliance with its international trade obligations. Premiers support the federal government's ongoing efforts to resolve the COOL issue, including retaliatory trade measures if necessary.

International initiatives such as the *Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement* (CETA), the Trans-Pacific Partnership and bilateral negotiations with India, Japan, and Korea are important free trade initiatives which must be concluded. Premiers appreciate the role provinces and territories have been able to play in CETA negotiations and look forward to their successful conclusion. Western provinces and territories encourage the federal government to extend this successful approach to other negotiations.

Premiers emphasized the important role foreign investment can play in supporting economic growth in the West and agree jurisdictions must cooperate to ensure access to foreign markets. Premiers agreed on the importance of regional coordination for economic development and strong cooperation between federal, provincial, and territorial governments in evaluating and making decisions on matters such as determining the net benefit of investment opportunities under the *Investment Canada Act*.

### **Protection from Bullying**

Premiers discussed bullying and cyber-bullying and its impact on Canadian youth. New technologies can accelerate or amplify bullying and our laws must reflect this reality. Provinces and territories are responsible for education and Premiers are leaders in promoting an inclusive and diverse society. They shared work underway on the prevention of bullying and cyber-bullying and support for healing among victims. Premiers noted that work continues to identify gaps in the *Criminal Code*. They commend the leadership of Western Justice Ministers and their

colleagues, as well as new efforts by the federal government, all of which would provide new deterrence and rehabilitation tools.

### **Disaster Management**

Premiers called on the federal government to take steps to put a Canada-wide Public Emergency Alert System into operation, building on the system pioneered in Alberta. To accomplish this, Premiers intend to work collaboratively with broadcasters as the support of broadcasters is required for implementation.

Premiers also called on the federal government to maintain its support levels to help provinces, territories and local governments deal with future natural disasters. Premiers look forward to the fulfillment of the federal government's 2011 commitment to establish a new, Canada-wide disaster mitigation initiative, separate from other national programs. Premiers caution, however, that they would not support a plan to finance the new program by scaling back federal disaster assistance levels. Premiers also noted that serious inadequacies in emergency management in Aboriginal communities remain and cooperation among governments is essential to improve services in these communities.

### **Improving Water Quality**

Premiers discussed the importance of coordination across jurisdictional boundaries to protect water quality. Premiers agreed to explore ways to improve the exchange of information and best practices to address water quality challenges across watersheds, such as the Manitoba-led Lake Friendly Accord.

### **2014 Western Premiers' Conference**

Premier Aariak confirmed that Nunavut will host next year's Western Premiers' Conference

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NEWS RELEASE

## Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training Released

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 20, 2013)** – A new made-in-the-NWT online training program supports Aboriginal cultural awareness for GNWT employees.

“Diversity in the public service is one of the GNWT’s great strengths,” said Glen Abernethy, Minister of Human Resources. “The training gives all of our employees more understanding of Aboriginal cultures and promotes a spirit of inclusion in the workplace. It was developed with Aboriginal governments throughout the NWT and reaffirms that Aboriginal values and partnerships are key for our government. In many ways, our staff are the public face of our government, and they carry out their work guided by a philosophy of respect, recognition and responsibility.”

“We are committed to improving working relationships within our government and in our communities through broadened cultural understanding,” said Bob McLeod, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations. “Our staff need to be aware of the ways Aboriginal values and traditions inspire our programs and services. New residents need information and context for the regions they now make home and the residents who are their new neighbours and clients.”

The training has four modules:

- Culture and Cultural Awareness;
- Aboriginal People of the Northwest Territories;
- History of the Northwest Territories from an Aboriginal Perspective; and
- Present and Future Issues for Aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories.

The modules include videos, photographs, artwork, stories, audio recordings and interactive activities designed to generate discussion. The comprehensive training material promotes an inclusive work environment through broadened cultural understanding.

The online videos can be downloaded from the [Department of Human Resources’ website](#). Facilitated training sessions for GNWT employees will begin this fall.

With this training initiative, the GNWT continues to build on the success of our organization that resulted in being named one of [Canada’s Best Diversity Employers](#) and as one of [Canada’s Top 100 Employers](#) for 2013. The new training helps to build a strong, sustainable future for our territory, a key priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

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NEWS RELEASE

## GNWT Officially Recognizes 414 Gwich'in Place Names

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 20, 2013)** – On June 21, 2013 the Government of the Northwest Territories will officially recognize 414 traditional Gwich'in geographical, or place, names reflecting their land use across the Gwich'in Settlement Area of the NWT.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, many traditional place names fell into disuse or were replaced by colonial names for rivers, lakes, mountains and settlements. Through the efforts of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute working closely with Gwich'in Elders between 1992 and 2012, these names have been restored to reflect the Gwich'in heritage and culture.

“We are very pleased to see these names recognized in our official records,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “Our efforts in language revitalization and preservation, providing opportunities for cultural projects and artisans across the North, and educating our youth on the importance of their heritage are all part of our identity as Northerners. The Gwich'in language is one of the most endangered Aboriginal languages in all of Canada, so every initiative promoting its use is of paramount importance.”

The NWT Cultural Places Program at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre is responsible for geographical names of features and places in the NWT. The Program coordinates official recognition for place name changes, placing special emphasis on the recognition of Aboriginal language place names as directed by the *NWT Geographical and Community Names Policy*.

The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute has also installed an exhibit at the Museum featuring the new place names and their cultural and historical significance, open to the public on June 22, 2013.

For more information, please visit [www.pwnhc.ca/gwichin](http://www.pwnhc.ca/gwichin) or the [NWT Place Name Gazetteer](#).

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## Gwich'in Place Names Q&A

### How are place names changed in the Northwest Territories?

Official geographical and community names are managed by the Government of the Northwest Territories in partnership with land claims organizations and the Geographical Names Board of Canada, of which the NWT is a member. Name change proposals should be submitted to the Cultural Places Program by email at [culturalplaces@gov.nt.ca](mailto:culturalplaces@gov.nt.ca), or by calling the Cultural Places Officer at 867-873-7368.

### What other significant name changes have been made?

Over the years, many community names have been changed, including Ulukhaktok (formerly Holman), Tsiigehtchic (formerly Arctic Red River), Délı̄ne (formerly Fort Franklin), Tulita (formerly Fort Norman), Behchokò (formerly Rae), Whatì (formerly Lac La Martre), Wekweèti (formerly Snare Lake), Gamèti (formerly Rae Lake), and Łutselk'e (formerly Snowdrift). For more information on official community names please see <http://www.pwnhc.ca/programs/downloads/OfficialCommunityNames.pdf>.

In 2006, 306 Inuinnaqtun and Inuvialuktun geographical names were changed in the Ulukhaktok area. For more information on this project, please see the NWT Place Name Gazetteer at: <http://www.pwnhc.ca/programs/downloads/gazetteer1.pdf>. Please visit this site again in the coming weeks as the gazetteer will be updated to include the new Gwich'in place names.

### How soon will we see these new names on maps?

Official place names of the Northwest Territories are the ones that you see on topographic maps. Part of the approval process requires that GNWT notify Natural Resources Canada, the federal department responsible for making NWT topographic maps, as to the name changes. The new place names will appear on topographic maps as each sheet comes up for renewal within the federal system, a process that may take many months. Over the coming months, NRCan will also update the national geographic names database available online at <http://www4.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geography-boundary/geographical-name/search/name.php>. Other online mapping services, such as Google Maps, Google Earth, MapQuest, and Bing Maps use the national database as a source of place name information so, eventually, the names will appear on these services, too.

### What do I need to submit when interested in changing a place name?

Please see this [short set of instructions](#) for further information.

### What if we want to change our community's name?

Please see this [short set of instructions](#) for further information.

To see a map of NWT community names please visit:

[http://www.pwnhc.ca/programs/downloads/community\\_names.pdf](http://www.pwnhc.ca/programs/downloads/community_names.pdf).



NEWS RELEASE

## New Federal Review Board to Efficiently Resolve Land-access Disputes

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 20, 2013)** – Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Michael Miltenberger welcomed news that the federal *NWT Surface Rights Board Act* received royal assent on Tuesday.

“This legislation fulfills a commitment in the Tlicho, Gwich’in and Sahtu land claims,” said Minister Miltenberger. “It creates a board of NWT residents who will resolve disputes between land owners and those who want access. Almost all of our land matters can be dealt with through existing processes. But in the rare cases where there are disputes between surface and subsurface rightsholders, this board will avoid costly, lengthy court cases. This is an important step in completing the regulatory system in the NWT and new territorial legislation will maintain the board’s role after devolution.”

The new board provides consistency and a fair process for all NWT landowners and occupants, such as leaseholders on Crown lands. It will replace the temporary arbitration systems that were set up under the Tlicho, Sahtu and Gwich’in land claim agreements for settlement lands. Both Nunavut and Yukon have had similar surface rights legislation for several years. Only one dispute has been heard.

The regional arbitration panels throughout the NWT will maintain their current responsibilities under the land claim agreements, but will no longer be required to deal with surface and subsurface access disputes. The new board will serve all NWT residents, whether they live on private, settlement, or leased public lands.

During consultations on the bill, the GNWT [presented](#) to the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources. A map showing major surface and subsurface rightsholders in the NWT is available [here](#).

[Federal backgrounder: NWT Surface Rights Board Act](#)  
[Federal FAQ: NWT Surface Rights Board Act](#)

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## THE STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

## EVIDENCE

OTTAWA, Tuesday, April 30, 2013

The Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources, to which was referred Bill C-47, An Act to to enact the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act and the Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other acts, met this day at 5 p.m. to give consideration to the bill.

**Senator Richard Neufeld** (*Chair*) in the chair.

[*English*]

**The Chair:** Welcome to this meeting of the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources. My name is Richard Neufeld; I represent the province of British Columbia in the Senate and I am chair of this committee.

I would like to welcome honourable senators, any members of the public with us in the room, and viewers all across the country who are watching on television.

I would now ask senators around the table to introduce themselves, and I will begin with my deputy chair to my right, Grant Mitchell from Alberta.

**Senator MacDonald:** Michael MacDonald, Nova Scotia.

**Senator Unger:** Betty Unger, Alberta.

**Senator Seidman:** Judith Seidman, Montreal, Quebec.

**Senator Wallace:** John Wallace, New Brunswick.

**Senator Patterson:** Dennis Patterson, senator for Nunavut, and I would like to welcome our guests from Nunavut.

**Senator Massicotte:** Paul Massicotte, from Quebec.

**Senator Lang:** Dan Lang, Yukon.

**Senator Sibbeston:** Nick Sibbeston, Northwest Territories, and I would like to welcome Peter Vician in Yellowknife.

**Senator Ringuette:** Pierrette Ringuette, New Brunswick.

**The Chair:** I would like to introduce our staff, beginning with the clerk, Lynn Gordon, and our two Library of Parliament analysts, Sam Banks and Marc LeBlanc.

Bill C-47, An Act to enact the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act and the Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts, was referred to our committee on April 16 of this year.

Honourable senators, last Tuesday you will recall we had the officials from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada who gave us an overview of the legislation. Today, in the first portion of our meeting, it is my pleasure to welcome from the Government of Nunavut, the Honourable Peter Taptuna, MLA, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Robert Long, Deputy Minister, Department of Economic Development and Transportation; and William Mackay, Director, Intergovernmental Relations. By video conference from Yellowknife, from the Government of the Northwest Territories, we have Peter Vician, Deputy Minister, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

Gentlemen, thank you for being with us today and taking time from your busy schedules. We will proceed by inviting each group to present short opening remarks, and then we will have questions and answers.

Mr. Minister and officials, I invite you to make your presentation, sir.

**Hon. Peter Taptuna, MLA, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Government of Nunavut:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. My name is Peter Taptuna, and I am the deputy premier, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and Minister responsible for Mines for the Government of Nunavut.

On behalf of Premier Aariak, I would like to thank the committee for the invitation extended to the premier to appear before you. Premier Aariak sends her regrets, and I am appearing on her behalf.

I am here to speak in support of Part 1 of Bill C-47, the Nunavut planning and project assessment act.

As Premier Aariak has noted, this bill marks an important milestone in creating an effective regulatory regime for the coordinated management of resource development between Inuit and the Government of Nunavut. This bill fulfills a major commitment that Canada made under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. In 1993, Inuit in Nunavut and Canada signed the largest land claims agreement in the country. The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires that new federal legislation be created to set forth the powers and functions of the resource management boards created under this agreement, in this case, the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Nunavut Planning Commission.

These two boards play an essential role in land and resource management in Nunavut. They are composed of members appointed or nominated by Inuit as well as the territorial and federal governments. They have been in operation since 1996 under the authority and powers granted to them under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act.

Between 2002 and late 2009, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. worked together to complete federal legislation that would set out a clear role for the boards created under this agreement.

The Nunavut Planning Commission and Nunavut Impact Review Board also participated in that work.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work that officials from the Government of Nunavut, the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the two boards have put into the development of this bill.

The working group was guided by Nunavut Land Claims Agreement as well as the experience of drafting similar legislation in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. The working group also benefited from the work the boards, Inuit and government have been doing since 1996.

Mr. Chair, the Government of Nunavut believes that this bill will make a number of improvements to the regulatory regime in Nunavut. The Nunavut sections of this bill will make the work of the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Nunavut Planning Commission stronger by backing it up with solid federal legislation. This will be accomplished by creating a clear regulatory process with predictable timelines and integrating the process of approving project proposals by the Nunavut Planning Commission and Nunavut Impact Review Board.

This bill establishes a one-window approach for project proponents. This one-window approach will be accomplished by setting the Nunavut Planning Commission as the entry point for all project approvals. Stakeholder involvement will also be improved by establishing a three-party land use plan approval process by Inuit, Canada and the Government of Nunavut.

A clarified role of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency in Nunavut will be accomplished by eliminating the overlapping jurisdiction that causes confusion and delay elsewhere in Canada. The bill will make clear which projects are subject to assessment. It will set out a schedule. All government authorizations must comply with the requirements of the bill before being finalized.

It enforces land use plans and project certifications on Inuit-owned lands, Crown lands and commissioner's lands. It includes specific direction to regulators to include in their permits the applicable terms and conditions of land use plans and project assessment certificates. Offence provisions are set out in the bill in relation to land use plans and project certificates.

Unilingual Inuktitut-speaking Nunavummiut will benefit as this bill requires public hearings to be conducted in Inuktitut if requested by a member, proponent or intervener.

Specific timelines are established in the bill for regulator and minister decisions. This will bring certainty and predictability to Nunavummiut, industry and other stakeholders. As the committee can see, this is an important piece of legislation for the North and will contribute to the economic development of Nunavut.

As members of this committee may know, the Government of Nunavut is currently engaged in devolution discussions to transfer jurisdiction over lands and resources from the federal government to the Government of Nunavut. A devolution agreement has been concluded with the Yukon, and an agreement in principle has been reached with the Northwest Territories. An effective regulatory system, which Bill C-47 will create, is a key component of devolution.

The Nunavut planning and project assessment act will assist in creating a transparent and effective regulatory system in Nunavut. It will allow the Government of Nunavut to take on the management of lands and resources in a seamless way without disrupting resource development in Nunavut.

This legislation is an important achievement by the federal and territorial governments and Inuit to strengthen Nunavut's institutions and enable Nunavummiut to advance along the path towards greater self-reliance.

Mr. Chair, those are all I have in terms of opening remarks. I thank the committee members for their time.

**The Chair:** Thank you very much, minister. We will now go to Peter Vician, Deputy Minister, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

**Peter Vician, Deputy Minister, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Government of the Northwest Territories:** Thank you, senator; it is a pleasure to appear before this committee again. Senator Sibbeston, it is good to see you again. Of course, it is always good to see our NWT senator working hard in Ottawa, as well as Senator Patterson and Senator Lang. It is good to see Canada's North well represented in this discussion. I extend greetings from Minister David Ramsay, who is unable to join us today, but I am conveying the remarks on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Senators, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Government of the Northwest Territories on Bill C-47, the Northern Jobs and Growth Bill, more specifically Part 2, the proposed Northwest Territories surface rights board act. We are pleased to see this has advanced to this stage through the House of Commons and to the Senate committee. The GNWT shares the Government of Canada's objective of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Northwest Territories regulatory system. We know how important it is to have a regulatory system that ensures development is sustainable and protects the environment, while still supporting economic development by providing certainty to industry.

The GNWT listed the need for this legislation in its approach to regulatory improvement in the NWT in 2009, as did the Government of Canada as part of its action plan for improving the northern regulatory regime.

Not only is this a fulfillment of our land claim agreement obligation, but the development sector sees this as a means to facilitate better relationships with other land users. As a signatory to the comprehensive land claims agreements in the Northwest Territories, the GNWT also wants to ensure the legislation honours the agreements, and we are confident that this has been achieved.

The GNWT was consulted throughout the development of the legislation and supports the bill before you today. We think it is a step forward for sustainable development in the Northwest Territories.

While a focus has been placed on surface settlement lands, or the lands owned by Aboriginal groups throughout the comprehensive land claims agreements, the dispute resolution process is also available for other land owners and occupants such as lease holders on Crown lands. The dispute resolution processes for land access and compensation already exist in some form with varying degrees of clarity. An interim arbitration mechanism was clearly set out in the land claims agreements for settlement lands until such time that legislation could be enacted. Surface rights holders for other private or occupied lands are addressed often in obscure ways in different federal regulations, and it often requires civil litigation.

What is new is that there is a single board to hear disputes as a last resort and, more important, there are procedures that offer certainty and consistency for industry and landowners and occupants alike.

The GNWT has a further or invested interest in the surface rights legislation. We have completed negotiations of a consensus draft final agreement with the Government of Canada for the transfer of lands and resources in the Northwest Territories and anticipate a transfer date of April 1, 2014, following

signing of the final agreement. Under the consensus draft, the authorities for the proposed NWT surface rights board act will transfer to the GNWT. The GNWT has committed to initially mirroring federal legislation to ensure a smooth transition. Therefore, the bill before you must meet our needs and interests. We are of the opinion that this has been accomplished.

We support the federal government's efforts in the development of the legislation and look forward to the support of this committee and the enactment of the legislation so that our regulatory system can be more effective and efficient and foster sustainable economic development for the benefit of all residents.

**The Chair:** Thank you very much, Mr. Vician. We are fortunate on this committee to have two previous premiers in our midst as senators, so I will start the questioning first with the proponent of the bill, Senator Patterson. It is your turn first.

**Senator Patterson:** I am very pleased to welcome Mr. Taptuna, with whom I have worked closely since his appointment, and pleased that we are reviewing this bill, which I consider enshrining in legislation a made-in-the-North process. I would like to turn to Nunavut and ask the minister if he could speak a bit for the committee about the economic opportunities that currently exist in Nunavut in the natural resource sector, please.

**Mr. Taptuna:** Nunavut is a young territory. Without the natural resources mineral exploration that is happening there, it would be very tough to have a strong economic output for the territory. However, with the strong mineral activity happening there, the mineral exploration, there are a mine and a couple of properties that are well advanced in development. That brings up the employment opportunities, of course, with the one mine that we have in Kivalliq Region, an upcoming one in the Baffin region and a couple of other well-advanced developments happening in the Kitikmeot Region. Without economic activity like that, it is difficult to move the territory forward. The need for infrastructure is very high, but with the territory attracting major players, major companies into the territory, and with major investments happening, we do see a brighter economic future for the territory.

**Senator Patterson:** Mr. Minister, I know that you attend mining conferences like the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada and the Cordilleran Roundup, as I do. I think you would agree that investment capital is nervous in the world right now and hard to come by, especially for junior companies. Could you talk a bit about why you think Nunavut is attractive to investors and particularly how this bill might contribute to making the jurisdiction continue to be attractive for investors?

**Mr. Taptuna:** Absolutely, I do attend these roundups or conferences when it comes to mineral exploration and mining.

With this bill we see it having an easier flow for an entry point for proponents out there. You have to remember there are a lot of smaller companies out there, too, trying to get in on the action. Nunavut has one of the richest geologies in the world. You name it, we have it: base metals, precious metals, gold. That has attracted a lot of investors. However, when it comes to mining investment, it is like anything else — nervous at times. With this bill, it will create more certainty.

As you know, we are in competition with other countries for the investment dollars out there, and we are hoping this bill will create more certainty for investors out there to come to Nunavut and to Canada.

**Senator Sibbeston:** I was going to start by telling Mr. Taptuna that in the 1980s I was the minister of economic development for the Northwest Territories, and at that time Nunavut was part of the Northwest Territories. At the time most of the development, the mines, oil and gas was really in the west. I used to travel into the Baffin area, the eastern Arctic. I was always impressed with the people and the lands, but there was very little development at the time. I think there was one mine up in the North.

Since Nunavut was created, there has been a lot more development. Has the creation of Nunavut made a difference in terms of the government and the people promoting and encouraging development? Has that come about in the last few years?

Would you comment on that?

**Mr. Taptuna:** Absolutely. With the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, there is more certainty in the regulatory regimes, which most proponents and companies see as an easier approach to get into compared to some of the jurisdictions in Canada. The settling of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement created that. The Nunavut territory has attracted many major mining companies to the North. In the past, the handful of junior companies there did not really spend a lot of money. With the land claims agreement settled, it has created a lot of certainty on the regulatory side; and Bill C-47 has created even more certainty. During the Northwest Territories days, proponents had to deal with many groups; but the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement has attracted big major companies to the North.

**Senator Sibbeston:** Mr. Vician, we have been advised of the extent of consultation that has gone on in the North. Indian Affairs officials have told us that there has been extensive consultation with land claim groups and with the Northwest Territories government. Could you comment on that aspect because consultation is so important? How significant is this bill for the future of the North in terms of economic development?

**Mr. Vician:** Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada undertook the consultation, as is their responsibility. Its officials are best to respond to that. I note that they spoke earlier to that before the committee. We noted in AANDC's presentation before this committee that about 35 meetings or discussions took place over the course of the drafting of the bill. They met with many groups separately. Although the officials did not share all of the details with the Government of the Northwest Territories, which would not have been appropriate in the context of federal responsibility, we believe that they satisfied the requirement. They had extensive consultations with the Government of the Northwest Territories, which in its own right is responsible for Commissioner's Lands in the Northwest Territories and would have been impacted also by this bill.

In terms of the proposed legislation, we believe that once enacted, it will improve certainty, predictability and timeliness. It is a necessary and outstanding piece arising out of the claims that have been negotiated and settled to this time. Overall, it will improve the certainty of having legislation in place that deals specifically in this case with the dispute resolution mechanism applying to access to land. In the absence of it, we believe, a situation would be created whereby the GNWT post-devolution would have to deal with this matter in any course. It is important that we resolve these matters as much as possible prior to the devolution date.

**Senator Sibbeston:** We have been informed that in terms of the whole area of dispute in the North with respect to the use of lands — surface rights — the existing land claims with the Gwich'in, Sahtu and Tlicho have dispute resolutions. Fortunately, parties have not had to revert to those provisions as there has not been any dispute. This bill deals with disputes, but the reality is that there have not been any disputes. Despite this, do you feel that it is significant for the future and that someday it may be of some use to the parties in the North?

**Mr. Vician:** In short terms, yes, it is very important. The requirement for surface rights legislation is built in as an expectation of some of the claim agreements. In addition, there is the issue of Crown lands that still exist across the territory. This is important in the terms that it encourages the parties — the landowners, those who have rights on lands, developers and others — to come to terms quickly and reasonably with regard to access arrangements.

In the absence of that, it provides a mechanism that will empower a board to oversee any of those disputes and ensure that that board is constituted by people who know the issues of the North. Elements of traditional knowledge and understanding of the land are principles that the board must be constituted with. We believe that this is an important piece of the puzzle, one that will encourage parties to land rights to resolve issues in advance. And in the absence of that they will understand the process that is available to them if they cannot resolve that.

I share your view, and we have our research that confirms that we have had very limited need for a dispute resolution system. This step in proposed legislation ensures clarity and that industry and others will be clear about what would happen in the event that such an issue arises.

**Senator Mitchell:** This is very interesting testimony for us to hear. This is peripheral, perhaps, minister, but this agreement is one step towards devolution. We are all quite interested in that process, but maybe not quite as interested as you are. Could you give us an idea of where you are in the process of complete devolution and whether you have any idea of the timeline, or is it just too unpredictable?

**Mr. Taptuna:** If I may, I will have my deputy minister respond to that question.

**Robert Long, Deputy Minister, Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Government of Nunavut:** At this time, we are at the earliest stages. The Government of Canada has appointed a negotiator and we have a negotiator. Their initial report has gone to AANDC for the minister's decision to proceed with devolution, and we are looking forward to that happening.

**Senator Mitchell:** Does this bill add new things to the responsibilities of your government, or does it just capture all that you have been doing? If it adds, what kind of budget does it involve and where do you get that money?

**Mr. Taptuna:** Deputy Minister Long will respond to that question.

**Mr. Long:** If you are referring to the bill and our negotiations with mining companies, it clarifies and simplifies. We are using a very similar process to this now — one project, one review: The Nunavut Impact Review Board holds a hearing; the federal government is an intervenor and the Government of Nunavut is an intervenor; the land claim organizations have their say; and there is also room for communities and individuals to talk as well. This simply clarifies some of the roles and most specifically and importantly clearly sets out the time frame so this cannot drag out indefinitely. There are very tight time frames for the NIRB organization to make its recommendations. As well, the minister has a limited period of time to respond. Again, this is from the perspective of the mining company putting forward a proposal. This bill speeds things up and makes it very clear to them how much time it will take. I think that is one of the most important new elements within the bill: the tight time frame.

**Senator Mitchell:** Mr. Minister, on page 5 of my electronic copy and page 4 of the paper copy of your presentation, you mention that offence provisions are set out in the bill in relation to land use plans and project certificates. I understand that offence provisions for land use plans are quite unique in the rest of Canada. Can you give us some idea of why you set out offences and whether there are penalties associated with them?

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you, senator. As the committee is well aware, at times there are overlapping jurisdictions within federal departments, including the Government of Nunavut. For example, there are the Department of the Environment and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

An approval of a project certification sets out very clearly the offences and whose authority some of these offences fall under. It clarifies that and makes it very workable.

**The Chair:** I will go to the other senator from the territories, from the Yukon, Senator Lang.

**Senator Lang:** Thank you. One of the witnesses just referred to the essence of the legislation before us, which will be basically one project and one review. It is interesting to note, if I could for the record here, that this debate took place here two years ago, almost three years ago, in respect to going towards that for the rest of Canada — one project, one review — with a lot of criticism. Yet, at the same time, if you look at the territories, it is a very positive and efficient approach to meeting our environmental responsibilities and creating certainty.

My question is to the witness from the Northwest Territories. Looking ahead in respect to the question of environmental reviews in the future for the Northwest Territories, my understanding is that you do not have similar legislation to this in place. Is it the intention of the Government of the Northwest Territories, as it moves towards devolution, to put a similar type of system in place in order to put a review in place that will meet the demands of the mining industry, as there has been a lot of criticism in the past?

**Mr. Vician:** Thank you for the question, senator. The process at this point is primarily focused on the devolution agreement, which, as I indicated, we intend to see completed with the effective date being April 1, 2014. As part of the agreement with Canada, the approach to that process is to mirror the existing legislation so that the GNWT's legislature would have enabled legislation to deal with issues like surface rights, like the Territorial Lands Act. However, in terms of the matter that you raise regarding reviewing major projects, in the Northwest Territories, the primary legislation that applies is the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, and that sets out the process that both major and small projects will be reviewed with, and that has been in place for nearly a decade now and will continue in various forms as we work through the devolution process.

At this point, the MVRMA will potentially see some additional changes prior to devolution, but in essence, after devolution, the GNWT will have a responsibility as well as the federal government will have a responsibility as part of the MVRMA. We hope as we continue to move forward that we improve this regulatory system, and many suggestions and recommendations have been made in that area. The federal government has led that challenge, but we feel quite confident that we are improving that system day by day.

More currently, we have a number of major projects in the hopper today, such as the Gahcho Kue Diamond Mine for the Northwest Territories, and that proceeds through a good, normal process. We feel quite confident. The MVRMA process is working, and we expect to hear from the panel, from the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, in the coming months with regard to their report. Again, improvements have been made. We continue to work in that direction.

**Senator Seidman:** Minister, my question concerns the environmental protection and participation piece of NuPPAA. It is clear that the bill is concerned with the environment. In fact, one of the biggest aspects this bill provides is a kind of stewardship over the environment. There is a screening process to determine the possible eco-systemic impact of a proposed project and a monitoring program for eco-systemic impacts set up through this bill. What criteria are used to evaluate whether a project will have a significant eco-systemic impact during the project screening process?

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you for that question. As the senator is well aware, we do have our land claims agreement within Nunavut, and the criteria is through the Nunavut Impact Review Board. Once the screening is completed to the satisfaction of all stakeholders involved, including the territorial government, the federal government and communities, once that is agreed upon, the next phase will begin for the regulatory processes. Anyone would have the opportunity, including the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, to put their criteria into a screening process. Once that is completed to the satisfaction of all stakeholders, the next phase kicks in for this regulatory process. Mr. Long could elaborate a little more on the process of that.

**Mr. Long:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Perhaps I can explain by example. Recently the Mary River project, the Baffin Island iron ore project, went through the NIRB process. All parties put forward their level of support and expressed their concerns ranging from environmental to animals to archeological to cultural. All of that was included in the discussion. When NIRB made its recommendation to the minister, it included 82 specific recommendations regarding these various concerns, so the approval went forward with recommendations that covered the whole spectrum of environmental concerns.

We would expect that to be the normal process that would be followed in the future. Everyone who has a concern can get it on the table for discussion, and the NIRB filters that down into the ones that it considers to be significant and makes recommendations. In the case of this particular project, I believe the minister accepted all but two as the project certificate was issued. It is very effective and very clear.

**Senator Unger:** Thank you, gentlemen, for your presentation. Mr. Minister, my question concerns transboundary projects. Who may request a review of a proposed project and on what basis? Who would determine significant adverse effects on a project?

**Mr. Taptuna:** Thank you very much for that question. For a project in Nunavut, there are always transboundary issues, especially with base metals. As you know, base metals have to be shipped across the ocean to be smelted. There are always transboundary issues related to that type of activity. Once NIRB screens that and puts it through its regulatory process, the final decision is made here by the Minister of AANDC. Once that decision comes down, the concerns and recommendations are taken back to NIRB and they look at it again. Once a decision has been made, it is usually one of the things that Canada and other interested stakeholders will have to partake in coming up with how the transboundary issues will be dealt with. If they are international, of course, that is usually the federal government's responsibility to look at.

**The Chair:** That ends our questions, unless there is anyone who wants to go for a second round. Seeing none, I would like to thank you very much, minister, for coming with your people to help us through this process. Thank you also very much, Mr. Vician from Yellowknife, for joining us tonight. We appreciate it very much.

We are continuing now with the second half of this meeting of the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources. We are continuing our study of Bill C-47, the Northern Jobs and Growth Bill.

It is my pleasure to welcome our second panel this evening. Gentlemen, thank you for being here and for taking the time out of your busy schedules to appear before our committee. I would like to introduce, from the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Bob Bleaney, Vice President, External Relations; and Alex Ferguson, Vice-President, Policy and Environment. From the Mining Association of Canada, we have Pierre Gratton, President and Chief Executive Officer; and Rick Meyers, Vice-President, Technical and Northern Affairs.

Gentlemen, I do not know who wants to present first; I do not think it makes much difference. If you have talked it over, we will go with Mr. Bleaney first. Following the second presentation, we will have some questions.

**Bob Bleaney, Vice President, External Relations, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers:** Good evening, Mr. Chair and members of the committee. The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, or CAPP, represents Canada's upstream oil and gas sector. Our members find and develop over 90 per cent of Canada's petroleum resources, all across the country. Together, they invest over \$50 billion annually and employ more than half a million Canadians.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute CAPP's perspectives regarding Bill C-47. While we believe there are areas where greater clarity in the legislation's wording would be beneficial, we are supportive of the intent and the spirit of this legislation and believe it is another positive step in regulatory reform that will aid northern development.

Broad-based regulatory reform is fundamental to attracting and enabling investment that creates jobs, economic growth and prosperity for all Canadians and will cascade benefits throughout the country in the form of more jobs and strengthening of the economy, while ensuring a continued high standard of environmental performance.

Regulatory bottlenecks in the past have often led to project delays or outright cancellations due to missed market opportunities. With the resulting missed jobs and economic and social benefits that flow from these projects, Canadians are directly impacted.

Of the legislation contained in Bill C-47, CAPP member companies would be most affected by changes proposed for the proposed Northwest Territories surface rights board act, or the proposed NWTSRBA.

In its submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, CAPP expressed some concerns with respect to the NWTSRBA, particularly in areas of clarity, certainty and flexibility as summarized in the following.

First, with respect to access orders, our reading of the draft legislation and our consultations with department officials of AANDC have flagged questions as to what conditions and for what types of activities the jurisdiction of the board could likely be invoked for industry operations.

More specifically, it is unclear to us whether access orders under the NWTSRBA could be used to enable a number of ancillary activities critical to the commercialization of discoveries, such as an all-season road, or provide for supporting infrastructure, such as a gas processing plant.

Second, several provisions in the NWTSRBA require the board to consider the impacts of access, that is, ensuring the access route is least harmful, as per proposed section 51(2), and will not significant interference with the use of lands as per proposed section 50(2)(b) and develop terms and conditions for the applied-for access to minimize those impacts.

CAPP is concerned that such assessments may, in some circumstances, overlap with assessments of other regulators, such as the National Energy Board, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board or other regulatory authorities. There could also be instances and confusion between the terms and conditions set down by the board and those set down by other regulators. In CAPP's view, the role of the board should be primarily related to determining compensation for surface access to ensure minimal overlap or conflict with the review processes of other regulators. It would be important to ensure close alignment with other regulators in potential areas of overlap through the future design of the relevant regulations.

Third, proposed section 90 requires that all access orders be reviewed in their entirety every five years. While CAPP accepts the potential need for periodic reviews of the compensation payable under access orders, clause 90 suggests that the board is required to reconsider all of the terms and conditions of access, which could create considerable long-term uncertainty for the holder of any access order. In CAPP's view, the use of the review provision should be limited to only those situations where there have been material changes to the original facts or original circumstances for a given access order.

In regard to consistency across jurisdictions, CAPP understands that AANDC has looked to Yukon and Nunavut for models of how surface rights legislation can be implemented in areas of settled land claims. We suggest this review should be expanded to the provinces, including Alberta, B.C. and Saskatchewan. These provinces have had extensive experience with commercial oil and gas operations and surface rights access and have addressed a number of the issues raised in our analysis of the legislation. A review of these pieces of legislation and related regulations to look at definitions and questions of jurisdiction may provide some learning and increase consistency for operators in multiple territories and provinces.

At this point, I will invite my colleague, Alex Ferguson, to address the rest of our presentation.

**Alex Ferguson, Vice-President, Policy and Environment, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers:** As my colleague mentioned, our concerns regarding the proposed surface rights board act part of the bill before you pertain primarily to the clarity of how certain provisions will be applied, but we believe strongly these issues can be addressed through the implementation phase.

With respect to the sector we represent in the North, the key near-term opportunities for onshore oil and gas development relate to what we call "unconventional" petroleum resource development. In other, similar jurisdictions, effectively designed surface rights regimes have proven to be significant contributors to certainty and clarity around access to unconventional resources. This is a key to the commercialization of that resource. CAPP broadly supports Bill C-47 as it provides additional certainty about regulatory processes and time-limited decision making for northern energy projects while

ensuring continued environmental performance and, very important, fair treatment of rights holders to the lands. These are fundamental to investment, which creates jobs, economic growth, the tax base and revenues for social spending.

Canada's North has resource potential for oil and gas but is competing with other regions in Canada for investment capital. Industry invested approximately \$600 million in the North over the past three years and is committed to spending a further \$650 million based on land acquisitions alone. The North is a key area of interest to industry, an area of vast potential to Canada, but not without challenges.

Developing the North's petroleum resources faces several barriers, which make regulatory efficiency that much more crucial. Being a frontier area, naturally, there is a lack of infrastructure, which is likely the most limiting factor for development in this region, whether it be workforce, service sector, community infrastructure, such as housing and recreation, or physical infrastructure, roads, pipelines and facilities for our business.

Second is the importance of sound operational regulation through the exploration to reclamation life cycle. In a frontier area, it is important that the regulatory model appreciate the difference between early exploration, which is where we are now, and development. At this phase it is important to encourage and support exploration activity to assess appropriately the future resource development opportunities. Efficient and effective regulation is key to increasing exploration activity.

The North is not alone in its challenges. Whether in producing jurisdictions such as British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, potential development areas such as Quebec and New Brunswick, or in northern frontier areas, common challenges facing Canadian oil and gas development exist. These challenges would include access to domestic, North American and other international markets; competitiveness in the areas of fiscal and regulatory policies; workforce; access to investment capital; and, of course, the social licence with respect to public confidence and trust.

The devolution policy for the Northwest Territories, set to go into effect April 1, 2014, in conjunction with the new legislative changes is a potential opportunity for the region to achieve its vision for oil and gas development. This vision should drive the development of regulatory policy.

We believe Bill C-47, a key part of the action plan on northern regulatory improvement, is a step in the right direction. We want to thank you for this opportunity to present to you today, and we look forward to any questions.

**The Chair:** Thank you. Now we will go to Mr. Gratton, please.

**Pierre Gratton, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mining Association of Canada:** Thank you for the opportunity to present today. I will introduce the topic and ask my colleague, Mr. Meyers, to speak to some of our specific recommendations.

First of all, in terms of whom we represent, the Mining Association of Canada represents Canada's producing mining industry as opposed to the exploration arm of the business. We have many companies operating across the country, producing a wide range of commodities, from coast to coast to coast.

In our presentation today, we will focus almost exclusively on the part of the bill that relates to Nunavut, the NuPPAA legislation, which is our primary interest. One of our members, Agnico Eagle, currently operates the only operating mine in Nunavut, Meadowbank, which hosted the Prime Minister a couple of years ago, and Agnico also has another project in advanced exploration and development, possibly Nunavut's next gold mine.

I want to mention also that the Mining Association of Canada has a stewardship program called "Toward Sustainable Mining" that is a condition of membership. Members have to report against some pretty strict performance criteria every year, and every three years those self-assessments undergo third-party evaluation. Agnico, as a member of MAC, is fully committed to this program and to implementing it in Nunavut.

Nunavut, as you know, is a highly prospective jurisdiction, although it is one that is also very sparsely populated, with limited infrastructure, which makes it a fairly expensive jurisdiction to explore and develop in. Also, this bill, once passed, will complete the regulatory framework in Nunavut, which has been a long time coming. We want to express our delight, really, that it has finally made it this far to the Senate and that soon we will have a completed regulatory framework that will provide industry with the certainty it needs to move projects forward.

I want to emphasize that in the development of this legislation the Mining Association of Canada was consulted extensively by the government to an extent, frankly, that is I think, as far as northern legislation is concerned, quite unprecedented, and we want to acknowledge that. That is not to say that there are not some parts of the bill where we would have liked to see some changes or some things that we felt could have been improved further, but overall we feel that it is a good piece of legislation, and we certainly cannot complain about the extent to which our views were taken into account and considered.

With those opening remarks, I will now turn it over to Mr. Meyers to speak more specifically to the legislation.

**Rick Meyers, Vice-President, Technical and Northern Affairs, Mining Association of Canada:** If you are following along in the deck, if you turn about seven pages forward to where you see a picture of diamonds, this is where I will start.

As I am sure you are all aware, mining in the North has brought major contributions and new economic development. Since about 1998 there have been some 35,000 new person-years of employment and about \$12 billion in capital and operating expenditures, which has included major expenditures in northern business development including about \$4 billion in Aboriginal business development.

The industry has contributed to northern infrastructure. Over time there have been roads, rail, hydro development, shipping and ice roads. Of course, there is an annual ice road to the diamond mines. There has been support for health care, education, sports facilities and other community development. In terms of workforce development, there have been apprenticeship programs, supervisory training and community-based project training, as well as extensive programming and other Aboriginal skills training and education.

As you are probably aware, in January the Conference Board of Canada put out a report that indicated that Canada's overall northern mineral development is expected to grow by some 91 per cent by the end of this decade. For Nunavut, the opportunity is the fact that it is the least explored region in Canada. It has very high mineral potential; it has six major projects currently in environmental assessment and permitting, and there are several new projects coming forward within the next five years or so. We could see new projects commissioned well in advance of 2020.

If you go to the next page where there is a map of the North, there are 14 projects shown here. There are six in blue that are currently under environmental assessment and permitting. We expect to see a few of those come into production in the next five years or so.

Regarding the investment climate, there is lots of opportunity. New development attracts new investment, so an enabling regulatory framework is important. However, investment cannot be taken for granted. Capital is mobile; competition is global. Investment decisions are made on fairness and predictability of process, so confidence in the regulatory review capacity is of the utmost importance. Affirming Nunavut's investment climate is critical for both future development and the territory's economic and social well-being.

With bill C-47, the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Bill, there has been an inclusive consultation process, as Mr. Gratton mentioned. The bill defines Nunavut's land use planning and regulatory framework, and it recognizes the importance of responsible economic development for the well-being and self-reliance of the Inuit of Nunavut. It ensures predictable and robust environmental review, and the land use plans that will eventually come out of it will confirm what land is available for development. The bill promotes sustainable development. In that context, it is predicated on compliance and

performance, and it demonstrates capacity of process. Above all, it will encourage new investment and enhance Nunavut's economic opportunities going forward.

However, there are issues and a few things where we see there are opportunities for improvement in the bill. With respect to timelines, over the course of the consultation and work programs that we had with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, we were pleased to see that the timelines came down to less than 24 months. There are options within the bill to extend the timelines, but they do not specify a limit to that extension. We think that should be more clearly defined. Additionally, the federal government's 2012 Bill C-38, the budget bill, established a timeline for comprehensive studies elsewhere in the country at 12 months. Although we recognize that the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement imposes certain obligations, we have difficulty believing it should take twice as long in the North as it does elsewhere in the country.

With respect to classes of work and activities that could be exempt from screening, some jurisdictions do not require screening or environmental assessment of certain low-impact type activities. Schedule 3 is intended to confirm those classes of projects that are not required to undergo screening and environmental assessment, but the schedule has not been completed yet. We think it should be completed before the bill comes into force.

With respect to minor variances, allowing minor variances is a flexible approach for solutions where absolute compliance is not practicable or the variance would create no significant impact as a result. However, to allow a variance, there is an extensive public review program outlined in the bill that we do not believe is necessary. It is elaborate, and we suggest that the Nunavut Planning Commission should have the authority at its own discretion to allow minor variances but at the same time require them to publish their reasons for decision in the public registry.

Finally, with respect to offences under land use plans, we do not really believe that creating quasi-criminal offences under a land use plan is the way to go. It is unusual and unnecessary. Such offences are normally regulated under various permitting and licensing conditions, so we recommend that they do not be included in this bill.

Finally, if you look to the future for mining in Canada and particularly in the North, there are obviously strong opportunities that I have spoken of. There is the global mineral demand, and it is driven by emerging markets around the world. Mining is central to northern development and northern economic development, and we believe that Bill C-47 will bring the long-awaited certainty for mineral development that is so badly needed. Thank you very much.

**The Chair:** Thank you very much, gentlemen, for those presentations. We will now begin our questioning. Again I will start with Senator Patterson, who is carrying the bill in the Senate.

**Senator Patterson:** I do appreciate that courtesy very much.

I would like to ask some specific questions of CAPP and of the Mining Association of Canada. That has to do with the presentation of the witness about some concerns about the bill. I am referring to CAPP. You talked in your presentation about the need for perhaps more clarity so as to avoid overlap.

My understanding is that there is an expectation, just as industry was consulted on the development of the bill, that as and when regulations are required to implement the bill, you will have an opportunity for input. I think you said in your closing remarks that it will be important to ensure close alignment with other regulators in potential areas of overlap through the future design of the relevant regulations. Do I understand that you are recommending, and I am addressing this to CAPP, that these concerns could be clarified and addressed if you have the opportunity to be involved in the development of regulations?

**Mr. Bleaney:** Yes, indeed, that is our observation. We recognize that in the crafting of the bill there were some things we thought could be further clarified. We think there is time to do that and an opportunity through the discussions that we know will unfold going forward as to getting further definition in the regulation and the like. There should be opportunity to help with that clarification, and that is what we are saying. We are supporting the bill in its form but observing that we would like that opportunity to have more discussion as it moves through its process to put that into effect.

**Senator Patterson:** I have a similar question to the Mining Association of Canada. I was pleased that you said you were delighted with the extent of consultation on the bill. Could you describe the extent of that consultation and perhaps the significant effort that the Mining Association of Canada put into developing this bill? I believe you had your own legal experts in the mining sector. Could you give the committee an idea of what your development was and over what period of time? It is quite impressive.

**Mr. Gratton:** Much of this took place before I rejoined the Mining Association of Canada. Mr. Meyers was involved in the consultations that took place. There were three comprehensive workshops to which we were invited and able to participate. It was not a case of here is a paper, send in your comments. There were actually some extensive workshops with other parties where we were able to go through elements of the bill. The process allowed for a few rounds of comprehensive submissions. Mr. Meyers may want to elaborate on that.

**Mr. Meyers:** We collaborated with the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines and the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada in preparing fairly comprehensive submissions on what we looked for in terms of improvements. We were reasonably satisfied with what came out of those submissions and the responses. As I said at the start, we were gratified with the way it all turned out.

**Senator Patterson:** Those took place over years.

**Mr. Meyers:** It was over two or three years; and there were three major two-day workshops.

**Senator Patterson:** Would it be fair to say that there was a give-and-take process with industry and with the Inuit principally consulted; that you got some things you wanted, but perhaps not everything you wanted; and that overall you are certainly happy to see the bill go forward?

**Mr. Meyers:** Yes. The main focus we were concerned about was timelines. At the start, the timelines were considerably longer. Over the couple of years that we worked with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada in dialogue with the minister's staff, they came down to under two years; and we were quite pleased with that.

**Senator Mitchell:** I am interested in the environmental protection and participation features of this bill. Apparently, one of the main thrusts is environmental stewardship. Are you aware of how the significant eco-system impact will be assessed? That is critical to knowing what kind of environmental assessment a project will get. Has that been defined to your satisfaction at this point?

**Mr. Gratton:** I will make a few observations. Unique about this bill is the integration of land use planning and environmental assessment. I say "unique" because I am not sure we have anything like it anywhere else in Canada. It enables what I think many people have been calling for for many years — much more forward planning. It will provide industry with greater certainty with respect to the land base. You will not explore and develop in an area that you know at the community level is considered an area where they do not want you. If you know that early enough, you can plan for that and avoid lost time and investment dollars.

Land use planning will give you more up-front information. If it is an area where they are encouraging development, it will give you up-front information on how to plan for that. Even when they are encouraging development in an area, you need to design your projects appropriately and having more up-front information in terms of community priorities and environmental considerations. The land use planning up-front component of this approach is forward-looking and to be commended.

With respect to the back end, the actual environmental assessment process is largely consistent with what you would find elsewhere and will lead to pretty robust environmental reviews, as you would expect in Canada.

**Senator Mitchell:** Elsewhere, environmental reviews are triggered under certain circumstances under different acts in different ways, to some extent. Is there some threshold size or impact level before which a project would not require an environmental assessment? Put another way, will all mines require an environmental assessment? Will all drilling operations require an environmental assessment? Will any development of roads to get to mines require that?

**Mr. Meyers:** Certainly, all mines will go through an environmental assessment. When I referred to minor variances with low-impact projects, I was thinking more of the exploration phase of the industry where at the start it is more of a surface survey without any significant land disturbance. Certainly, anything beyond that would go through an environmental assessment.

With the bill, the Nunavut Planning Commission will screen the project before it gets sent to the Nunavut Impact Review Board for review in terms of compliance.

**Mr. Bleaney:** I was observing with my colleague that the focus is on the Nunavut region. From CAPP's point of view, we did not particularly study the bill from that perspective. In the broadest context, the approaches being taken by CEAA by definition on the project activity list for those items that need to be under full environmental assessment constitute the guidance that would make sense in our industry. It probably parallels what is being looked at in the Nunavut region.

**Senator Mitchell:** In one of the presentations, I cannot remember which, some concern was raised or at least we were alerted to the fact of the quasi-criminalization of land use planning infractions. It is unique apparently in that it is not done anywhere else in the country. I was speaking to a previous witness just after the official witnessing was over. They were quite proud of that and feel that it is a really important initiative, but could you explain your reaction to that? It seems to be a little bit different from theirs.

**Mr. Gratton:** Yes. To us, it seems heavy-handed. We had this debate before the house when this bill was before the house as well. We are not saying there should not be consequences. There are consequences when you act in violation of land use plans in the provinces, for example. It is whether you should go to jail for it or whether there should be criminal sanctions as opposed to other types of sanctions you will find in other approaches in other jurisdictions. That is where we think it is heavy-handed and did not have to go that far. That is our view. It is obviously not the view that the government has taken with respect to this particular aspect.

**Mr. Ferguson:** I can offer a comment. For us, land use planning is not a very granular exercise; it is very broad, representing a number of values and interests from stakeholders on the land that will vary and change over time. We respect that, but we still count on it as a guiding light in terms of where we want to explore and develop our resources, but I agree with the mining sector on this, that it would be hard to really nail it down to a criminal act for non-compliance with that, given that it should be a broad-based representation of what should happen where on the land base.

**Senator Massicotte:** Thank you for being with us today; it is much appreciated. Mr. Bleaney, your group has raised some proposed amendments or specifications to the proposed legislation. I am sure you raised those same issues with the review committee. What was their response to your suggested changes?

**Mr. Bleaney:** Our submission to the review committee of the House of Commons was by way of a written submission, and as we witnessed the movement of the bill through that process, I do not believe any amendments whatsoever were made to the bill when it went through the review committee.

**Senator Massicotte:** How about when the government officials were drafting the legislation? I presume you were consulted?

**Mr. Bleaney:** Yes, we were. We had very good consultation. I was not involved with CAPP at that time, but on reading through the materials, we certainly were in good dialogue with the department and had good feedback on subject matters of interest.

Once again, I think some of our issues were looked after and some of them were still questions outstanding for us in terms of clarity. That is why we chose to make reference to it here, but as I pointed out earlier, at this point we are not suggesting wording changes to the bill. We are suggesting that we look forward — because we do have some time — to work through these things and sort these things as we go on from here.

**Senator Massicotte:** However, about the requirement for clarification, particularly when we get to regulations, they did not agree? They thought it was clear enough? Is that the response you got?

**Mr. Bleaney:** To some degree, yes. One example was we were suggesting they may want to look to other jurisdictions, and their perspective at the time was that they felt that there was some differences between the North and the South of 60 that justified their focus on North of 60 kind of comparators. It was just difference of opinion on that one.

**Senator Massicotte:** In your presentation you confirm that this is a good process, but you also thought to be complete you need to have an orientation for infrastructure program. It is nice to develop the area, but if there is no infrastructure, it impedes all of your developments. What are you suggesting specifically? Is that a polite way to say, "Mr. Government, we want you to spend more money on infrastructure"? Where are you going with this?

**Mr. Bleaney:** No, I would not say it that way. We are observing many challenges in the North vis-à-vis development progressing as a function of the lack of existing infrastructure. It is just a fact; that is the reality we face. As we move forward, we are anxious that we limit the other kinds of challenges we might have to face in terms of ambiguities or uncertainties in regulatory protocols that can add more cost and process to the system, because it already has enough challenges.

We are trying to streamline, would be the word, but ensure we get as much clarity as we can muster, be as clear as possible on what needs to be done so that we can move efficiently through the review protocols that we need to move through to satisfy all of the review processes that need to be satisfied, but not get ourselves caught up with uncertainties that cost more time and effort and confusion in the process.

**Senator Massicotte:** What is the normal operating mode when you go to these territories, in your own experience in Canada and elsewhere? Is the government there? Do you expect to spend quite a bit of money on infrastructure, or is it really your nickel completely? What is the normal approach there?

**Mr. Bleaney:** In some aspects I can relate to prior project experience in the North, in the Northwest Territories in particular. The majority of the major infrastructure that would be required for some of the big pipeline projects would largely fall with the proponent, but in the use of roads, for access to areas where we can move equipment by road, we certainly look to roads being maintained and that sort of thing. Availability of services, health and emergency services that are up there, we would certainly want to take advantage of those. However, the major infrastructure we need to build in terms of access roads into the site, that all sits with the proponent. We would draw on existing infrastructure that was up there to facilitate the development, but the primary focus is on the proponent.

**Senator Massicotte:** Mr. Gratton, do you have any comment about the government's role for infrastructure?



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**Senator Massicotte:** Mr. Gratton, do you have any comment about the government's role for infrastructure?

**Mr. Gratton:** Since are you giving me the opening, if you look at the Meadowbank project, the infrastructure, there is a road, there is a port, and all of that has been paid for by the proponent. The last two federal budgets have included measures that have stripped away some of the ability to write off some of those costs, so it has made it a bit more expensive for mines to develop in the northern territories than it used to be.

Finance has sort of justified this with their commitment to a neutral tax system, which we take a little bit of issue with because it does not seem to be neutral to everyone.

This last budget, for example, announced the elimination of the accelerated capital cost allowance for mining, and it also moved some expenditures eligible under the Canadian exploration expense to the Canadian development expense, which is a difference between a 100 per cent versus a 30 per cent write-off.

All of that raises the cost of building new projects. We actually feel that where that will hurt the most is in the regions where infrastructure costs are highest — Northern Canada and in Nunavut. We are a little concerned by what those recent budget measures might actually do to limit development options in Nunavut.

**Senator Massicotte:** My understanding of the budget, to a large degree — there are some credit issues — I thought what they changed predominantly was the rate of depreciation. You are still allowed to amortize the total cost. It is a true cost system, but it is probably over the useful life of the project and not accelerated. Am I correct in saying that?

**Mr. Gratton:** Yes, but in a capital-intensive industry like ours, that is important.

**Senator Massicotte:** I appreciate that.

While I have Mr. Gratton here, if you do not mind deviating a little bit, tell me about your industry. Decades ago it suffered a bad reputation from the mining sense. Sometimes you would explore the mine, deplete the mine of its resources as you should, but you would leave the mine there in a state whereby the state or society suffered the consequences of contaminants and so on. What is the current practice and what is the current legislation ensuring that never occurs again?

**Mr. Gratton:** You cannot do it anymore anywhere. Any new project will require a form of security — bonding in Nunavut. In fact in Nunavut at the moment there is double bonding. As Senator Patterson knows, we are working to try to change that.

There are guarantees put in place that if the company were to go bankrupt, there would still be the means to reclaim the site.

**Senator Massicotte:** Is the bonding always adequate?

**Mr. Gratton:** It is determined by the government authorities. You cannot open a mine in Canada without being able to demonstrate you have the wherewithal to close it properly.

**Senator Lang:** I will follow up on that question. If I am not mistaken, you as the proponent are required as part of your original submission to provide a closure plan as part of your looking for consent to go ahead. Is that correct?

**Mr. Gratton:** Yes, absolutely. Companies these days, for the most part, undertake progressive reclamation. You reclaim as you go because it is good business to do it. It limits your final liability; it can keep your costs down if you engage in progressive reclamation.

At the end when you actually close out the site, there is still lots to do, but you can make progress as you go along. If there is a road you are no longer using or if there is a part of a site you have depleted, you can start that process, even though you are mining somewhere else.

**Senator Lang:** As you know, I am from the Yukon and we have experienced this issue a number of times in the last decade. I have to say that the projects that have gone ahead now are definitely following along those guidelines and really could represent a model for the rest of the country in respect to understanding what environmental responsibilities the mining companies are taking on, and the end result. I do not think most Canadians are aware of that, which is unfortunate, because we are meeting all our objectives, creating jobs and meeting our environmental responsibilities.

I want to go back to the “one project, one review,” which is the basis of the Nunavut policy — the legislation — before us. Prior to this, two years ago, there was quite a debate over the changes to the Canadian environmental legislation to provide for one project, one review across the country. We have had some time go by. Now that we have you here before us, perhaps you could update us on how well that legislation is being implemented in conjunction with the provinces. Also, are we seeing some results in terms of efficiencies and, at the same time, are we meeting our environmental responsibilities?

**Mr. Gratton:** I am glad you asked me that question. Certainly, with respect to mining, there is a fair bit of misunderstanding out there about what all these changes mean for the mining sector.

The changes to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and the removal of screening-level reviews did not affect us, because mines are subject to either comprehensive studies or full panel reviews. Just recently, the government has published in *Canada Gazette* new draft project list regulations that specify which projects will be required for an environmental assessment. They pretty much keep consistent with what existed before. Mining projects that were required to undergo environmental assessment under the old legislation will continue to be required to undergo environmental assessment under the new legislation.

We did not ask to be removed from EAs. Our industry understands that is a responsibility. A major project like this should be subject to that kind of scrutiny. We wanted an efficient process, and we wanted a review process that allowed for, at a minimum, harmonization and coordination with the provinces.

In the past, there was not actually a body that was designated responsible for conducting EAs; it fell to whichever department put up their hand and said they would do it. Senator Neufeld will remember the frustration we had in British Columbia with this. The federal EAs would typically start 18 months after the provincial EAs. If you are that far apart in time, there is no opportunity for coordination or harmonization.

Now, under the new legislation, the federal review starts at the same time as the provincial review. We are seeing on the ground much more coordination between both levels of government in every jurisdiction, and I think that leads to better review outcomes. It certainly leads to more timely reviews. You do not have to wait another 18 months after the provincial review is completed to find out whether the federal government approves your project, because it is happening at the same time.

That is very significant for us, and that is probably the biggest single benefit of the reforms as far as mining is concerned.

**Senator Unger:** Thank you, gentlemen. I really enjoyed your presentation. Being from Edmonton, it was very interesting to me.

My question refers to the mandatory five-year review and your comment that it seems onerous, because the board is required to consider or reconsider all of the terms and conditions of access, and could create long-term uncertainty.

Is this a significant issue? Is it likely to be a deterrent? It was Mr. Bleaney in his presentation who mentioned it. I was wondering if this is a big hill to be climbing.

**Mr. Bleaney:** No, we do not anticipate that is a major issue in the short term. What ties back to this and may provide a little broader context is that some of these surface rights negotiations being referred to in here would seem to fit well within the time frames being talked about, if they are a simple short-term event for the sake of an exploratory well.

However, if we were expanding beyond that and thinking in terms of there being a successful exploratory well, and now you have a long-term project and a long-term development project in mind, access to that on a sustained basis would be important. That is why if, someone started all over again every five years, it would be a little bit concerning perhaps to the proponent as to whether they would lose their access provisions in the same way.

That was the focus on that point. I think we have time to work through these issues as we walk down the path of putting in regulation and put in clarity around how some of these other developments might have to be managed. We are optimistic that we can find a good answer for that as we work it through.

**Mr. Meyers:** We have been negotiating with the government on water licences for mining. Up until now, water licences are five to seven years — maybe up to eight years — but for a mine that will operate for maybe 10, 20 or 30 years, having to go through renewal every five to seven years is very expensive, both for the company and also for government. In most other jurisdictions in the country, water licences or licences to mine are issued more or less for the life of the mine, with periodic reviews as required. However, there is certainly not a full renewal process.

**The Chair:** That ends the questions. I want to thank all of you gentlemen very much for taking time out of your busy schedules to come to talk to us about some interesting points.

(The committee adjourned.)

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# Settlement Areas and Asserted Territories within the NWT

## Data Sources:

- (1) Canadian Centre for Cadastral Management, NWT/Nunavut Regional Office, Natural Resources Canada
- (2) Gwich'in Land and Water Board, Data current as of December, 2002
- (3) Joint Secretariat Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees. Data current as of December, 2002.
- (4) Lands and Trust Services, Indian and Inuit Services Directorate, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- (5) Comprehensive Claims Branch, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. NOTE: Data might be subject to change.
- (6) Prince Albert Tribal Council Study, Chipewyan - Denesuline Bands, 1990, ("Recent and Current Land Use and Occupancy in the NWT")
- (7) Based on MKO Study, Sayas Dene First Nation / Northlands Dene First Nation, 1993, ("Living Memory Land Use")
- (8) Dene Tha' First Nation
- (9) First Nation of the Nacho Nyak Dun, Mayo, Yukon
- (10) Kaska Nation (Kaska Nation is comprised of: Kaska Dena Council, Laird First Nation and Ross River Dene Council. Internal First Nations overlaps to be resolved.)
- (11) Acho Dene Koe First Nation, 2005

## Final Land Claim Areas

- Inuvialuit Settlement Region (3)
- Gwich'in Settlement Area (2)
- Gwich'in Primary Use Area (2)
- Gwich'in Secondary Use Area (2)
- Sahtu Settlement Area (1)
- Tłı̄ch'y Wek'èezhi Management Area (5)
- Tłı̄ch'y Mǫwǫh Gogho Dà Nǫjłłè Boundary (5)

## Selected Title Lands (1)

### Inuvialuit Final Agreement, 1984

- Surface and Sub-Surface Rights
- Surface Rights Only

### Gwich'in Comprehensive Agreement, 1992

- Surface and Sub-Surface Rights
- Surface Rights Only

### Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Agreement, 1994

- Surface and Sub-Surface Rights
- Surface Rights Only

### Tłı̄ch'y Final Agreement, 2005 (5)

- Surface and Sub-surface Rights

## Reserves

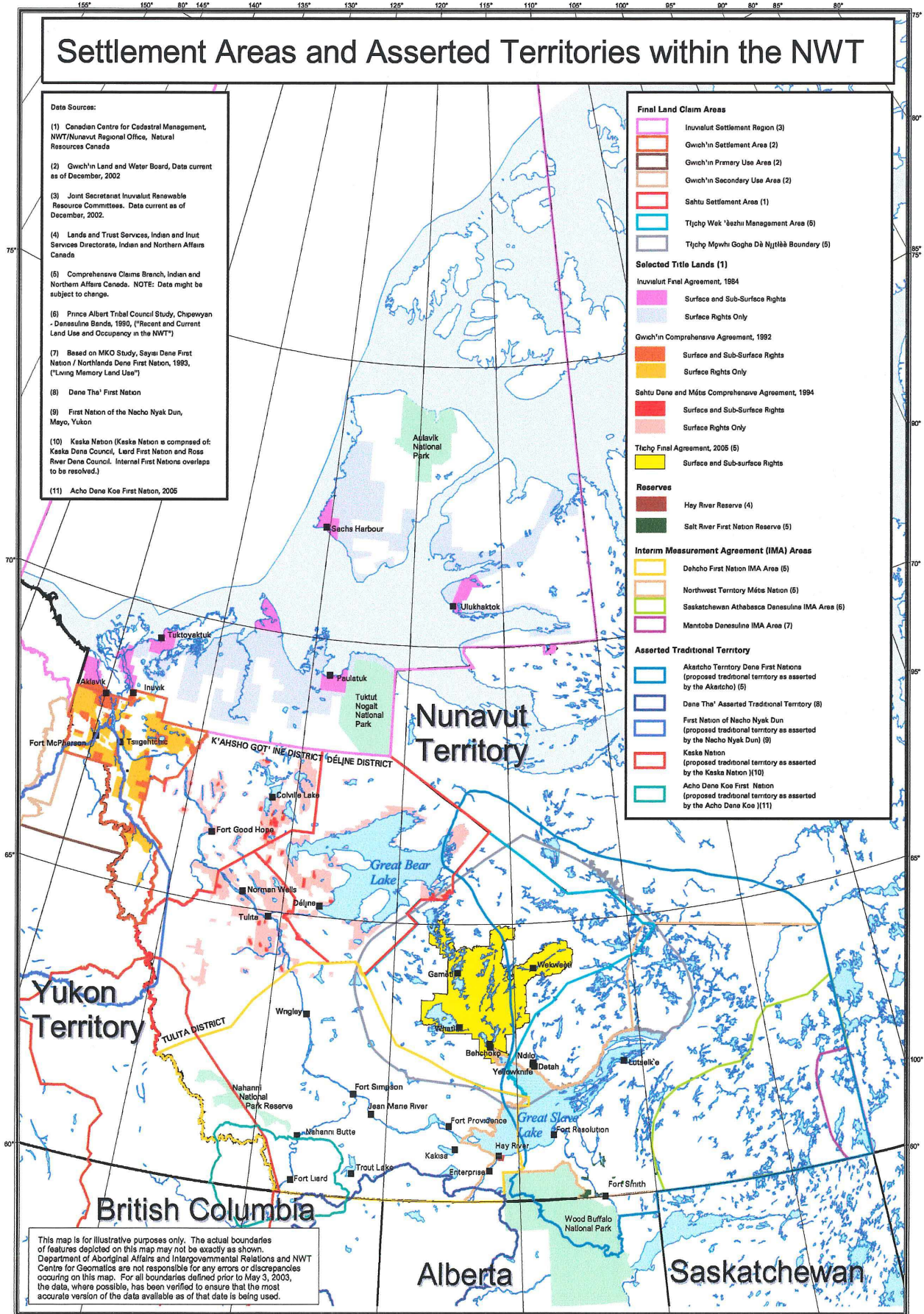
- Hay River Reserve (4)
- Salt River First Nation Reserve (5)

## Interim Measurement Agreement (IMA) Areas

- Dahcho First Nation IMA Area (5)
- Northwest Territory Métis Nation (5)
- Saskatchewan Athabasca Denesuline IMA Area (5)
- Mantoba Denesuline IMA Area (7)

## Asserted Traditional Territory

- Akatcho Territory Dene First Nations (proposed traditional territory as asserted by the Akatcho) (5)
- Dene Tha' Asserted Traditional Territory (8)
- First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun (proposed traditional territory as asserted by the Nacho Nyak Dun) (9)
- Kaska Nation (proposed traditional territory as asserted by the Kaska Nation) (10)
- Acho Dene Koe First Nation (proposed traditional territory as asserted by the Acho Dene Koe) (11)



This map is for illustrative purposes only. The actual boundaries of features depicted on this map may not be exactly as shown. Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations and NWT Centre for Geomatics are not responsible for any errors or discrepancies occurring on this map. For all boundaries defined prior to May 3, 2003, the data, where possible, has been verified to ensure that the most accurate version of the data available as of that date is being used.



200 0 200 400 Kms

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## Backgrounder - Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board Act

The *Northern Jobs and Growth Act* includes provisions for the establishment of a surface rights board in the Northwest Territories, thereby fulfilling federal legislative obligations stemming from certain Northwest Territories Land Claims Agreements (LCAs), including Gwich'in and Sahtu Land Claims Agreements.

Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board (NWTSRB) will serve to resolve disputes over terms and conditions and compensation, between holders of surface or subsurface rights and the owner or occupant of the surface when an agreement cannot be reached by the parties through negotiation or mediation.

The Northern Jobs and Growth Act is the result of comprehensive consultation with the Government of the Northwest Territories, Aboriginal organizations and Governments, and Industry. The Act demonstrates the government's commitment to ensuring a strong, predictable framework is in place that provides a clear, consistent and reliable dispute resolution mechanism for surface and subsurface rights holders and landowners or occupants in the Northwest Territories.

### About the NWTSRB

The Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board Act will meet Canada's obligations arising from the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement and the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement to establish surface rights legislation in the Northwest Territories.

The purpose of the Board is to resolve disputes over the terms and conditions of access, and the compensation to be paid with respect to that access, relating to Gwich'in lands, Sahtu lands, Tlicho lands, Inuvialuit lands or other lands, such as private, Commissioner's, or Crown land in the Northwest Territories.

The Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board will consist of five to nine members, including the Chairperson, all of whom will be appointed by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. Five alternates will also be appointed, and will be called upon if members are unable to fulfill their mandate for reason of absence, incapacitation or vacancy. This will ensure continued functioning of the Board in situations of conflict of interest, appointment processes, etc. All hearings will be held by panels of three members, unless there is agreement by both parties for a one-member panel.

The Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board will not be a co-management board, nor do the LCAs require it to be. Therefore, there is no nomination process laid out in the bill. Members and alternates are not representatives of particular interests; they are to be objective and publicly accountable.

However, all members and alternates must be resident of the NWT. Further, all disputes in a particular settlement area must be heard by a panel, of which at least one member must be resident of the particular settlement area.

The Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board Act will fulfill Canada's obligation to enact legislation establishing a dispute resolution mechanism for disputes between surface and subsurface rights holders and landowners or occupants in the Northwest Territories.

### Provisions of the bill:

The proposed bill prescribes the following overall process:

- An application is made to the Board by one or both parties to a dispute
- A panel of the Board conducts a hearing
- Terms and conditions of access are determined and appropriate compensation is set
- The Board makes an access order setting out the terms and conditions and the compensation payable

The Board would have the power to:

- Render binding decisions (access orders) on settlement and non-settlement lands
- Grant access orders setting out the terms and conditions by which the access can be exercised
- Determine the compensation to be paid in respect to that access
- Determine compensation for unforeseen damage resulting from access
- Periodically review any access order (terms and conditions and compensation)
- Terminate access orders
- Award costs

Date Modified:2012-11-06



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## Frequently Asked Questions - Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board Act

### Q1. What is the Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board Act?

**A1.** The Act will establish a Board to resolve disputes over terms and conditions and compensation, between holders of surface or subsurface rights and the owner or occupant of the surface when an agreement cannot be reached by the parties through negotiation or mediation.

### Q2. Why are we introducing this bill now?

**A2.** The creation of the Board is the last outstanding legislative obligation contained in the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement and the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement and will complete the resource management regime that was originally envisaged for the NWT. The arbitration systems with respect to access established by the Claims were intended as an interim measure until a Surface Rights Board is established. The Surface Rights Board will provide a single mechanism to resolve disputes related to access for the entire NWT.

### Q3. How was the bill developed?

**A3.** Work on surface rights legislation began in 2010 and included unprecedented consultation with Aboriginal organizations and governments with settled claims, those negotiating claims, and transboundary groups with interests in the NWT. Three successive drafts of the legislative proposal were provided to these organizations and governments between the fall of 2010 and the spring of 2012. Comments on each draft were solicited and information and consultation sessions were held in the NWT after each draft was distributed. Many accommodation measures arising from concerns and suggestions have been incorporated into the bill. All comments and concerns were analyzed and responses were provided.

As well, departmental officials have met with and sought input from industry throughout the development of this bill, most notably through its membership associations such as the NWT/Nunavut Chamber of Mines, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association, the Mining Association of Canada and the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada. Representatives of the Government of the Northwest Territories were also engaged and consulted throughout the bill's development. An information session for other Boards in the NWT was conducted and information will be provided to ENGOs to inform them of the bill's purpose, content, and how the Board will operate.

### Q4. What is in the bill?

**A4.** First, it would establish a Board process that is fair and equitable. Key characteristics and provisions of the bill are:

- It is consistent with the Land Claims Agreements in the NWT;
- It provides jurisdiction to the Board to make orders setting out terms and conditions for access and the appropriate compensation to be paid with respect to that access, when an agreement could not be reached by the parties themselves through negotiations;
- It provides for the Minister to appoint no fewer than five and no more than nine members, and five alternate members, to the Board;
- It provides for the Board to make rules and by-laws;
- It provides for the Board to set compensation for unforeseen damages resulting from access;

- It provides for the Board to periodically review access orders;
- It provides for the Board to terminate orders when access is no longer being used for the purpose for which the order was made; and
- It requires that the Minister review the Act with representatives of any Aboriginal group that has entered into an agreement in relation to the NWT to determine whether the Act should be amended to implement any provision of that Agreement.

**Q5. What is the proposed process for resolving access disputes?**

**A5.** The Board may receive applications from one or both parties to a dispute when a negotiated access agreement cannot be reached. A panel of the Board will then conduct a hearing and determine compensation and terms and conditions related to access. The Board then makes an order containing the terms and conditions by which access can be exercised and any compensation payable for that access.

When making its decision the Board is required to take into account any factors and material it considers relevant, including: market value, loss of use, effects on wildlife, damage, nuisance or inconvenience, cultural attachment, and peculiar or special value. Additionally, when determining terms and conditions, the Board may include terms or conditions appropriate to minimize damage to, or disruption of, peaceful enjoyment of the land.

**Q6. How will this benefit landowners/occupants? Surface/Subsurface rights holders? Northwest Territories residents?**

**A6.** It will help provide timely access to surface and subsurface resources and increase the predictability and consistency of the regulatory regime. This will provide increased confidence and certainty on the part of investors and developers, which will foster increased economic development, including job creation and long-term prosperity for residents.

**Q7. What are the impacts of the creation of the Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board Act on regional arbitration panels in the Northwest Territories?**

**A7.** The regional arbitration panels will maintain their current responsibilities as per their respective Land Claims Agreements. The creation of the Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board Act will remove the requirement of the arbitration panels to deal with surface and subsurface access disputes. The access dispute resolution processes currently in place was intended only as an interim process until a Surface Rights Board could be established.

Date Modified:2012-11-06



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# News Release

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2-3824

## **Harper Government, Government of NWT and Aboriginal Parties Sign Final Devolution Agreement**

**INUVIK, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (June 25, 2013)** – The Honourable Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, on behalf of the Government of Canada, today joined the Honourable Robert McLeod, Premier of the Government of the Northwest Territories; Nellie Cournoyea, CEO/Chair of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation; Garry Bailey, President of the Northwest Territory Métis Nation; Charles McNeely, Vice-President of the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated; Robert A. Alexie, President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council; and Chief Clifford Daniels of the Tłı̨chǫ Government for the final signing of the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement.

“Today’s signing is an historic milestone for the Northwest Territories and for Canada,” said Minister Valcourt. “Since 2006, devolution and self-government negotiations with the territories have been a priority for our Government. The final agreement signed today will provide jurisdiction over lands and resources, giving residents control over their own destiny and creating the conditions for economic growth, jobs and long-term prosperity for the people of the Northwest Territories.”

The Devolution Agreement takes effect the moment it is signed and the parties are working toward an effective date of April 2014 for the transfer of responsibilities to the territorial government.

“This agreement will allow the Government of the Northwest Territories and its partner Aboriginal governments to create a strong and prosperous territory for our people,” said Northwest Territories Premier Bob McLeod. “We look forward to a future where Northerners make decisions about resource development in our territory, and are able to ensure sustainable development will benefit our residents and align with our own priorities and values.”

“This signing comes as a result of the hard work and perseverance of all the negotiators. We appreciate their efforts,” said Nellie Cournoyea, Inuvialuit Chair and CEO. “Inuvialuit will continue to actively participate in the implementation process.”

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"It's been a long road to get here, but well worth the trip! The Gwich'in remain committed to the devolution process and working with other governments in the future on this and other projects that will be beneficial to the north," said Robert A. Alexie, President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

"Now that the Devolution Agreement has been approved, the Northwest Territory Métis Nation will continue to actively participate in devolution implementation to ensure a smooth transfer of responsibilities and maintain constructive working relationships. At the same time, the Métis Nation will continue to build upon sound working relationships with other Aboriginal governments who are party to the Agreement in order to strengthen our common interests," said Garry Bailey, President of the Northwest Territory Métis Nation.

The Devolution Agreement transfers the administration and management of public lands, water resources, mineral resources and oil and gas management from the Government of Canada to the Government of the Northwest Territories. The Devolution Agreement contains specific provisions designed to ensure that devolution does not negatively affect Aboriginal rights or ongoing land claim negotiations in the Northwest Territories.

Today's announcement highlights the Government's commitment, set out in Canada's Northern Strategy, to work with Northern and Aboriginal partners to build a strong and prosperous North.

[Backgrounder – Signing of the Northwest Territories Devolution Agreement](#)

This release is also available on the Internet at [www.aandc.gc.ca](http://www.aandc.gc.ca).

**For more information, please contact:**

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# Backgrounder

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Date: June 25, 2013

## Signing of the Northwest Territories Devolution Agreement

Devolution is an important step in the political and economic development of the Northwest Territories (NWT). Under Canada's Northern Strategy, the Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that Northerners have greater control over their resources and decision-making.

On June 25, 2013, the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement was signed by the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and Parties to the Agreement. The Devolution Agreement takes effect the moment it is signed and the Parties are working toward an effective date of April 2014.

The Government of the Northwest Territories currently makes decisions on behalf of its residents in almost all the same areas as a provincial government, but with the exception of the administration and management of public lands, water resources, mineral resources and oil and gas management. The Devolution Agreement transfers this last set of responsibilities from the Government of Canada to the Government of the Northwest Territories. This will promote the self-sufficiency and prosperity of the NWT by providing its residents with a greater say in how land, water and resources are developed, and by giving the NWT the power to collect and share in resource revenues generated in the territory.

Negotiations began with the signing of the Agreement-in-Principle for NWT Devolution in January 2011. There are seven signatories to the AiP who were party to these negotiations: the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Northwest Territory Métis Nation, the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, and the Tłı̨chǫ Government.

On March 11, 2013, the signatories signed a consensus agreement on the terms for the devolution of lands and resource management from the Government of Canada to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The Government of Canada concluded a second round of consultations with Aboriginal organizations and other stakeholders, prior to finalizing the draft agreement. All

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comments and information received were carefully considered. Legislation will be drafted for approval in federal Parliament and the territorial Legislature to give effect to an approved agreement.

The Devolution Agreement transfers decision-making and administration for land and resource management from the Government of Canada to the Government of the Northwest Territories. The territorial government will become responsible for the management of onshore lands, the issuance of rights and interests with respect to onshore minerals and oil and gas, and will collect royalties.

The Government of Canada will retain responsibility for the remediation of existing significant contaminated waste sites, the administration of the issuance of rights and interests to the offshore, the negotiation of land claims and environmental assessments.

Implementation planning is underway. A committee, with representatives from the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and Aboriginal partners, developed a devolution implementation plan that will act as a guide for how the terms of the final agreement will be put into practice to ensure a predictable and transparent transfer of responsibilities.

The devolution process in the Northwest Territories has been underway since the 1950s with the successive transfer of responsibility for education, health care, local government and transportation. Over time, the Government of the Northwest Territories has taken on more province-like powers from the Government of Canada, aided by the financial resources provided through federal transfer payments.

The main federal funding to the three territorial governments is provided through the Territorial Formula Financing (TFF) transfer. This is an annual unconditional transfer from the Government of Canada to the territorial governments to enable them to provide their residents with a range of public programs and services comparable to those offered by provincial governments, at comparable levels of taxation. The formula takes into account the higher cost of providing programs and services in the North, and the TFF grant helps fund services such as hospitals, schools, roads and social services. In 2013-2014, the TFF transfer to the NWT will be \$1.1 billion.

### **NWT Devolution Milestones**

**March 2004:** Devolution Framework Agreement signed by the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Aboriginal Summit (a caucus comprised of NWT Aboriginal governments)

**January 2011:** Agreement-in-Principle signed by the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

**February 9, 2011:** AiP signed by the Northwest Territory Métis Nation

**May 22, 2012:** AiP signed by the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

**June 2011:** First meeting of the NWT Devolution Main Table

**October 15, 2012:** AiP signed by the Gwich'in Tribal Council

**March 8, 2013:** AiP signed by Tłı̨chǫ Government

**March 11, 2013:** Conclusion of Northwest Territories Devolution Negotiations

**June 25, 2013:** Signing of the NWT Devolution Agreement by all Parties

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# Communiqué

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2-3824

## **Le gouvernement Harper, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest et les parties autochtones signent l'Entente définitive sur le transfert des responsabilités**

**INUVIK (Territoires du Nord-Ouest), le 25 juin 2013** – L'honorable Bernard Valcourt, ministre des Affaires autochtones et du développement du Nord canadien, au nom du gouvernement du Canada, s'est joint à l'honorable Robert McLeod, premier ministre des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, à Nellie Cournoyea, présidente de la Société régionale inuvialuit, à Garry Bailey, président de la Nation métisse du Territoire du Nord-Ouest, à Charles McNeely, vice-président du Secrétariat du Sahtu, à Robert A. Alexie, président du Conseil tribal des Gwich'in et au chef Clifford Daniels, du gouvernement tļichq, pour signer officiellement l'Entente sur le transfert des responsabilités liées aux terres et aux ressources des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

« La signature d'aujourd'hui marque un jalon historique pour les Territoires du Nord-Ouest et le Canada, a déclaré le ministre Valcourt. Depuis 2006, les négociations sur le transfert des responsabilités et l'autonomie gouvernementale avec les territoires ont été une priorité pour notre gouvernement. L'entente définitive signée aujourd'hui fournira au gouvernement du territoire la responsabilité pour la gestion des terres et des ressources, donnera aux résidants le contrôle sur leur propre avenir et créera les conditions nécessaires pour favoriser la croissance économique, la création d'emplois et la prospérité à long terme pour les résidants des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. »

L'Entente entre en vigueur au moment de sa signature, et les parties visent le mois d'avril 2014 pour le transfert des responsabilités au gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

« Cette entente permettra au gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest et aux gouvernements autochtones partenaires de bâtir un territoire fort et prospère pour notre peuple », a déclaré le premier ministre des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, Bob McLeod. « Nous nous réjouissons à l'idée d'un avenir où les résidants du Nord prendront des décisions en matière de développement des ressources de notre territoire, et feront en sorte qu'ils tirent profit du développement durable – tout cela en tenant compte de nos propres valeurs et priorités. »

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« La signature découle du travail acharné et de la persévérance de tous les négociateurs. Nous leur savons gré de leurs efforts, a déclaré Nellie Cournoyea, présidente de la Société régionale inuvialuit. La Société continuera de participer activement au processus de mise en œuvre. »

« Le chemin a été long pour nous rendre ici, mais cela a valu la peine, a déclaré Robert A. Alexie, président du Conseil tribal des Gwich'in. Le Conseil tribal souscrit toujours au processus de transfert des responsabilités et il continuera de travailler avec d'autres gouvernements à ce projet et à d'autres projets qui sont bénéfiques pour le Nord. »

« Maintenant que le transfert des responsabilités a été approuvé, la Nation métisse du Territoire du Nord-Ouest continuera de participer activement à la mise en œuvre du transfert pour veiller à ce qu'il se fasse sans anicroche et pour maintenir des relations de travail constructives, a déclaré Garry Bailey, président de la Nation métisse du Territoire du Nord-Ouest. Parallèlement, la Nation métisse continuera de tirer profit de ses solides relations de travail avec d'autres gouvernements autochtones qui sont aussi signataires de l'Entente afin de renforcer la défense de nos intérêts communs. »

L'Entente sur le transfert des responsabilités permet le transfert de l'administration et de la gestion des terres publiques, des ressources hydrauliques, des ressources minérales et la gestion du pétrole et du gaz du gouvernement du Canada au gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. L'Entente sur le transfert des responsabilités contient des dispositions précises conçues pour veiller à ce que le transfert de responsabilités ne compromette pas les droits ancestraux ou les négociations en cours sur des revendications territoriales dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

L'annonce d'aujourd'hui souligne l'engagement du gouvernement, énoncé dans la Stratégie pour le Nord du Canada, de travailler avec des partenaires du Nord et des partenaires autochtones à bâtir un Nord dynamique et prospère.

Document d'information : **Signature de l'Entente sur le transfert des responsabilités liées aux terres et aux ressources des Territoires du Nord-Ouest**

Ce communiqué peut également être consulté dans Internet à l'adresse [www.aadnc.gc.ca](http://www.aadnc.gc.ca).

**Pour de plus amples renseignements :**

**Cabinet du ministre**

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**Relations avec les médias**

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# Document d'information

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Date : le 25 juin 2013

## **Signature de l'Entente sur le transfert des responsabilités liées aux terres et aux ressources des Territoires du Nord-Ouest**

Le transfert des responsabilités est une étape importante du développement politique et économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Dans le cadre de la Stratégie pour le Nord du Canada, le gouvernement du Canada s'est engagé à s'assurer que les résidents du Nord aient un plus grand contrôle sur leurs ressources et sur la prise de décisions.

Le 25 juin 2013, l'Entente sur le transfert des responsabilités liées aux terres et aux ressources des Territoires du Nord-Ouest a été signée par le gouvernement du Canada, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest et les parties à l'Entente. L'Entente prend effet au moment de sa signature, et les parties visent le mois d'avril 2014 pour le transfert des responsabilités au gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

Le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest prend actuellement les décisions au nom de ses résidents dans presque tous les mêmes domaines qu'un gouvernement provincial, à l'exception de l'administration et de la gestion des terres publiques, des ressources hydrauliques, des ressources minérales et de la gestion du pétrole et du gaz. L'Entente sur le transfert des responsabilités transfère ces domaines de responsabilité au gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Cela aura pour effet de favoriser l'autosuffisance et la prospérité des Territoires du Nord-Ouest en permettant aux résidents d'assurer un plus grand contrôle sur la manière dont les terres, les eaux et les ressources sont exploitées, et en donnant au territoire le pouvoir de percevoir des redevances pour l'exploitation des ressources et de partager les recettes générées dans le territoire.

Les premières négociations avaient mené à la signature de l'entente de principe sur le transfert des responsabilités aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest, en janvier 2011. Les sept signataires de l'entente de principe ont participé aux négociations : le gouvernement du Canada, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, la Société régionale inuvialuit, la Nation métisse du Territoire du Nord-Ouest, le Secrétariat du Sahtu, le Conseil tribal des Gwich'in et le gouvernement t̨įchq̨.

Le 11 mars 2013, les signataires ont annoncé un consensus sur les modalités du transfert de la gestion des terres et des ressources du gouvernement du Canada au gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

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Le gouvernement du Canada a mené une deuxième ronde de consultations auprès d'organisations autochtones et d'autres intervenants, et ce, avant de terminer l'entente provisoire. Tous les commentaires et les renseignements reçus ont été étudiés avec soin. Le projet de loi sera élaboré et devra recevoir l'approbation du Parlement fédéral et de l'Assemblée législative territoriale afin que l'Entente entre en vigueur.

L'Entente sur le transfert des responsabilités transfère les pouvoirs de prise de décisions et d'administration des terres et des ressources au gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Le gouvernement territorial sera responsable de la gestion des terres continentales et de l'attribution de droits et d'intérêts relativement aux minéraux, au pétrole et au gaz dans les terres, et il percevra des redevances.

Le gouvernement du Canada conservera la responsabilité pour l'assainissement des sites contaminés importants existants, l'administration de l'émission des droits et des intérêts en mer, la négociation des revendications territoriales et les évaluations environnementales.

La planification de la mise en œuvre suit son cours. Un comité, comprenant des représentants du gouvernement du Canada, du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest et des partenaires autochtones, a élaboré un plan de mise en œuvre du transfert des responsabilités qui permettra d'orienter la manière dont les dispositions de l'Entente seront mises en application pour assurer un transfert prévisible et transparent des responsabilités.

Le processus de transfert des responsabilités se déroule depuis les années 1950, grâce au transfert successif des responsabilités en matière d'éducation, de soins de santé, d'administration locale et de transport. Au fil du temps, le gouvernement fédéral a accordé plus de pouvoirs de type provincial au gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, et ce, à l'aide des ressources financières fournies dans le cadre des paiements de transfert fédéraux.

Le principal financement fédéral pour les trois gouvernements territoriaux est offert grâce à la formule de financement des territoires. Cette formule est un transfert annuel inconditionnel du gouvernement du Canada aux trois gouvernements territoriaux, pour permettre à ceux-ci d'offrir à leurs résidents un éventail de services publics comparables à ceux offerts par les gouvernements provinciaux, à des niveaux d'imposition comparables. La formule prend en considération les coûts plus élevés de la prestation des programmes et des services dans le Nord. Grâce à la formule, les territoires reçoivent de l'aide pour financer des services comme les hôpitaux, les écoles, les routes et les services sociaux. En 2013-2014, le transfert pour les Territoires du Nord-Ouest sera de 1,1 milliard de dollars.

### **Jalons du transfert des responsabilités aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest**

**Mars 2004** : Signature de l'Entente-cadre relative à la dévolution (transfert des responsabilités) par le gouvernement du Canada, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest et le Sommet des Autochtones (un groupe d'intérêt comprenant des gouvernements autochtones des Territoires du Nord-Ouest).

**Janvier 2011** : Signature de l'entente de principe par le gouvernement du Canada, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest et la Société régionale inuvialuit.

**Le 9 février 2011** : Signature de l'entente de principe par la Nation métisse du Territoire du Nord-Ouest.

**Le 22 mai 2012** : Signature de l'entente de principe par le Secrétariat du Sahtu.

**Juin 2011** : Première rencontre de la principale table de négociation sur le transfert des responsabilités aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

**Le 15 octobre 2012** : Signature de l'entente de principe par le Conseil tribal des Gwich'in.

**Le 8 mars 2013** : Signature de l'entente de principe par le gouvernement tłı̨ch̄.

**Le 11 mars 2013** : Fin des négociations sur le transfert des responsabilités aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

**Le 25 juin 2013** : Signature de l'Entente sur le transfert des responsabilités liées aux terres et aux ressources des Territoires du Nord-Ouest par toutes les parties.



NEWS RELEASE

## Museum Café Reopens

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 25, 2013)** – The Museum Café at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre is now open for business.

“I am delighted to see the Museum Café reopen in time for the summer tourist season,” said Gabriela Eggenhofer, Deputy Minister of ECE. “The museum is an important part of the North; it houses much of our history, and we want everyone to see the new exhibits, our beautiful facility, and highlight our Northern artists. The Museum Café has always been a destination, and many people will visit the museum and stay for lunch. We are pleased to have the ability to offer that again.”

The café has been closed since a fire broke out on December 26, 2011. Renovations are now complete and Chris Zouboules, the restaurant’s former head chef, has been awarded the contract to run the café. He received his training at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and has 22 years of experience. He was the head chef at Thornton’s Wine and Tapas Room and has worked at several other Yellowknife restaurants, including the Prospector Bar and Grill, the Office, Fuego, and Twist.

Museum Café staff hosted a lunch for the Yellowknife Fire Department last week to thank them for their immediate response to the 2011 fire.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible For Housing Call For Sustainable Federal Funding Partnership

**TORONTO, Ontario – June 25, 2013** – Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Housing today met to discuss the need for long-term, sustainable affordable and social housing.

“We are encouraged by the federal government’s recent proposal to extend funding for new affordable housing,” said Robert C. McLeod, Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and Chair of the 2013 meeting of Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Housing. “But together we also need to protect the homes of the more than 600,000 families in social housing.”

The Ministers agreed that the current complement of social and affordable housing in Canada is among the most important social infrastructure in our communities. Significant decreases in federal social housing funding will create increasing challenges to meet the housing needs of Canadians.

As the host of the Ministers’ meeting, Linda Jeffrey, Ontario’s Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing noted that “the time to act is now. A long-term federal funding commitment for housing is critical to address the unmet housing needs of Canadians today and for future generations.”

Provincial and Territorial Ministers came together in Toronto to share information and build on common ground with respect to affordable and social housing issues. They noted that any affordable housing agreements need to be flexible and respect provincial and territorial jurisdictions, for example the training of apprentices. They also had an opportunity to discuss engagement with stakeholders and plans for a future meeting with their federal counterpart.

“We recognize the importance of affordable and social housing, and believe that all levels of government need to work together to meet diverse regional housing needs and priorities,” said Minister McLeod. “My colleagues and I invite Minister Finley, the federal Minister Responsible for Housing to a meeting in Yellowknife in order to work together to address the housing needs of Canadians.”

Although it shares the concerns of the other provincial and territorial governments about the substantive needs in housing, Québec intends to make its own representations to the federal government regarding housing at the appropriate time.

Ministers also noted that:

- Safe, adequate and affordable housing is a basic need of Canadians, including persons with disabilities, and the ability to secure such housing is a determinant for most economic and social challenges.
- Housing is critically important to the economy. Housing starts are a leading economic indicator because housing creates jobs, both direct and indirect. Affordable housing is a

key component. In the three years from 2010-2012 combined provincial/territorial and federal spending added over \$3 billion per year to the economy and created or sustained 35,000 jobs.

- The aging population is putting increasing pressure on affordable and appropriate housing for seniors and limiting their ability to remain in their homes.
- Poverty, which includes a large group of people whose housing needs are not met, costs Canada's health care systems \$7.6 billion annually.
- A recent Mental Health Commission of Canada study found that increasing the supply of affordable housing will reduce pressure on health care, emergency services and the justice systems. Every dollar spent on housing reduces spending in other shelter, health and justice services by \$1.54.
- Children who are adequately housed perform better in school. Children in stable housing are four times less likely to drop out of school.

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NEWS RELEASE

## GNWT and De Beers Canada Sign Socio-Economic Agreement for Gahcho Kué

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 28, 2013)** - The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and De Beers Canada (DBC) have signed a Socio-Economic Agreement (SEA) for the proposed Gahcho Kué Project in the North Slave Region. The SEA relates to DBC's plans to establish a mine and related facilities at Kennady Lake for the commercial production of rough diamonds.

The SEA formalizes commitments made by DBC with respect to employment, training, business opportunities and other related benefits for NWT residents, and it includes measures to monitor socio-economic impacts stemming from the Project.

"In signing this SEA, both parties are affirming their commitment to advancing this Project in a way that not only creates jobs for our residents, but that supports the health and wellness of the region," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, David Ramsay. "This is a significant step forward in opening this mine, a project that will translate into economic opportunities for people throughout the North and South Slave Regions - and across the territory."

Highlights of the SEA include:

- Incentives to assist employees living in the NWT and promote greater benefits to northern residents. These incentives include priority hiring, relocation benefits and priority for northern business in procurement.
- A commitment to establish a trades training, apprenticeship and professional training sponsorship program with at least 30 positions allocated for NWT residents.
- Financial management and literacy training, as well as collaboration in cultural awareness programs.
- Expanded points of pick-up that include all five regional centers in addition to Tlicho and Akaitcho communities. This will allow for more northern residents to access employment opportunities at the Gahcho Kué mine site.
- Adaptive management that will include public reporting by the GNWT and DBC, with GNWT reporting on socio-economic impacts and DBC reporting on commitments.
- A commitment from GNWT and DeBeers to meet jointly once per year with representatives of Aboriginal groups and communities near the mine site and respond to formal concerns or recommendations within 90 days.

"This is an important milestone for De Beers and for our Joint Venture Partner, Mountain Province Diamonds," said Tony Guthrie, President and CEO of De Beers Canada. "The GNWT and De Beers already have experience working together to optimize the participation in and benefits from De Beers' Snap Lake Mine for NWT Residents and this agreement positions us to continue to grow our corporate contribution to the economic sustainability of the NWT and of the diamond industry in the NWT."

"This SEA provides our residents with opportunities to undergo training and further education to enhance their existing skills or to create a new career," said Minister of Education, Culture and

Employment, Jackson Lafferty. "This is important as our economy continues to grow, and the requirements to match skilled workers to jobs increase. We have numerous initiatives in place to ensure our residents benefit from these opportunities."

"The SEA signed today is a significant step, not only in ensuring benefits to northerners, but in mitigating potential negative impacts. In addition to the commitments made to lessen the foreseeable impacts," said Health and Social Services Minister Tom Beaulieu, "a welcome addition to this SEA is the commitment to adaptively manage this agreement and to diminish any future impacts that may arise. Ongoing collaboration between GNWT, communities, and industry will ensure we maximize benefits while minimizing negative impacts."

The GNWT views this SEA as an important step in moving this Project forward and ensuring the greatest benefit to the northern residents and businesses. The Gahcho Kué mine will create work and business opportunities for NWT residents that will stimulate the mining industry and diversify our economy, a priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

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## **Backgrounder**

### **GAHCHO KUÉ SOCIO-ECONOMIC AGREEMENT BACKGROUND**

#### **Gahcho Kué Mine Socio-Economic Agreement (SEA)**

The Gahcho Kué Mine SEA was negotiated to capture the commitments De Beers Canada (DBC) made during the environmental assessment of its proposed mine, to clarify their interpretation, and to provide certainty with regard to those commitments.

#### **The SEA addresses:**

- employment and training opportunities;
- business procurement opportunities;
- social and cultural well-being; and
- reporting, monitoring and adaptive management (follow-up) tools.

#### **What is Adaptive Management?**

Adaptive Management is a practical approach to improving resource management policies and practices. Adaptive Management is used to improve SEA monitoring in the following ways:

- Provides opportunities for the GNWT and DBC to meet annually with representatives of Aboriginal organizations and communities in affected communities;
- Authorities and communities can submit a formal concern or recommendation, in which the GNWT/DBC has 90 days to respond;
- Adaptive management also considers proposals for specific projects or initiatives relating to the Gahcho Kué socio-economic impacts;
- Responses to concerns or recommendations will be published in annual reports.

### **GNWT SOCIO-ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS**

#### **Q: What is a Socio-Economic Agreement?**

**A:** When an environmental assessment takes place for a major resource development, the GNWT asks for follow-up programs to be put in place in the form of Socio-Economic Agreements (SEA). The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) is responsible for negotiating these agreements on behalf of the GNWT.

The Department also oversees the implementation of these Agreements and coordinates GNWT efforts under each Agreement, while monitoring how well each company carries out its respective responsibilities.

During the environmental assessment, the developer describes how its project may affect the social and cultural environment. It is common for a company to describe the job and business opportunities its project will bring, and also to describe the steps it will take to help make this happen. These are the company's commitments.

A Socio-Economic Agreement captures those commitments. It also outlines the ways in which the developer and government will work together to maximize project opportunities for NWT residents.

**Q: What is the difference between an IBA and a SEA?**

**A:** An IBA is a private contract between a developer and an Aboriginal organization. IBAs are not tied directly to the environmental assessment process. The topics covered by an IBA reflect beneficiaries' interests and priorities. IBAs take precedence over SEAs.

A SEA is a broader, public agreement that reflects the interests of the local community as well as NWT residents as a whole. SEAs are complementary to IBAs.

**Q: What SEAs are currently in place?**

**A:** The GNWT has entered into SEAs with BHP Billiton, Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.; De Beers Canada Inc.; the producers and operators of the Mackenzie Gas Project; and the Canadian Zinc Corporation (CZN).

**Q: Does the GNWT benefit from the SEAs?**

**A:** No, SEAs do not directly benefit the GNWT. The GNWT works on behalf of the people of the NWT to oversee the implementation of these Agreements and coordinates government efforts under each Agreement. The GNWT also monitors how well each company carries out its respective responsibilities.



NEWS RELEASE

## New Approach to Community Emergency Preparedness Training

**PAULATUK (June 28, 2013)** – A new approach to preparing communities for transportation-related emergencies was successfully launched in Fort McPherson on June 11-13.

A live exercise held to meet Transport Canada requirements for airport emergency exercises was preceded by training for community first responders who were taught basic emergency scene management and how to safely transport victims to the local health centre. A recently completed review of the results from these exercises confirms that the training has met organizers' objectives.

Transportation Minister David Ramsay says the enhanced training initiative is to better prepare community first responders for collisions, aircraft crashes, and other emergencies in and near NWT communities. "Airport emergency exercises are a great way for communities to practise emergency management skills," he said. "With the added value of this training combined with airport exercises, communities across the NWT will gain and practise the skills required when there's an emergency."

Municipal and Community Affairs Minister Robert C. McLeod recognizes the importance of building partnerships to deliver training. "Ensuring we work together as a government to deliver quality training programs in our communities directly benefits residents by increasing capacity for local emergency response," said Minister McLeod. "Including community emergency response training with the airport exercises allows us to deliver more training, more often, leading to safer communities."

Similar training benefiting the community of Paulatuk began on June 25. Municipal and Community Affairs and Transportation worked with the community to hold an emergency exercise and offer first responder training to community firefighters, RCMP members, Canadian Rangers, airport maintenance contractors, health authority and GNWT employees, and other community members.

Each participating community is given the equipment and supplies to support the new skills learned. The enhanced training meets the priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly to invest in sustainable, vibrant, and safe communities.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Be Water Smart - Another Healthy Choice

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 4, 2013)** – With summer upon us, Northwest Territories (NWT) residents are reminded to be safe by being water smart.

For those who are going out on the water, this means ensuring that every passenger in the boat is wearing an approved lifejacket that fits properly. It also means making the choice to boat sober. The penalties for impaired boating are the same as for impaired driving.

Minister David Ramsay says the Department of Transportation takes the problem of impaired operation of any vessel very seriously. “We will apply all the tools available to us, including the suspension of the drivers licence, to deal with any impaired boating, at any time,” he said. “It’s simply not worth your life and the lives of your family and friends to boat while impaired.”

More information about how to be safe while on or near the NWT’s waterways can be found on the [Department of Transportation website](#).

Information on how the Government of the Northwest Territories is promoting and sustaining Healthy Choices in the NWT can be found at [choosenwt.com](http://choosenwt.com).

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NEWS RELEASE

## **Limited Resident Harvest for Bluenose-East and Beverly and Ahiak Caribou Herds Proposed**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 4, 2013)** –The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is proposing a limited resident harvest for the Bluenose-East and Beverly and Ahiak caribou herds in designated zones for the 2013-2014 big game hunting season.

Proposals to allow resident harvesters to purchase one tag for a bull-only harvest to be used on either the Bluenose-East or Beverly and Ahiak herds have been sent to the affected renewable resources boards for review.

Current trend and population analysis and harvest projections indicate these herds could sustain the current Aboriginal harvest and a limited resident harvest with minimal negative impacts.

Resident harvest on the Bluenose-East herd has been closed since 2006. Resident harvest of the Beverly and Ahiak herds was closed in 2009-10. Aboriginal harvest on the herds has not been restricted.

The proposal on management actions for the Bluenose-East herd is being reviewed by the Wildlife Management Advisory Council-NWT, the Sahtu and Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Boards and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

The Beverly and Ahiak proposal is being reviewed by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board.

The resource boards will provide results of their review to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

Backgrounder and barren-ground caribou management units map attached.

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## BACKGROUND

- The GNWT is proposing to allow resident hunters to purchase one bull-only barren-ground caribou tag to harvest from either the Bluenose-East (BNE) or the Beverly and Ahiak caribou herds.
- Designated zones for resident harvest of BNE herd are S/BC/03 and R/BC/01 (see attached barren-ground caribou management units map).
- Designated zone for resident harvest of Beverly/Ahiak herd is U/BC/01 (see attached barren-ground caribou management units map).
- Resident harvest of BNE herd has been closed since 2006.
- Aboriginal harvest of the BNE herd is not restricted and annual harvest between 2009 and 2012 averaged 2,700 animals.
- Most recent survey (2010) indicates herd has increased to 122,000 animals.
- Resident harvest of Beverly and Ahiak herds has been closed since 2006.
- Aboriginal harvest of the herds is not restricted and annual harvest averaged about 1,000 animals in 2009-2010 and less than 1,000 in 2011-2012.
- Most recent survey (2011) indicates size of the Beverly herd at 124,000 and the Ahiak herd at 71,000.
- The potential of infringement on Aboriginal and treaty rights of re-establishing a limited resident harvest on both herds is considered minimal since Aboriginal harvest is unrestricted on these herds.
- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is consulting with Aboriginal governments and traditional users on both proposals. Results of this consultation will be provided to the resource management boards.



NEWS RELEASE

## Second Intergovernmental Meeting Between Gwich'in Tribal Council and GNWT

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 4, 2013)** – Members of Cabinet of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly and the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board of Directors met in Yellowknife on July 3. This was the second meeting of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the GNWT since the signing of the intergovernmental agreement between the two governments on October 13, 2012, and followed closely on the heels of the devolution signing last week in Inuvik.

The meeting focused on areas of mutual interest, including:

- The commitment to achieving a workforce that represents the population it serves
- Improving health services in the Beaufort Delta region
- Funding levels for community programs and services under GNWT contribution agreements
- Establishing protocols for access to Gwich'in lands in the Gwich'in Settlement Area

"We are seeing some very positive benefits from the bilateral meetings between the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Government of the Northwest Territories," said Premier Bob McLeod. "Regular intergovernmental meetings with the GTC and other Aboriginal governments will help us build the relationships we need to successfully implement Devolution and work together to create a strong prosperous Northwest Territories for all our residents in the coming years."

"It's been a year now since our Vice President Norman Snowshoe, and I took over the leadership of the Gwich'in Tribal Council," said Gwich'in Tribal Council President Robert Alexie. "One of the first things we did was re-establish a good working relationship with the Government of the NWT. We were pleased to obtain both a bilateral agreement and an agreement on contracting in the Gwich'in settlement area, which we are making work to our mutual advantage."

The GNWT also confirmed the Premier's attendance at, and a financial contribution for the Gwich'in Tribal Council's upcoming National Conference on Indigenous Self-Government, which will take place on September 10 – 12<sup>th</sup> in Inuvik.

The *Umbrella Intergovernmental Agreement regarding Intergovernmental Cooperation and Coordination* signed on October 13, 2012, recognizes the importance of the government-to-government relationship between the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the GNWT. It commits both governments to meet twice per year. The last meeting between the two governments took place in Inuvik on December 10-11, 2012.

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Canadian Northern Economic  
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de développement  
économique du Nord

# News Release

CanNor 13-019

## **CanNor Fosters Regional Economic Development in the NWT**

*CanNor and the Government of the Northwest Territories collaborate to promote economic development from resource development projects*

**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (July 5, 2013)** – The Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), confirming both parties' commitment to supporting responsible resource and infrastructure development to promote economic prosperity for the people and communities of the Northwest Territories (NWT).

Under this MOU, CanNor and the GNWT will work cooperatively to facilitate the effective and transparent environmental assessment and regulatory process of resource development and regional infrastructure projects in the NWT. CanNor, through its Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO), and the GNWT will also work to align their respective efforts to foster positive economic outcomes for the people and communities of the NWT.

"CanNor is pleased to be working in partnership with the GNWT," said Patrick Borbey, President of CanNor. "This MOU highlights a commitment between our organizations to work together to advance positive socio-economic outcomes for the people of NWT related to major projects moving forward in the territory."

"This is an exciting time for the Northwest Territories, and we are pleased to confirm our partnership with CanNor," said Penny Ballantyne, Secretary to Cabinet. "We both have much to gain from supporting responsible resource and regional infrastructure, effective and transparent environmental assessment/impact review, and economic development for NWT communities. This partnership approach will be especially important as we plan to take on responsibility for managing public lands and resources on April 1, 2014."

The NWT is rich in natural resources and has an increasing number of projects going through the environmental assessment process. Both governments are working together to prepare communities to take advantage of the benefits of these major projects, such as jobs and long-term economic growth.

NPMO, as part of CanNor, has a mandate to improve the timeliness, predictability and transparency of regulatory processes in the North to help create a more stable and attractive investment climate in the territories.

CanNor works with northern communities to prepare them to participate in and benefit from major projects and northern resource development through community planning, including by identifying training, employment, and business opportunities.



CanNor fosters northern economic development through funding programs, providing project management services, leveraging the federal role in the North, serving as a champion for northern interests, and undertaking policy and research.

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NEWS RELEASE

### GNWT Reviews Beach Safety

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 5, 2013)** – The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) is undertaking a review of the use of the beaches at Fred Henne and Hay River Territorial Parks.

“Last week our community faced the tragic loss of a young boy at Long Lake,” said Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister David Ramsay. “We offer our sincere condolences to his family during this extremely difficult time.”

ITI has contracted the Life Saving Society of Alberta and the Northwest Territories to perform an audit of the beaches in both Fred Henne and Hay River Territorial Parks. The department is concentrating on these locations because these beaches are within municipal boundaries and in close proximity to large populations.

The Life Saving Society’s audit will take place within the next two weeks and will address the use of lifeguards, beach size and access, park numbers and usage, signage, and supervision. Audit results will inform the review of beach usage that the department is conducting and provide valuable information about possible safety enhancements.

ITI has also met with City of Yellowknife officials and is committed to working together to coordinate efforts going forward. The department thanks members of the public for their interest in protecting swimmers at NWT beaches this summer, but asks that they contact ITI to discuss plans for any actions with the department in advance.

The safety of users at Territorial Parks is a top priority for the Government of the Northwest Territories and it will continue its efforts to promote and educate the public in the importance of water safety.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Buckle Up NWT campaign Enters Final Stretch

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 10, 2013)** – For one Northwest Territories community this September, being safer while driving will mean music to their ears.

Five communities – Tsiigehtchic, Hay River, Fort Simpson, Fort Resolution, Fort Smith and Norman Wells – are already in the running to win an exclusive concert starring Leela Gilday and Godson by having the highest percentage of seat belt use. As a further incentive, the fire department of the winning community will also receive \$5,000. July 17 is the final day for municipal councils or community fire departments to enter their community in the contest. Transportation Minister David Ramsay, who is responsible for the Drive Alive Program, says the Buckle Up NWT campaign highlights a way every resident can contribute to safe travel on NWT streets and highways. “We know a person is 13 times more likely to die in a motor vehicle collision if they aren’t wearing their seat belt,” he says. “Since most fatalities occur within 25 kilometres of a person’s home, a seat belt should be worn by every occupant of the vehicle, no matter how short the trip will be. It just makes good sense.”

Throughout the summer, Buckle Up NWT will be in the finalist communities monitoring seat belt use. The community with the highest rate of seatbelt use will win a concert with Juno award winner Leela Gilday and her band to be held September 7, 2013. An announcement of the winning community will be made in mid-August.

Seatbelt use in the communities of the Northwest Territories is the lowest in the country. Every year, there are two to three deaths in the NWT that could be prevented by proper seatbelt use. These deaths devastate our families, our friends, and our communities.

Buckle Up NWT has a simple message: Wear your seatbelt while driving, and require your passengers to do the same. Make sure children are properly restrained in car seats. You are responsible for your own safety and the safety of those in your vehicle.

Buckle Up NWT is an initiative of Drive Alive, the road safety information program of the Government of Northwest Territories. More information on how to be safe while on the roads and trails of the NWT is available at the [Department of Transportation website](#).

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NEWS RELEASE

### Contract Not Renewed at Nats'ejee Keh Treatment Centre

**Yellowknife (July 11, 2013)** – The Department of Health and Social Services has made the decision to not renew the contract with the Nats'ejee Keh Treatment Centre for the delivery of addictions treatment programs when the current contract expires on September 30, 2013. "This was the best decision for the residents of the NWT," says Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu. "We will continue to provide residential treatment options and implement goals from our Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan and recommendations from the Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness."

The department decided not to renew the contract based on strong recommendations flowing from the Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness that call for changes to how addictions treatment programs are designed and delivered across the NWT. Nats'ejee Keh has also experienced issues with recruiting and retaining qualified staff in order to deliver a treatment program.

Residential addictions treatment options will continue to be provided to NWT residents. The department is in the process of negotiating contracts with a number of southern treatment programs in Alberta and British Columbia. These contracts should be in place by the end of July 2013.

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NEWS RELEASE

### MACA Hosts Workshop to Build Stronger Partnerships

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 11, 2013)** – Last month, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), in cooperation with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC) and the Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories (LGANT), held a workshop that focused on defining roles, responsibilities, and relationships between the three organizations.

“As community governments across the NWT take on more responsibility for providing services to residents, MACA is working to ensure that they have the best support possible,” said Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod. “The NWTAC and LGANT provide valuable services and a unified voice for elected leaders and local government officials in the NWT. Continuing to build our working relationships with these organizations will only help improve the services available to residents.”

The workshop, held on June 6 and 7, covered a number of areas including clarifying the role of each organization, improving relationships between organizations, identifying synergies, overlaps and gaps in organizational operations and other topics that affect community governments and their supporting organizations.

“Our three organizations are all serving the same customers from different perspectives,” says Clarence Wood, the NWTAC’s Vice President for Cities, Towns and Villages. “Our workshop was an excellent way to coordinate delivery of those services.”

“Everything the NWTAC does is based on building partnerships,” says Tina Gargan, the NWTAC’s Vice President for Charter Communities, Hamlets and Settlements. “Meeting with our most important partners and confirming our relationships will pay big dividends.”

“On behalf of LGANT, I am very pleased with the outcome of these two-day meetings resulting in mutual agreement on strengthening our tri-partite relationships,” said Grant Hood, President of LGANT. “We agreed to common actions and joint communication about our roles and how we will continue working together. This mutual understanding will carry us forward into the next few years working in efficient and effective partnerships supporting LGANT’s role as the professional association of the Local Government Administrators of the NWT”.

Continuing to work with our partners in non-government organizations is a priority for MACA. The services the NWTAC and LGANT deliver provide great value to their membership and complement MACA’s long-term work to build capacity in community governments.

Working closely with partner organizations to provide better services to community governments and residents is helping to build sustainable, vibrant, and safe communities as outlined in the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly's vision of Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners.

For more information about the NWTAC or LGANT, and the programs they provide, visit [www.nwtac.com](http://www.nwtac.com) or [www.lgant.ca](http://www.lgant.ca).

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NEWS RELEASE

### **Northern Aviation Scholarship - Deadline Approaching**

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 11, 2013)** – The deadline to submit an application for a \$5,000 scholarship under the Northern Aviation Scholarship program is fast approaching. All applications must be submitted by July 26, 2013 to be considered.

Those who are considering full-time training for a career related to the North's aviation industry must apply by the deadline to be considered. Applicants who do not have confirmation of acceptance into their planned training program should still apply and submit that confirmation when it is available.

Transportation Minister David Ramsay says the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) investment in northern aviation training is a good one that will provide dividends for many years to come. "Through this program, we are signaling our support for the next generation of aviators, aviation planners and airport operations specialists," he said. "Training opens the door to support their role in the future of our northern aviation industry."

The GNWT's contribution to the Northern Aviation Scholarship program helps support priorities of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly to strengthen and diversify the NWT economy and increase employment opportunities. The Department of Transportation and the Government of Nunavut each contribute up to \$30,000 annually for Northern Aviation Scholarships. In addition, scholarships are provided by the Scholarship program's airline partners: Discovery Air, Keewatin Air, North-Wright Airways, and First Air.

Further information can be found at [www.bit.ly/NASprogram](http://www.bit.ly/NASprogram) or on the Department of Transportation website at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca).

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NEWS RELEASE

## Minister Jackson Lafferty to Lead National Initiative on Aboriginal Education

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 16, 2013)** – Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty was asked by his ministerial colleagues to assume the lead role for improving Aboriginal education in Canada during the Council for Ministers of Education (CMEC) meeting held in Iqaluit this month.

“I am very pleased to assume this important role and thank my colleagues for their support and confidence,” said Minister Lafferty. “This file is very important to me and to the North. We have already broken national ground with the development of the Residential Schools curriculum in partnership with the Legacy of Hope and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I am confident as a group of strong, dedicated Ministers we can accomplish much more for our peoples to ensure their success both as Aboriginals and Canadians.”

Over the coming weeks Minister Lafferty will work with his CMEC team to set goals and create a work plan designed to make improvements to the education success of Aboriginal peoples across Canada. Minister Lafferty will also be working closely with national Aboriginal organizations and education bodies to ensure the work is accomplished in an inclusive and collaborative manner.

A copy of the full communiqué from the July meeting can be found on the [CMEC website](#).

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## Ministers Call for More Innovation and Expanded Opportunities as Education Systems Look to the Future

### First CMEC Meeting in Nunavut Tackles Legacy of Residential Schools

**Iqaluit, July 5, 2013** – The best way to address Canada's growing need for an educated and skilled labour force and ensure a sustained economic recovery is to expand education opportunities and improve learning outcomes in early childhood learning and development, elementary and secondary education, postsecondary education, adult learning and skills development. This, according to provincial and territorial ministers of education who have just concluded the 101<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

Ministers confirmed that Canada is in a strong position to meet the challenges stemming from long-term trends such as the ageing population, the intensification of the knowledge economy, and the acceleration of technological change, but also underscored that education systems must be sustainable, more innovative, and that more needs to be done to reach those Canadians who have so far benefited least from the learning opportunities provided by provincial and territorial systems of education and training.

"Tough economic times, a more demanding workplace, and the need for Canada to keep pace in a more competitive global environment are prompting greater public interest in how well our education systems are preparing Canadians for the future," said the Honourable Marilyn More, Minister Responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women for Nova Scotia, who was speaking on behalf of the Honourable Ramona Jennex, Chair of CMEC and Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development for Nova Scotia. "It is not enough to know we have traditionally done well by international standards," said Minister More. "We need to ensure that our provincial and territorial education systems are leading the way to where we want to be five, 10, even 20 years from now."

#### *Taking action to promote reconciliation and understanding*

At the meeting, ministers resolved to address the painful legacy of residential schools by ensuring that curriculum in all provincial and territorial school systems will allow students to gain an understanding of how residential schools affected Aboriginal children, families, and communities and, ultimately, the country as a whole. Ministers focused on how education can promote reconciliation and mutual understanding, and in that spirit took note of the new school curriculum on the history of residential schools in Canada announced jointly by Northwest Territories and Nunavut in 2012, as well as similar developments in other jurisdictions. "It is no longer acceptable for Canadians to complete their formal education unaware of this dark chapter in our country's history," said the Honourable Eva Aariak, Premier and Minister of Education for Nunavut. "Learning about the history of residential schools can contribute to the collective healing process and strengthen the fabric of communities across the country."

Ministers agreed that the council will continue to focus its attention on the need to improve Aboriginal student success and asked the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Northwest Territories, to help lead CMEC's work in this area. Ministers also emphasized the importance of greater collaboration in this area among all partners, including the federal government, and reiterated the need for the federal government to fulfill its own responsibilities in funding and supporting Aboriginal education.

In discussing Aboriginal education, ministers also noted how early learning opportunities for all children are integral to improving education outcomes. "We have a diverse student population," said Saskatchewan Education Minister Russ Marchuk. "Ensuring that our approach to the early years is inclusive by utilizing a holistic approach rooted in First Nation, Metis, and Inuit perspectives is key to achieving student success."

#### *Improving education outcomes*

Ministers of education shared a common vision for high-quality, sustainable, integrated learning systems from the early years to adult education and skills, and discussed how best to achieve it in terms of both student outcomes and student well-being.

They agreed that numeracy was a key priority and that provinces and territories would work together to identify and share best practices on innovative teaching and learning strategies to raise student achievement in this area. "One advantage of our approach to education is that each jurisdiction can learn from the experiences of the others," said Mr. Sylvain Pagé, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education, Leisure and Sport of Quebec. "CMEC's meetings are important for ensuring that every part of the country benefits from the advances that each province and territory is making in education."

Ministers then took note of particular challenges faced by children and youth in the care of social services and agreed to work to enhance learning opportunities and education outcomes for these children, with a particular focus on Aboriginal children, who represent a significant proportion of this group.

Ministers also considered the ways in which new communication technologies and the principles underlying open educational resources can be used to enhance teaching and learning and make education more accessible to an even greater number of learners.

Finally, ministers recommitted to work through CMEC to ensure that both governments and citizens have the information they need to evaluate the performance of their education and skills-training systems and make informed choices.

#### *Early childhood learning and development*

Ministers discussed work on a common pan-Canadian early-learning-and-development framework. The framework would provide guidance for the development of policies and programs that could have far-reaching benefits for children, parents, and families. This development is part of an ongoing discussion on the transformation of education taking place across provinces and territories aimed at providing children with the best possible start in life.

#### *Postsecondary education*

While in Iqaluit, ministers reviewed evidence pointing to the growing importance of a postsecondary degree, diploma, or certificate in the context of an ever more demanding labour market. "Workers with a postsecondary education were affected least by the economic downturn, and most of the new jobs created since the recession are ones that require a postsecondary education," said the Honourable Brad Duguid, Ontario's Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities. "Our message to Canadians is clear: the value of a postsecondary education in Canada is growing and will continue to grow in the years to come."

Ministers acknowledged the necessity of transformational change in postsecondary systems to respond to fast changing economic and labour market needs, and to address the fiscal challenges faced by all governments. Specific areas for consideration included sustainability, differentiation, improved credit transfer within and among provinces and territories, the role of technology for engaged learning, and collaboration with industry on curriculum, program development and applied research.

Ministers discussed the need to move forward in partnership with postsecondary institutions with the identification of postsecondary indicators at a pan-Canadian level to measure student outcomes in a comparative way and to encourage collaboration between postsecondary institutions.

#### *International education*

Ministers renewed their commitment to play a leadership role in international education through CMEC. They also approved plans for the Third High-Level Consultation on Education Collaboration between the Provinces and Territories of Canada and the People's Republic of China, which will be held in Alberta in the coming months. "Opportunities to be immersed in a different culture add immensely to a student's educational journey," said the Honourable Jeff Johnson, Minister of Education for Alberta. "Whether it's Canadians going abroad, or international students coming to Canada, these exchanges strengthen our personal ties and relationships with partners around the world and bolster our communities and economy."

During their discussions on international education, ministers again asked the federal government to work within a framework based on a true partnership with CMEC to deepen collaboration among the education, trade, and immigration sectors, all of which have an important role to play in promoting Canada's education systems abroad to ensure that Canada's attractiveness as a destination for students and immigrants continues to grow.

#### *First CMEC meeting in Nunavut*

Ministers concluded by thanking Nunavut's Premier and Minister of Education, the Honourable Eva Aariak, for hosting CMEC's first-ever meeting in Canada's newest territory. "I am pleased that my colleagues had an opportunity to visit Nunavut and to experience its people and culture," said Premier Aariak. "Many of the education issues we face in the North, and in Inuit communities in particular, are unique, and yet I believe that all the members of the council benefit enormously from the time we spend together exchanging ideas and experiences. As ministers of education, it is only appropriate that we set an example for learners everywhere by learning from one another."

#### *About CMEC*

*Founded in 1967, CMEC is the collective voice of Canada's ministers of education. It provides leadership in education at the pan-Canadian and international levels and contributes to the exercise of the exclusive jurisdiction of provinces and territories over education. For more information, visit us at [www.cmec.ca](http://www.cmec.ca).*

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NEWS RELEASE

### Reduced Wait Times at Yellowknife Issuing Office

**Yellowknife (July 16, 2013)** – The Yellowknife Driver and Vehicle Licensing Office continues to look for ways to improve its services.

Real-time information on expected wait times at the office is available on the Department of Transportation website. The mobile device-friendly site allows clients to see approximately how long they can expect to wait for service. Members of the public who require issuing office services in Yellowknife are encouraged to visit the [wait time page](#) to gauge how long they will have to wait for service.

A number of other improvements have also been made to improve service and wait times. Clients can now download necessary documents from the department's website before their visit. A ticketing system provides clients with a numbered ticket that provides their expected wait time when they arrive. In an effort to reduce end-of-month line-ups, DOT is using public service announcements and advertisements to encourage clients to choose mid-month for their licensing needs. Anyone is able to register up to three months in advance to get an early start on their vehicle registration.

"The Yellowknife issuing office is the busiest one in the NWT," said Minister of Transportation David Ramsay. "The department is continually improving the delivery of services at the issuing office, and those efforts continue. I expect that there will be further improvements, with more services available on-line, down the road."

These improvements support the goal of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly for effective and efficient government operations.

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NEWS RELEASE

Through Our Lens Series: Northern Films Profile at Popular NWT Arts Festival

**INUVIK (July 17, 2013)**— Northern films will be on display as part of the annual [Great Northern Arts Festival](#) (GNAF), which is taking place this year from July 12-21<sup>st</sup>.

The series of films is titled *Through Our Lens* and will screen daily from 3 to 5 p.m. from July 16-20<sup>th</sup>. Arranged in partnership with the [NWT Film Commission](#), [Western Arctic Moving Pictures](#) and GNAF, films will reflect a different theme each day showcasing the culture of the NWT. Screenings are open to the public and will take place in a theatre room at the Inuvik Multiplex.

*Reflections of the Past – Visions for the Future*, is the theme of the GNAF this year and, in that spirit, the film screenings will include a selection of early films from the NWT Archives, as well as amateur youth films developed through the REEL North Youth initiative. The daily schedule can be found on the [Film Commission website](#).

“This festival is the place where artists from the NWT and around the world get together to celebrate the diversity and culture of Canada’s North,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) David Ramsay. “These screenings provide an opportunity for local filmmakers to showcase their talent. The film and art industries are important sectors of our economy, and by investing in events that showcase NWT films and filmmakers, we are showing our support and raising the profile of the NWT as a filming destination.”

In addition to supporting the film screenings, ITI provided \$25,000 in funding to GNAF through the Support to Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) Policy. By providing funding for events such as GNAF and the *Through Our Lens* screenings, the GNWT is demonstrating its commitment to building a strong and diversified economy, a key priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

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NEWS RELEASE

## NWT Releases 2012 Student Assessment Results

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 18, 2013)** – The Northwest Territories (NWT) released the 2012 Alberta Achievement Tests (AAT), Functional Grade Levels (FGL), and attendance results today.

AATs are standardized tests that measure student performance in NWT curriculum in the areas of Language Arts and Mathematics. Students in grades 3, 6 and 9 write the tests, which provide a snapshot of a student's performance on one particular day.

The FGLs, in contrast, show aspects of student performance over the full year. This is the curriculum level at which a student is working for the majority of the school year in Language Arts and Mathematics. Reporting is based on a variety of classroom assessment methods by teachers over the course of the year.

“Each year these results help track student performance and the success of the education system in the Northwest Territories,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “We know, however, that they only provide snapshots of particular kinds of learning. Alberta, who we partner with on a number of education system components, is completely overhauling these assessments and developing tools designed to measure authentic student learning. In the NWT, we have begun an Education Renewal Initiative and assessment that truly measures student learning is one of the areas we will address.”

The Education Renewal Initiative has been engaging with stakeholders for the past several months, to determine gaps and successes in the NWT education system, and to use this information to inform a new direction for education in the North. The GNWT is not the only jurisdiction analyzing its education system; boards and governments across Canada and the world are looking at how their systems meet the needs of students. Current and emerging research is showing a worldwide need to refocus into systems that support and strengthen student competencies, rather than fitting all students into a model of prescribed outcomes.

For more information on the 2012 AAT, FGL and attendance results, please review attached backgrounder.

For more information:

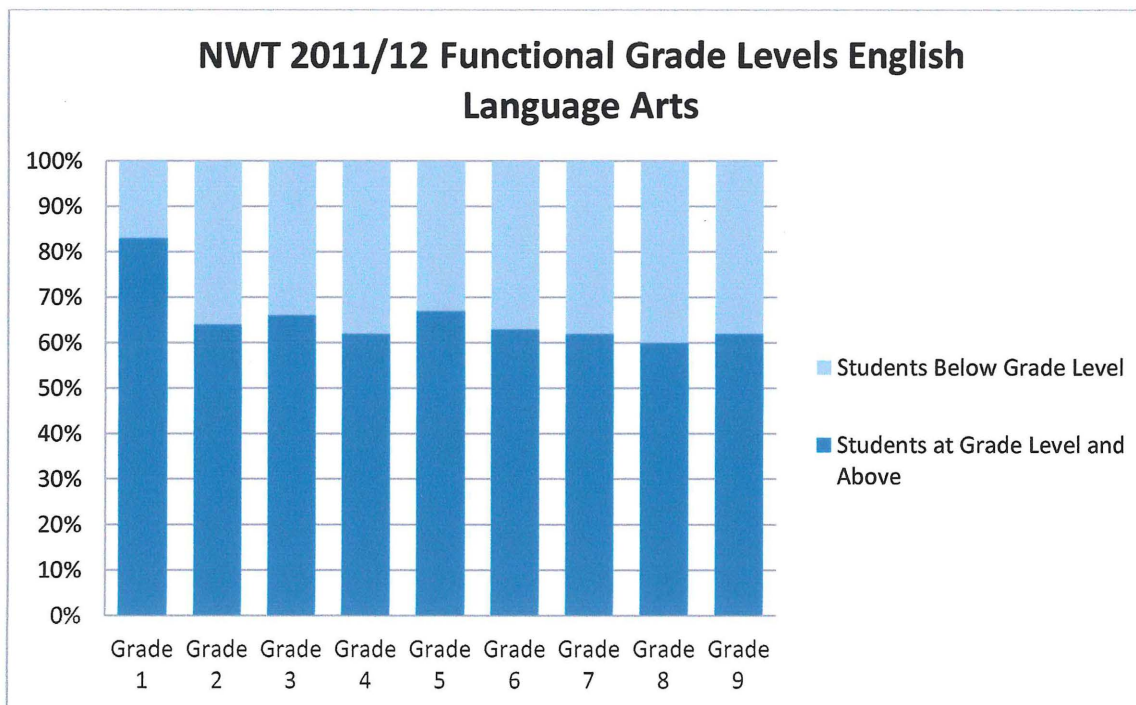
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## Backgrounder – 2011-12 Results for FGLs, AATs, Attendance

### Functional Grade Levels

A Functional Grade Level (FGL) 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 83% of students are able to work on Grade 1 curriculum. Overall, an average of 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 63% of students are working at the appropriate grade level of curriculum for their age.

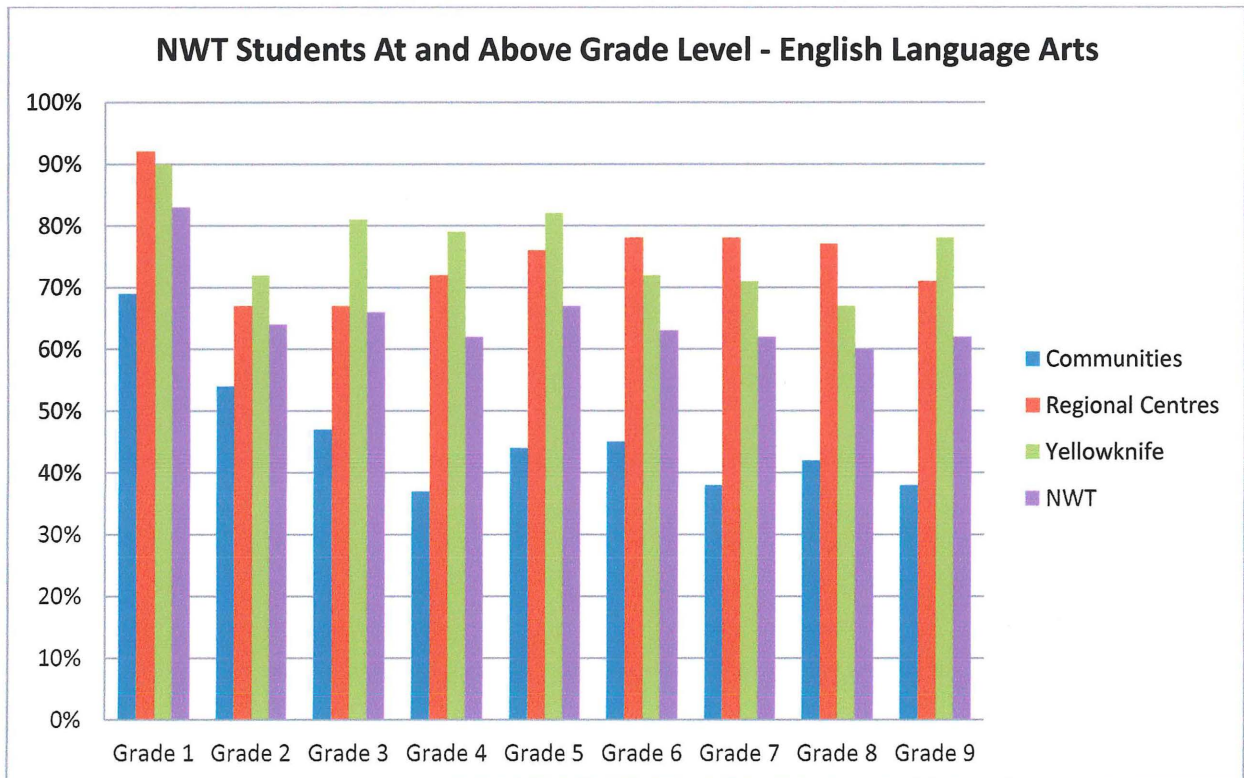
### Functional Grade Levels in English Language Arts



### English Language Arts 2011 - 2012

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Average
Students at Grade Level and Above	83%	64%	66%	62%	67%	63%	62%	60%	62%	65%
Students Below Grade Level	17%	36%	34%	38%	33%	37%	38%	40%	38%	35%

Proportion of NWT Students At and Above Grade Level in English Language Arts 2011 – 2012 by Community Type									
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Communities	69%	54%	47%	37%	44%	45%	38%	42%	38%
Regional Centres	92%	67%	67%	72%	76%	78%	78%	77%	71%
Yellowknife	90%	72%	81%	79%	82%	72%	71%	67%	78%
NWT	83%	64%	66%	62%	67%	63%	62%	60%	62%

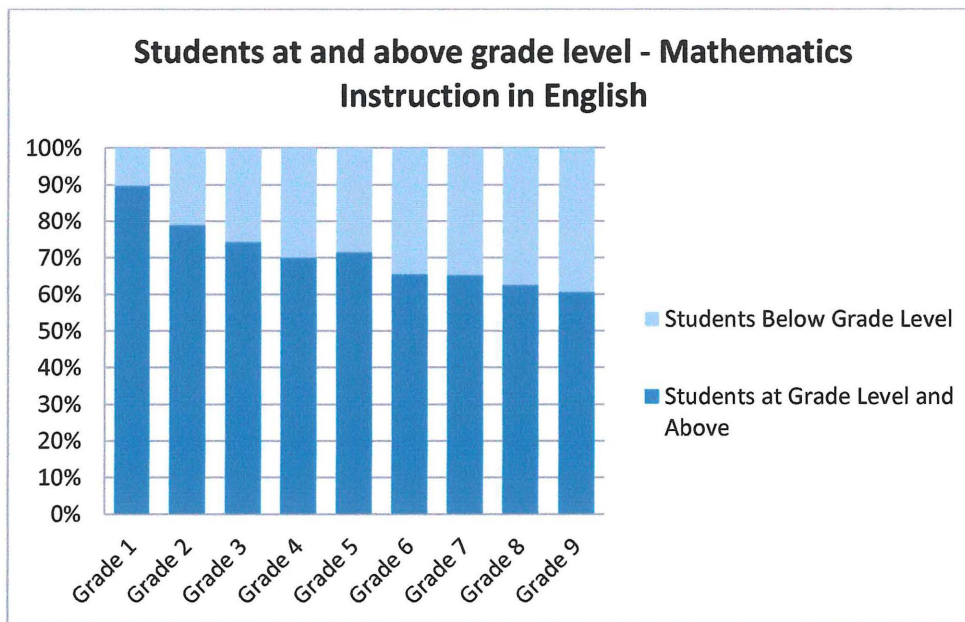




## Historical FGL Information – Proportion of NWT Students At and Above Grade Level in English Language Arts

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
<b>2006/07</b>	79%	65%	65%	58%	60%	61%	58%	62%	58%
<b>2007/08</b>	79%	68%	57%	58%	56%	57%	62%	59%	61%
<b>2008/09</b>	83%	68%	65%	58%	58%	60%	60%	64%	62%
<b>2009/10</b>	81%	69%	64%	67%	59%	63%	59%	61%	59%
<b>2010/11</b>	77%	66%	61%	65%	66%	60%	63%	59%	65%
<b>2011/12</b>	83%	64%	66%	62%	67%	63%	62%	60%	62%

## Functional Grade Levels in Mathematics

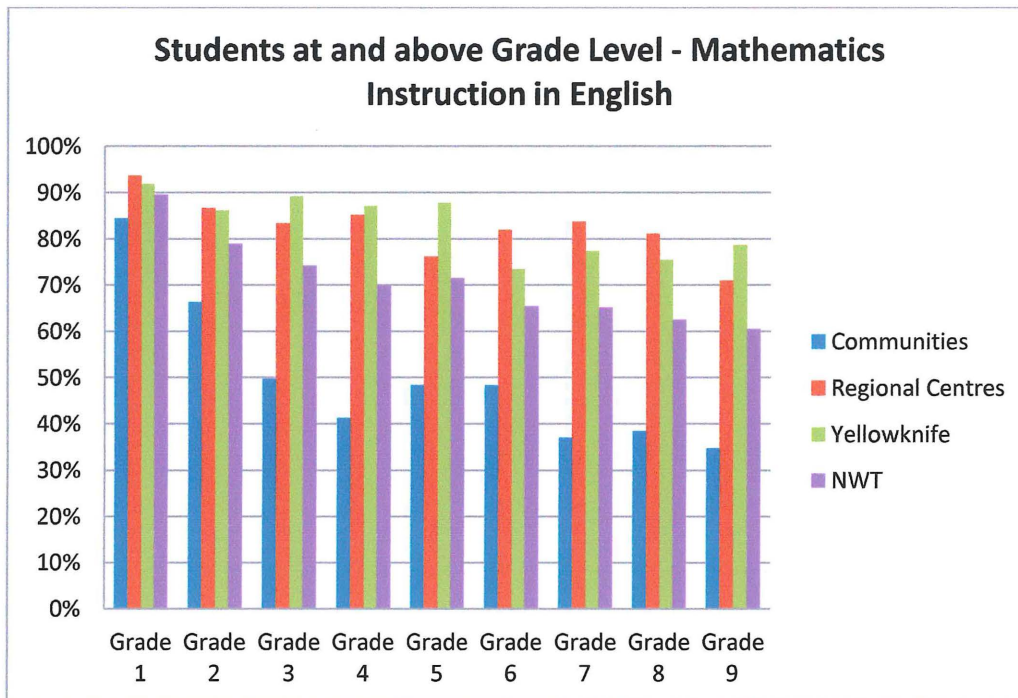


### Proportion of NWT Students At or Above Grade Level in Mathematics 2011 - 2012

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Average
Students at Grade Level and Above	90%	79%	74%	70%	72%	65%	65%	63%	61%	71%
Students Below Grade Level	10%	21%	26%	30%	28%	35%	35%	37%	39%	29%

Proportion of NWT Students At or Above Grade Level in Mathematics 2011 – 2012 by Community Type

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Communities	85%	66%	50%	41%	48%	48%	37%	39%	35%
Regional Centres	94%	87%	83%	85%	76%	82%	84%	81%	71%
Yellowknife	92%	86%	89%	87%	88%	73%	77%	75%	79%
NWT	90%	79%	74%	70%	72%	65%	65%	63%	61%



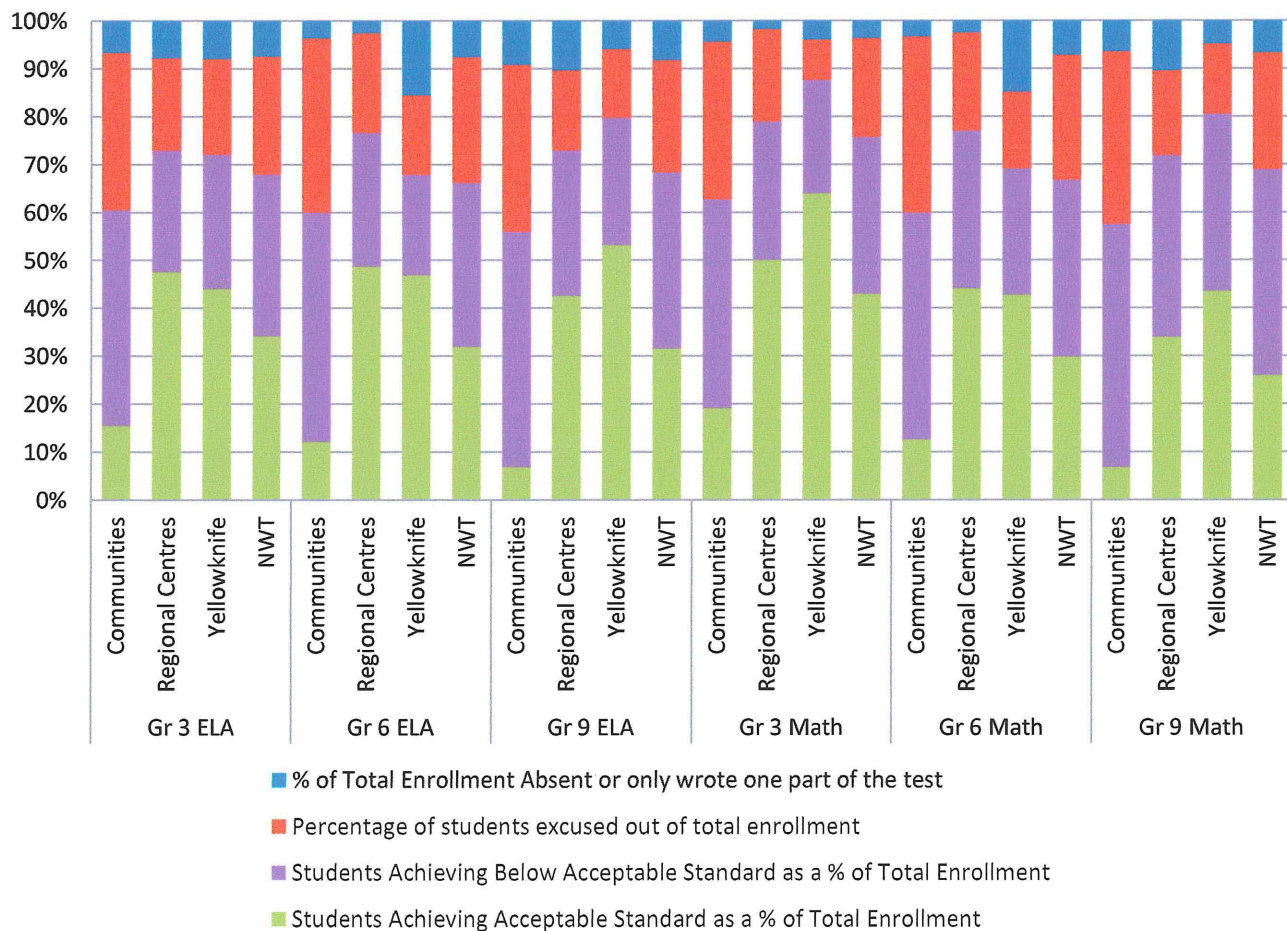
**Historical FGL Information – Proportion of NWT Students At and Above Grade Level in Mathematics**

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
<b>2006/07</b>	86%	78%	76%	67%	65%	65%	68%	69%	57%
<b>2007/08</b>	85%	79%	67%	67%	66%	62%	65%	60%	56%
<b>2008/09</b>	90%	80%	76%	65%	63%	69%	67%	64%	62%
<b>2009/10</b>	82%	79%	73%	70%	63%	63%	61%	63%	60%
<b>2010/11</b>	82%	76%	70%	68%	67%	64%	68%	63%	65%
<b>2011/12</b>	90%	79%	74%	70%	72%	65%	65%	63%	61%

## 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. This means that as a percentage of total enrolment students who met the above criteria and were excused were counted as having performed the acceptable standard.

**NWT 2011 - 2012 AAT Results - Adjusted for NWT Exclusion Policy**



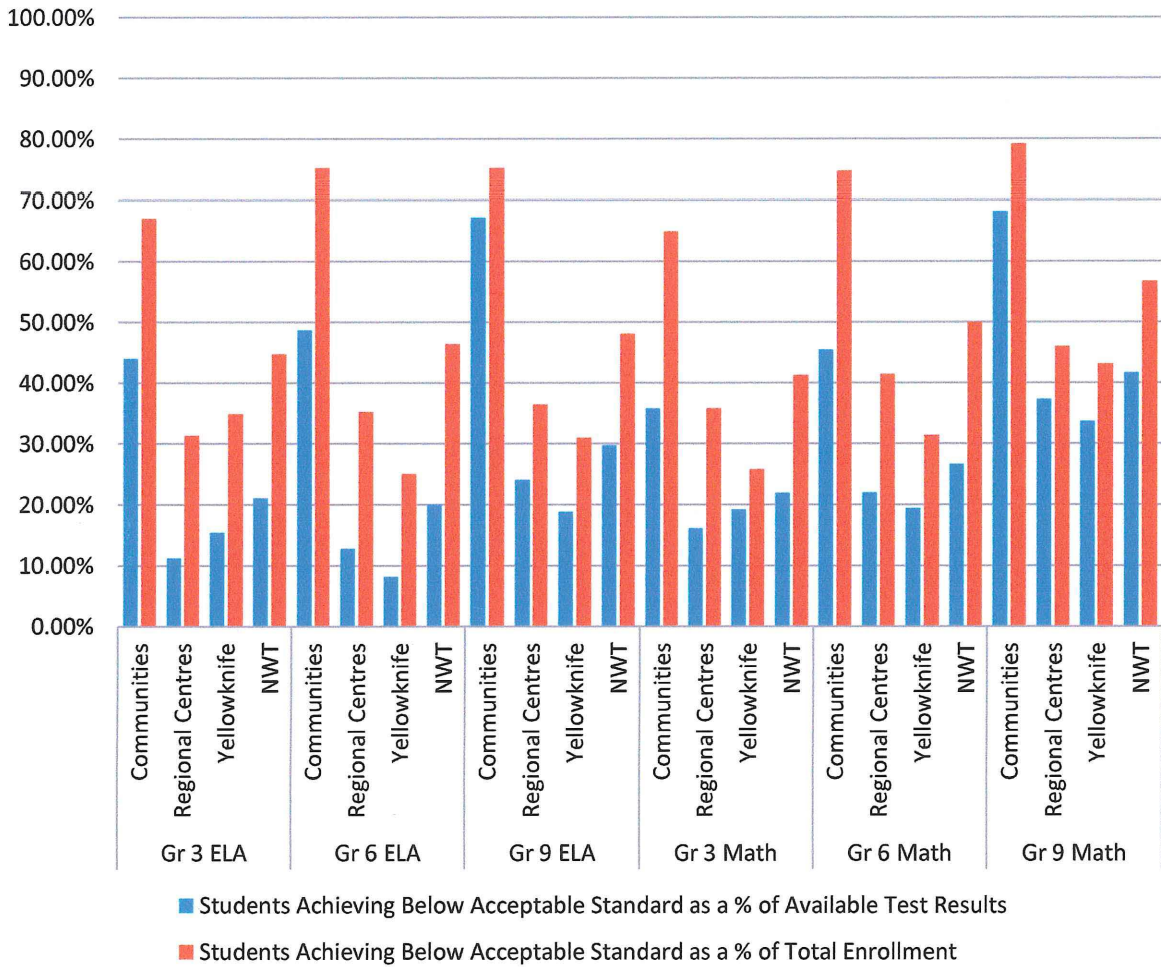
## 2011 - 2012 NWT Results on AATs - adjusted for NWT exclusion policy

Alberta Achievement Test	Community Type	% of Total enrolment where test results are available	% of Total Enrollment Absent or only wrote one part of the test	Percentage of students excused out of total enrolment	Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Available Test Results	Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Total Enrolment	Students Achieving Below Acceptable Standard as a % of Available Test Results	Students Achieving Below Acceptable Standard as a % of Total Enrolment
<b>Gr 3 ELA</b>	Communities	41.2%	9.9%	48.9%	56.0%	23.1%	44.0%	67.0%
	Regional	66.4%	9.7%	23.9%	88.8%	59.0%	11.2%	31.3%
	Yellowknife	65.1%	10.0%	24.9%	84.6%	55.0%	15.4%	34.9%
	NWT	57.4%	9.9%	32.7%	78.9%	45.3%	21.1%	44.8%
<b>Gr 6 ELA</b>	Communities	37.1%	5.7%	57.1%	51.3%	19.0%	48.7%	75.2%
	Regional	70.5%	3.3%	26.2%	87.2%	61.5%	12.8%	35.2%
	Yellowknife	61.4%	18.6%	20.0%	91.9%	56.4%	8.1%	25.0%
	NWT	54.2%	10.3%	35.5%	79.9%	43.3%	20.1%	46.4%
<b>Gr 9 ELA</b>	Communities	32.3%	14.1%	53.5%	32.8%	10.6%	67.2%	75.3%
	Regional	67.4%	12.4%	20.2%	75.9%	51.2%	24.1%	36.4%
	Yellowknife	76.4%	7.0%	16.6%	81.1%	62.0%	18.9%	31.0%
	NWT	58.6%	10.8%	30.6%	70.2%	41.2%	29.8%	48.0%
<b>Gr 3 Math</b>	Communities	44.51%	6.6%	48.9%	64.2%	28.6%	35.8%	64.8%
	Regional	73.88%	2.2%	23.9%	83.8%	61.9%	16.2%	35.8%
	Yellowknife	86.46%	4.4%	9.2%	80.8%	69.9%	19.2%	25.8%
	NWT	69.36%	4.6%	26.1%	78.0%	54.1%	22.0%	41.3%
<b>Gr 6 Math</b>	Communities	36.67%	5.2%	58.1%	54.5%	20.0%	45.5%	74.8%
	Regional	71.09%	3.1%	25.8%	78.0%	55.5%	22.0%	41.4%
	Yellowknife	63.18%	17.7%	19.1%	80.6%	50.9%	19.4%	31.4%
	NWT	55.02%	9.7%	35.3%	73.3%	40.3%	26.7%	50.0%
<b>Gr 9 Math</b>	Communities	33.50%	10.2%	56.3%	31.8%	10.7%	68.2%	79.2%
	Regional	65.87%	12.7%	21.4%	62.7%	41.3%	37.3%	46.0%
	Yellowknife	77.09%	5.7%	17.2%	66.3%	51.1%	33.7%	43.2%
	NWT	58.91%	8.9%	32.2%	58.3%	34.4%	41.7%	56.7%

**Notes:**

1. Source: Department of Education, Culture and Employment.
2. Prepared by: NWT Bureau of Statistics.
3. The Absent/Other category includes students absent during the writing of the exam, students writing only one part of the test and students whose results were withheld.
4. The Excluded category includes students excluded from writing the exam as well as all students coded as special education.
5. Test standards are determined by set scores for each test. Excellent standards are a sub-set of the total number of students at acceptable standards.
6. Data is subject to future revisions and is not necessarily comparable to numbers in past tabulations and reports.
7. Regional Centres include Fort Smith, Hay River and Inuvik.

### 2011 - 2012 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	2012
<b>Grade 3 ELA</b>	53.5%	47.6%	46.0%	48.6%	53.1%	45.3
<b>Grade 6 ELA</b>	48.1%	44.5%	46.5%	49.3%	49.4%	43.3
<b>Grade 9 ELA</b>	36.4%	35.5%	36.5%	38.4%	44.0%	41.2
<b>Grade 3 Math</b>	56.8%	48.4%	49.1%	*	48.3%	54.1
<b>Grade 6 Math</b>	38.4%	36.0%	40.9%	*	38.0%	40.3
<b>Grade 9 Math</b>	28.9%	25.7%	23.0%	*	30.2%	34.4

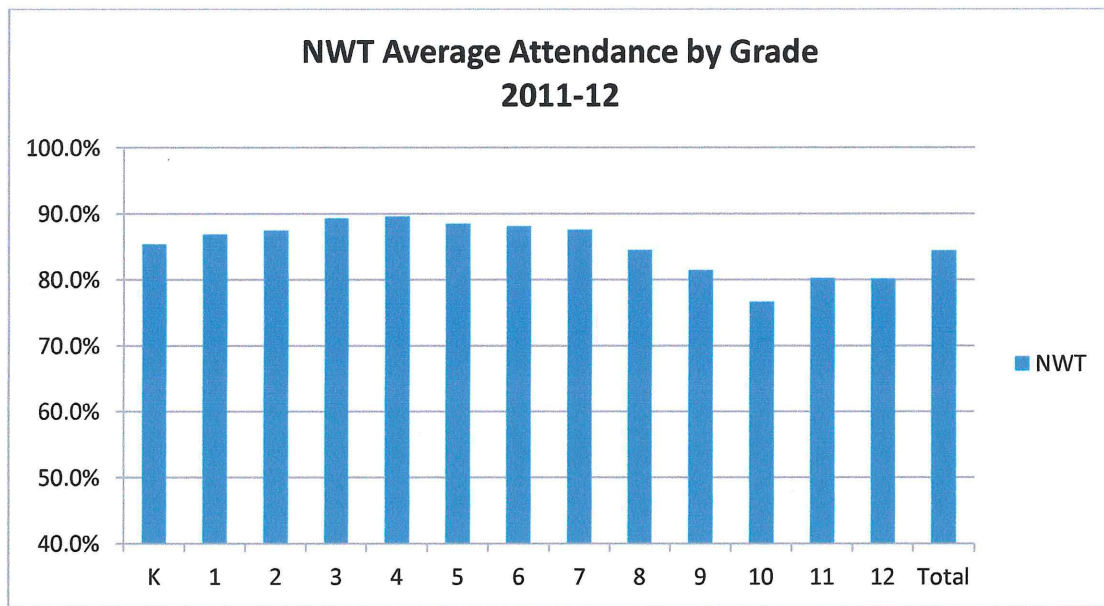
\* The 2010 AAT results for math were not released due to the implementation of new curriculum.

## 2011 - 2012 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)
<b>Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Available &amp; Reportable Test Results</b>	75.0%	81.1%	80.8%	82.7%	81.0%	82.4%
<b>Students Achieving Acceptable Standard as a % of Total Enrolment</b>	72.2%	71.4%	75.0%	82.7%	81.0%	82.4%

## School Attendance 2011 - 2012

Consistent and engaged attendance in school is essential for academic success. In the 2011-2012 school year the average student in the Northwest Territories attended school 84.4% of the time. This average is lower in the small community schools where the average student attended 80.8% of the time. To better understand how poor attendance impacts student academic achievement, consider that a student who has 80% attendance misses one day of school each week. Over several years this means that the student is missing one entire school year in five. A student with 80% attendance will have missed two years of school by grade 10. The trends in attendance information also show that attendance is highest in grades 3 and 4 and then drops dramatically until grade 10. Attendance rates only include students who attend.



	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
<b>Communities</b>	78.6%	81.6%	82.2%	84.7%	86.7%	84.2%	83.9%	81.9%	77.7%	78.8%	77.2%	80.8%	77.3%	80.8%
<b>Regional Centres</b>	84.5%	85.8%	86.3%	89.2%	86.4%	87.3%	87.8%	85.8%	81.2%	76.9%	71.6%	75.7%	73.1%	81.8%
<b>Yellowknife</b>	90.9%	91.4%	93.4%	92.9%	93.3%	92.8%	92.3%	93.0%	92.3%	86.6%	79.5%	81.6%	85.0%	89.1%
<b>NWT</b>	85.4%	86.9%	87.5%	89.3%	89.6%	88.5%	88.1%	87.6%	84.5%	81.5%	76.7%	80.3%	80.2%	84.4%

For the 2011/12 school year, the average attendance for students enrolled in the NWT was 84.4%. The 2011/12 average is slightly above the average for the 2010/11 school year which was 83.7%.



NEWS RELEASE

### NWT Celebrates Canada's Parks Day

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 19, 2013)** –Events to mark National Parks Day will take place at territorial parks across the Northwest Territories on July 20 to celebrate the contribution the territories' parks make to the economy, our culture, and communities.

More than 70,000 people visited the NWT last year and the tourism industry contributed over \$100 million to the economy in 2012. The tourism industry's success is due largely to the 34 territorial parks that showcase the amazing wildlife, unique scenery and exciting recreational activities of the territory.

"Our territorial parks offer tourists the perfect locations to camp, hike and explore the beautiful landscape of the NWT," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) David Ramsay. "Parks Day is a great opportunity to recognize the important role our parks play in growing the tourism sector and to acknowledge all of the people who work hard to make these parks so special and ensure that visitors have an unforgettable experience."

Some of the events being held throughout the territory to celebrate Parks Day include:

- Inuvik Region – a barbeque will be held at the Western Arctic Regional Visitor Centre in Inuvik from 12 to 3 p.m. The event will include a demonstration of Northern games, a nature walk with a Canada Parks Officer and craft projects for children.
- Sahtu Region – ITI will be hosting a community barbeque at McKinnon Territorial Park near Norman Wells from 1 to 6 p.m. Activities for children, drum dancing and hand game demonstrations will be part of the celebration.
- Dehcho Region – the Visitors Information Centre in Fort Simpson will be offering a historical bike and walking tour at 1 p.m. From 3 to 5 p.m. the Fort Simpson pool will be open for a free public swim and barbeque.
- North Slave Region – a scavenger hunt will take place at 11 a.m. at Prelude Lake Park, located just outside of Yellowknife. The scavenger hunt will start at the gatehouse, and will be followed by a barbeque.

Canada's Parks Day is a nation-wide annual celebration that aims to connect Canadians to nature and to emphasize the crucial role the environment plays in our everyday lives. Events that highlight the history and diversity of Canada's parks and historic places will be held throughout the country.

More information about Canada's Parks Days events can be found at [www.parksday.ca](http://www.parksday.ca)

#### For more information:

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NEWS RELEASE

## Drowning Prevention Week

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 22, 2013)** – This is Drowning Prevention Week in Canada. Residents and visitors are urged to practice water safety while boating, fishing and swimming in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister David Ramsay, who is also Minister of Transportation, says outdoor swimming areas in communities and parks are a great place to have fun, but he encourages people to stay safe by using common sense and being water smart. “Keeping young swimmers safe is a shared responsibility,” he adds. “Swimmers should always swim with a buddy, young children and non-swimmers should have a personal flotation device on and parents or guardians should ensure their children are within arm’s reach at all times.”

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod says that a large proportion of drownings are of boaters who don’t wear lifejackets. “So many of our drownings are of people whose lifejacket is lying on the bottom of the boat out of reach when the person falls out of the boat,” he points out. “A properly fitting personal flotation device or lifejacket should be on every person in the boat and it’s up to the boat operator and other adults in the boat to set that example for everyone.”

Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu says drowning is completely preventable and alcohol plays a large role in the number of drownings in the territory. “Alcohol is involved in one-third of all drownings, and more than two-thirds of drowning victims are adult males,” he says. “I encourage everyone – don’t put your life in the hands of a boater who has been drinking. We want everyone to get to their destination safely.”

All those who use NWT waterways should remember:

1. The best way to avoid the consequences of someone else’s risky behaviour is to avoid boating with a drinking, speeding or reckless boat operator.
2. Most drownings occur in the first few minutes after submersion because of the unexpected shock of cold water. A personal flotation device or lifejacket can keep you afloat and provide warmth in those critical early minutes.
3. We all need to watch out for others. Remember, a drowning victim will likely not be waving or shouting. They may be unable to speak at all. If you’re unsure whether the person needs help, ACT, and get the help of others to assist the victim. Don’t put yourself in danger.
4. Everyone should know how to summon emergency assistance.

The Department of Transportation website has links to valuable information on drowning prevention on its home page at [www.dot.gov.nt.ca](http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca).

The Drowning Prevention Action Plan is an initiative of the Healthy Choices Framework, a Government of Northwest Territories program to promote health and safety through appropriate

choices. Healthy Choices supports the goal of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly for safe communities and the priority of investing in prevention, education, and awareness.

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### Drowning Prevention Action Plan

There are a number of departments and agencies of the Government of Northwest Territories that have responsibilities for the prevention of drowning. They work together under the Injury Prevention pillar of the [Healthy Choices Framework](#) (HCF).

The lead departments for HCF's Injury Prevention work are Health and Social Services (HSS), Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), and Transportation (DOT). Other GNWT partners include Industry Tourism and Investment (which administers the territorial parks system), Coroner's Office, Workers Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC), and the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer. Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Dene Nation, Transport Canada's Office of Boating Safety and the NWT Recreation and Parks Association (NWTRPA) are also members.

- HSS leads on the collection and reporting of data related to all preventable injuries in the Northwest Territories, compiling data from all sources to get a complete picture of factors that contribute to drownings in the NWT. It also coordinates programming related to injury prevention.
- DOT is responsible for communications, social marketing and awareness campaigns related to drowning prevention, including efforts to improve the use of lifejackets and reduce the number of impaired boaters.
- MACA connects and works with other partners to build collaborations and coordinate efforts for drowning prevention in the NWT.
- ITI is responsible for commercial boat safety in the territory, as well as waterfront safety at territorial parks.
- WSCC sets standards and best practices to avoid work-related drownings, and investigates all work-related incidents and work sites to ensure safe practices are followed.
- Coroner's Office investigates all drownings, and supplies data on each drowning incident to help ensure that drowning prevention efforts in the NWT are evidence-based.

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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 Office of the Chief Public Health Officer liaises with the medical community to provide timely information on preventable injuries, including drownings, to help the committee prioritize activities to those that are currently most needed.
- The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Dene Nation representatives contribute knowledge of Aboriginal practices and perspectives, advice on best approaches and guidance on priorities in their regions.
- Through the NWTRPA, the partners connect with the member of the NWT Aquatics Committee which represents most aquatics groups in the NWT.

Some of the activities supported by the drowning prevention work of Healthy Choices Framework include:

1. Partnership with Lifesaving Society of Alberta and the NWT to deliver the Water Smart and Swim to Survive programs to every community in the NWT;
2. Support for boat safety training in communities such as Deline where the renewable resources council sponsored intensive boat safety training for commercial boat operators, traditional use boaters and recreational boaters;
3. Supply of lifejackets/personal flotation devices to support community lifejacket loaner programs;
4. Supply of funding for SPOT personal locator devices for community-led initiatives; and
5. Awareness and social marketing campaigns.

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NEWS RELEASE

Premier McLeod Congratulates the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on the Birth of Their First Child

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 23, 2013)** – Premier Bob McLeod congratulated Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on the birth of their son.

“Starting a family is an exciting and rewarding time and I want to offer congratulations on behalf of all the people of the Northwest Territories,” said Premier McLeod. “Many residents have fond memories of Their Royal Highnesses’ visit to the Northwest Territories in July of 2011 and join with them in celebrating this news.”

Northerners can send their best wishes to The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge electronically by visiting the [Governor General’s website](#).

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge ask those wishing to mark the birth of their son to please donate to a local children’s charity.

For more information:

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## **Stanton Territorial Health Authority Announces New CEO**

**July 23, 2013** - Mr. Joe Handley, Public Administrator for Stanton Territorial Health Authority (STHA), is pleased to announce that Ms. Brenda Fitzgerald has accepted the position of STHA Chief Executive Officer (CEO), as successor to Ms. Kay Lewis.

With a Bachelor of Commerce (Labour Relations) from Memorial University of Newfoundland and a Masters of Health Science (Health Administration) from the University of Toronto, Ms. Fitzgerald has had an extensive career in health services administration and has held several CEO and other senior leadership positions in a variety of organizations across Canada, including several acute care hospitals, most recently St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. In addition, Ms. Fitzgerald also served as Assistant Deputy Minister of Health, with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador where she oversaw the transfer of the community based components of the provincial department of social services to regional health and community services boards. In 2009, Ms. Fitzgerald started her own consulting company and from 2010-2012 she oversaw the construction and commissioning of a 100 suite long term care facility in partnership with the Catholic Health Ministry of Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Health, Government of Saskatchewan. Her latest project is the construction, commissioning and licensing of a 174 suite independent and assisted living facility.

With over 30 years in executive roles, Ms. Fitzgerald has

- led strategic processes that created or improved mission-critical health and social services at various levels
- built and maintained partnerships with diverse groups of individuals, organizations and in cross-cultural environments
- transformed underperforming organizational cultures
- demonstrated authentic, values-based leadership

Ms. Fitzgerald will be joining the STHA staff in the middle of September.

For more information contact:

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Coordinator Communications Policy & Planning  
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NEWS RELEASE

### GNWT's Credit Rating of Aa1 Confirmed

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 24, 2013)** - The Government of the Northwest Territories' Aa1 credit rating has been [confirmed by Moody's Investors Service](#). This is the second-highest credit rating Moody's issues, and follows its annual review of the GNWT's fiscal plans, outlook, and borrowing activity. The GNWT has maintained this high credit rating since 2008-09, indicating its sound fiscal strategy. The investment-grade rating also reflects the NWT's high employment rates and GDP per capita levels.

"This confirms that we are on the right track with our fiscal policies that support the economy," said Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Finance. "We will not stand pat and take our hard-earned rating for granted. We will maintain our spending on programs and services but we must also continue to control growth in operating expenditures. This will generate surpluses to invest in our infrastructure. There are inherent risks in an economy focused on resource development, and Moody's specifically notes our reporting and accountability as key to our continued fiscal discipline."

Moody's credit rating recognizes the GNWT's ongoing sound financial management based on a well-developed fiscal framework and [Fiscal Responsibility Policy](#). The analysis also included recognition of the additional revenue and fiscal flexibility that will result from the devolution of authority over lands and waters to the NWT.

The GNWT's rating is on par with Manitoba and Saskatchewan and a step above that of Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces. 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.

A high credit rating allows the GNWT to build a strong, sustainable future for the NWT by making strategic infrastructure investments that will increase northern capacity, strengthen and diversify the economy, and increase employment opportunities where they are most needed.

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NEWS RELEASE

### Lifejacket Loaner Station Newest Addition to Fred Henne Beach

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 24, 2013)** – A Lifejacket Loaner Station program will pilot this August at Fred Henne beach, providing free lifejackets for the public to borrow and then return after use for other patrons.

This GNWT is working in partnership with the Lifesaving Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories (Lifesaving Society), Canada's expert on water safety, to put the pilot program in place. This is the first time a Lifesaving Society lifejacket loaner station will pilot in the Northwest Territories.

"We will continue to work with the experts at the Lifesaving Society, the public and with each other to raise public awareness about the importance of water safety. Lifejackets save lives and we encourage everyone using the water to be water smart," said Minister of ITI, David Ramsay. "Community support has been amazing and we want to thank the citizens and businesses who have come forward to express their wish to help with initiatives such as the pilot of the lifejacket loaner station program."

The lifejacket loaner station program consists of two elements: public education as well as free lifejackets available to borrow and return.

The Lifesaving Society will donate the initial inventory of up to 30 children's size jackets, educational materials and signage, and rack card and comment boxes to start the pilot. The GNWT will also be working with local business owner Trevor Kasteel to construct and install the lifejacket kiosk. The kiosk will be installed in September but lifejackets will be available for loan in early August.

The Lifesaving Society is Canada's expert on water safety. The Society works to prevent drowning and water-related injury through its training programs, Water Smart public education initiatives, water-incident research, aquatic safety management services and lifesaving sport. The Society is an independent, charitable organization. Anyone who would like to assist with the lifejacket loaner station program kiosk or other safety initiatives aimed at the NWT can contact the [Lifesaving Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories](#) for further information and to make a donation.

Links:

[Lifesaving Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories](#)  
[Water Smart® Program](#)  
[GNWT Healthy Choices Framework](#)  
[GNWT reviews beach safety](#)

For more information, please contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

### GNWT Recognized for Innovation in Diversity

**YELLOWKNIFE (July 25, 2013)** – The GNWT has been named a [Top Ten Innovator](#) for its new [Aboriginal Cultural Awareness training](#). The Innovations in Diversity Awards are granted by the *Profiles in Diversity Journal*, a magazine that focuses on inclusion in the business, government, non-profit, education, and military sectors throughout North America.

“We are very proud of our Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training, and are pleased that it has been recognized alongside initiatives throughout Canada and the United States,” said Glen Abernethy, Minister of Human Resources. “The GNWT workplace is diverse, inclusive, and welcoming to all.”

The GNWT is committed to developing and maintaining a representative work force, and has been recognized as one of [Canada's Best Diversity Employers for 2013](#). Aboriginal Cultural Awareness training was launched on June 20, 2013, and is available to all GNWT employees and to the public on the Department of Human Resources' website.

*Profiles in Diversity Journal*, now in its 14th year, is a bi-monthly print magazine published in Cleveland, Ohio. The focus of the *Journal* is senior leadership, best practices, workforce diversity strategies, and recognition of employee contribution.

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NEWS RELEASE

Minister Appoints Public Administrator for the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority  
**YELLOWKNIFE (July 29, 2013)** – Minister of Health and Social Services Tom Beaulieu has appointed Mr. James Antoine as Public Administrator for the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority (DHSSA). Mr. Antoine assumes the powers, duties and responsibilities normally exercised by the DHSSA Board while his appointment is in effect. The *Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act* gives the Minister the authority to take such action if it is in the public interest to do so.

“Our priority is to ensure that Dehcho residents receive the best quality care possible,” said Minister Beaulieu. “After careful consideration, I determined that it was in the best interests of the residents of the Dehcho to appoint a public administrator. This is an important first step towards addressing the issues and challenges that the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority faces.”

The Public Administrator is responsible for operating, controlling and managing DHSSA facilities.

For more information, contact:

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**Backgrounder: Public Administrator for the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority**

- The *Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act* outlines the circumstances when a Minister may appoint a Public Administrator to manage the affairs of health or social services facilities.

- The Minister felt it was in the public interest to appoint a Public Administrator due to ongoing concerns with the management of the Authority in the Dehcho region.
- The Public Administrator assumes all of the duties and responsibilities normally handled by a board of management. This includes, supporting the development of and approving strategic plans and policies, appointing medical staff, budget approval and management, ensuring risk management and quality assurance, and public communications.
- The Dehcho Leadership and Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Dehcho and Nahendeh have been consulted and support the appointment of Mr. Antoine as a Public Administrator.
- As a former Premier of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Antoine has a wealth of experience and is familiar with health and social services issues in the Dehcho region.



NEWS RELEASE

## Corrections Northern Recruit Program Celebrates First Fort Smith Graduates

**FORT SMITH (August 8, 2013)** – Twelve new graduates from the first-ever Corrections Northern Recruit Training Program (CNRTP) session offered in Fort Smith have gained the training and skills they need to apply on corrections positions or other security-related jobs in the Northwest Territories.

“We’re very proud of this program and the quality of the graduate recruits,” said Minister of Justice Glen Abernethy. “It’s important that our inmates are served by corrections officers and staff who have a deep understanding of the culture and people of the North. This home-grown solution ensures Northerners have the training they need to get jobs in any of our four facilities or beyond. Congratulations to each of today’s graduates.”

With two Department of Justice facilities in the community, the Fort Smith training session ensured area residents were able to access training that could lead to further career opportunities.

All CNRTP participants receive six weeks of paid training with certified instructors from the Department of Justice. Upon completion of the training session, participants job-shadow a corrections officer for 14 days.

“We are having great success with each class and will be holding another training session in Yellowknife this fall,” said Minister Abernethy. “I encourage everyone interested in this opportunity for paid training to apply before the August 19th deadline.”

The Yellowknife session will run from November 8 to December 20, 2013. Applicants may apply through the Government of the Northwest Territories’ eRecruit website at [www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment](http://www.hr.gov.nt.ca/employment) and will need to submit their résumé and complete a successful interview to be accepted into the program. Deadline for applications is August 19, 2013.

For more information on CNRTP program:

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NEWS RELEASE

## Growing Forward 2 Agricultural Program Launched in Northwest Territories

**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (August 13, 2013)** – Today, Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz and Northwest Territories Industry, Tourism and Investment Minister David Ramsay announced *Growing Forward 2* program details for the agricultural sector in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The announcement follows the signing of the Canada-Northwest Territories *Growing Forward 2* multilateral and bilateral contribution agreements.

"Our Government remains focused on creating jobs, growth and long-term prosperity for Northwest Territories' agriculture industry," said Minister Ritz. "*Growing Forward 2* provides flexible, innovative programming for Northwest Territories' hardworking producers to ensure that they have the tools necessary to remain innovative and competitive."

The *Growing Forward 2* Agreement will provide approximately \$1.2 million per year for the NWT agriculture sector over the next five years – a funding increase of approximately \$400,000 per year. Key features of the programming include expansion of the Small Scale Foods Program – community gardens in regions throughout the NWT; increased funding to support traditional food harvesting, including the successful Take a Kid Harvesting program; mentorship delivery through a Human Resources Development Program; agriculture awareness programming; and agriculture research.

"We have witnessed tremendous growth in agriculture initiatives in the Northwest Territories over the past number of years, and the agriculture sector has great potential to grow and diversify our economy," said Minister David Ramsay. "Through *Growing Forward 2*, we are contributing to more sustainable communities by helping to increase the supply of locally produced food, diversifying the food basket so healthier options are available and lowering the cost of food for Northwest Territories' families."

*Growing Forward 2* is a renewed commitment by the federal, provincial and territorial governments to ensure productivity and profitability for Canada's agricultural sector. With a focus on innovation, competitiveness, and market development, *Growing Forward 2* programs are designed to help the industry position itself to respond to future opportunities and to realize its full potential as a significant contributor to the Canadian economy. Programs are tailored to encourage the growth of the NWT's diverse regional agriculture requirements.

The new five-year *Growing Forward 2* agreement includes \$2 billion for federal-provincial-territorial strategic initiatives, a 50 percent increase in cost-shared funding, as well as \$1 billion for federal-only strategic initiatives. The federal government has announced details of its three federal programs: AgriInnovation, AgriMarketing and AgriCompetitiveness.

For more information on [Growing Forward 2](http://www.agr.gc.ca/GrowingForward2), visit [www.agr.gc.ca/GrowingForward2](http://www.agr.gc.ca/GrowingForward2). A complete list of [Growing Forward 2 programs in the Northwest Territories](http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/fursagriculturefisheries/growingforward.shtml) is available at <http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/fursagriculturefisheries/growingforward.shtml>.

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For more information, media may contact:

Media Relations  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Ottawa, Ontario  
613-773-7972  
1-866-345-7972

Jeff English  
Press Secretary  
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Manager, Public Affairs and Communications  
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NEWS RELEASE

## Bison Season Begins in the Northwest Territories

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 15, 2013)** – Today marks the beginning of "bison season", the period between mid-August and mid-December when drivers on Highways 3, 5, and 7 are most at risk of a bison collision.

Minister of Transportation David Ramsay reminds drivers to exercise additional care and caution when driving on these highways, particularly after dusk. "As a result of increased awareness, we have seen a significant reduction in the number of reported bison collisions," he said. "Drivers have responded to the message that the risk of injuries and even death as a result of a bison collision is significant, and every bison collision is avoidable."

In 2008, there were 31 reported bison collisions, which dropped to only eight in 2011. 2012 was an average year for collisions, with 16 reported collisions. So far in 2013, there have been four reported bison collisions.

Bison collisions are continuing to occur as a result of three main factors:

1. Driving at a speed too fast for conditions, particularly after dusk and at night.
2. Increased high-risk hours of darkness over this period.
3. Many drivers are unaware that on Highway 3, where the majority of bison collisions occur, bison can be encountered only 20 kilometres from Yellowknife.

Drive Alive, the travel safety information program of the Government of Northwest Territories, promotes bison awareness to encourage safe travel and to engage residents in a dialogue to improve safety on NWT highways. For more information about Drive Alive, please visit the [Department of Transportation's website](#).

For more information:

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NEWS RELEASE

## GNWT Launches New Careers Website

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 15, 2013)** – [GNWT Careers](#), a new website from the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), makes it easier to learn about and apply for positions in the territorial public service and encourages workers throughout the NWT and Canada to balance life and experience living as a GNWT employee.

“I am excited about the new website and the opportunities it provides to enhance our efforts to recruit a representative workforce,” said Minister of Human Resources Glen Abernethy. “It showcases our wide variety of employment opportunities and highlights what our employees already know – the GNWT is a great place to work.”

The *GNWT Careers* website includes a new “talent community” feature. By joining the talent community, individuals can receive automated updates when jobs in the areas they are interested in are posted. Other tools on the new website include information on how to apply on a GNWT job, résumé writing and interview tips. New content will be added on a regular basis to encourage people to consider GNWT career opportunities.

Applicants are encouraged to check the careers website often; available jobs are updated on a regular basis.

*GNWT Careers* helps fulfill the commitment made in [20/20: A Brilliant North – NWT Public Service Strategic Plan](#) to support recruitment of a diversified, inclusive and skilled workforce.

You can visit the new website at [www.gnwtjobs.ca](http://www.gnwtjobs.ca).

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NEWS RELEASE

## Buckle Up NWT Winner to be Announced August 22

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 16, 2013)** – Audits of seat-belt use have been conducted in all communities that registered for the Buckle Up NWT contest and a winner will be announced August 22.

Buckle Up NWT promotes the use of occupant restraints for drivers and passengers in the Northwest Territories. Leela Gilday and her band will perform in the winning community on September 7. The community's fire department will receive \$5,000.

The audit showed that more than 70% of vehicle occupants in Fort Simpson and Hay River were wearing seat belts. One of those communities will be announced as the winner. The four other communities that registered for the contest, Fort Resolution, Norman Wells, Fort Smith, and Tsiigehtchic, had lower rates of seat-belt use.

Transportation Minister David Ramsay looks forward to announcing the winning community. "Both Fort Simpson and Hay River had community initiatives to raise the numbers of seat-belt users in those communities, which has clearly made a difference," he said. "I congratulate all the participating communities for their efforts to improve the safety of their residents."

The Buckle Up NWT campaign raises awareness about the use of seat belts and child occupant restraints with the goal of raising the percentage of seat-belt users in the Northwest Territories to more than the Canadian average of 95%. Those who are involved in a collision are 13 times more likely to suffer serious injury or death if they aren't wearing their seat belt. The target for this phase of the campaign was to increase the use of seat belts in communities outside Yellowknife from 38.5% to 60%. The audit showed the total percentage of seat-belt users in the six participating communities was 68%.

Drive Alive, the travel safety information program of the Government of Northwest Territories, promotes the use of occupant restraints and ways to help ensure safe travel and safer communities. For more information about Drive Alive, please visit the [Department of Transportation's website](#).

For more information:

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NEWS RELEASE

## Ministers' Conference Raises Funds for Stanton Foundation

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 4, 2013)** -- Nearly \$10,000 was raised for the Stanton Territorial Hospital Foundation through a charity auction as part of the 2013 Energy and Mines Ministers' Conference held last week in Yellowknife.

"The Foundation is privileged to receive this very generous donation, and it will go a long way to achieve our target in our current capital campaign to establish a dedicated chemo/IV treatment suite at the hospital to improve services for NWT residents dealing with cancer treatment and other serious health issues," said Louise Dundas Matthews, Foundation Chair. "Our objectives of enhancing patient care and quality of services could not be achieved without the tremendous support received from the private sector and the public at large, including events such as this one."

Each province and territory donated locally significant items, including a soapstone carving from Nunavut, a lobster dinner shipped anywhere in Canada from Prince Edward Island, and artwork from Ontario. Former NWT Commissioner Tony Whitford auctioned off items from the Northwest Territories, including a 0.74 carat diamond donated by the Diavik Diamond Mine.

"Each year, the hosts of this conference pick a charity to benefit from the annual auction," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. "This year, we were pleased to select the Stanton Foundation, which raises funds to purchase vital equipment for the hospital. Conference delegates were moved by the work the Foundation does to enhance patient care, our communities and the North."

### *About the Stanton Territorial Hospital Foundation*

The Stanton Territorial Hospital Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to raising funds for patient care, equipment and major capital needs at the Stanton Territorial Hospital, which serves patients from all 33 communities in the NWT.

### *About the EMMC*

The EMMC is an annual meeting of all Canadian energy and mines ministers, and includes representatives from industry as well as non-government organizations. Last year, the conference was held in Charlottetown and proceeds from the auction went to the PEI Literacy Alliance.

For more information, contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

## Community Governments Provided Funds to Recognize Volunteers

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 9, 2013)** – The GNWT will provide financial support to community governments to help with the costs of hosting events to recognize the important role volunteers play in contributing to sustainable, safe, and vibrant communities.

“Across our territory, volunteers add so much value to our communities,” said Robert C. McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. “They contribute countless hours of service and help improve the quality of life for all residents. They should be recognized and encouraged to continue their efforts. In the past when we have recognized volunteers, they have been the first to say that there are others who are also deserving of recognition. This new program will allow communities to come together and celebrate and recognize the important work undertaken by our many volunteers.”

The [Volunteer Recognition Policy](#) allows community governments to promote and encourage volunteerism through planned community recognition events. They can apply for contributions of up to \$1000 per year for eligible costs related to hosting these events. To find out more about the program or to access an application form, visit the [Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' website](#).

Recognizing and 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 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

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Canadian Foundation for  
**Healthcare  
Improvement**



Northwest  
Territories Health and Social Services

## News Release

### **NWT chronic disease management collaboration results in better care, roadmap for system change**

**Yellowknife, Canada - Sept. 26, 2013** – A new report released by the [Northwest Territories Department of Health and Social Services](#) (DHSS) in partnership with the [Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement](#) (CFHI) provides a detailed strategy for reducing the rate and impact of chronic disease in the region. It highlights the successes, challenges and lessons learned through three improvement projects focused on renal disease, mental health and diabetes.

DHSS and CFHI have been collaborating since December 2010 to develop a territory-wide chronic disease management (CDM) strategy to improve health services for people living with chronic diseases. The report, [Making the Case for Change: Advancing the NWT Chronic Disease Management Strategy](#), outlines notable improvements in patient care, including earlier identification and diagnosis of chronic kidney disease (CKD), greater standardization of care, more timely and appropriate referrals and better engagement and management of patients, which have all clearly demonstrated how NWT can provide better care to patients with chronic disease.

In addition to improving the quality of care, the collaboration also highlights areas of potential cost savings. For example, the early identification and treatment of CKD holds the potential to generate significant savings from reduced spending on lab tests, physician time, medications, dialysis and, eventually, kidney transplants.

*“Our government is committed to improving the health of Canadians,”* said Canada’s Minister of Health, Rona Ambrose. *“This collaborative approach to finding innovative solutions is a great example of how governments and health system leaders can work together to improve the health system for all Canadians.”*

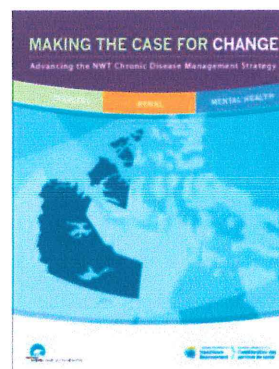
The improvement projects have also introduced a range of practical and customized tools such as renal care clinical practice guidelines (CPGs), a renal consultation form, diabetes self-management training packages, a centralized renal patient database and referral intake, and standardized referral and information sharing pathways for mental health.

Improvement projects were led by interdisciplinary, cross-regional improvement teams of healthcare executives, policy-makers and clinical leaders from DHSS and eight regional health authorities. In addition to improving patient care and developing improvement tools, the CDM collaboration also strengthened local capacity in evaluation, change management and performance management by training approximately 80 DHSS staff and involving another 190 in the process.

*“The Northwest Territories is committed at all levels to creating systems and environments that improve health and health services. Our work with CFHI and the report recommendations go a long way toward integrating best practices in the design of health services through effective partnerships with communities,”* said Tom Beaulieu, NWT’s Minister of Health and Social Services.

The report recommends several strategies for driving further improvement in the NWT:

- 1) Self-management support becomes standard practice for all primary care staff.
- 2) Adopt standardized policies and pathways for clinical referral and information sharing.
- 3) Support the use of integrated case management practices for patients with complex chronic care needs.
- 4) Integrate the use of evidence-based, standardized clinical practice guidelines for other chronic diseases.
- 5) Establish clear guidelines and pathways for patient consent and information sharing.
- 6) Establish standardized data collection and monitoring for all CDM initiatives.
- 7) Align future CDM work with the development of a territorial clinical information system.



*“CFHI has appreciated the opportunity to support dedicated staff throughout the NWT as they applied evidence, combined with local expertise, to improve the health of those living with chronic disease,”* said Stephen Samis, CFHI’s Vice-President, Programs. *“Through initiatives like the NWT Collaboration, CFHI is accelerating healthcare improvement in Canada.”*

In addition to federal support for the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement, funding for this report and the three improvement projects was provided in part by the Government of Canada’s Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative (THSSI), Health Canada’s Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative, and the Public Health Agency of Canada’s Canadian Diabetes Strategy.

-30-

**The Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement** is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to healthcare improvement and transformation for Canadians and is funded through an agreement with the Government of Canada. CFHI collaborates with governments, policy-makers, and health system leaders to convert evidence and innovative practices into actionable policies, programs, tools and leadership development.

**For more information:**

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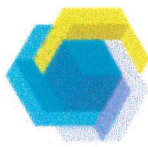


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Northwest  
Territories Health and Social Services

## Communiqué

**La collaboration en matière de gestion des maladies chroniques dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest donne lieu à de meilleurs soins et à une feuille de route pour la transformation du système de santé**

**Yellowknife, Canada – Le 26 septembre 2013** – Un nouveau rapport rendu public par le [ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux \(MSSS\) des Territoires du Nord-Ouest](#) en partenariat avec la [Fondation canadienne pour l'amélioration des services de santé](#) (FCASS) présente une stratégie détaillée visant à réduire les taux et l'impact des maladies chroniques dans cette région. Le rapport fait état des succès, des défis et des leçons apprises dans le cadre de trois projets d'amélioration axés sur la prise en charge de la néphropathie, de la santé mentale et du diabète.

Le MSSS et la FCASS collaborent depuis décembre 2010 à l'élaboration d'une stratégie de gestion des maladies chroniques (GMC) devant être mise en œuvre dans l'ensemble des T.N-O. afin d'améliorer les services de santé offerts aux malades chroniques. Ce rapport, intitulé [Making the Case for Change: Advancing the NWT Chronic Disease Management Strategy \(Plaider pour le changement : Faire progresser la stratégie de gestion des maladies chroniques des T.-N.-O.\)](#), met en lumière d'importantes améliorations dans les soins aux patients, dont le dépistage et le diagnostic précoces des maladies chroniques du rein (MCR), la normalisation des soins, un aiguillage plus approprié et en temps plus opportun, une meilleure prise en charge des patients et la participation accrue de ces derniers, améliorations qui témoignent de la capacité des T.N-O. de fournir de meilleurs soins aux patients atteints de maladies chroniques.

En plus d'améliorer la qualité des services de santé, cette collaboration permet également de déterminer les domaines où il est possible de faire des économies. Par exemple, le dépistage et le traitement précoces des MCR permettraient de réaliser d'importantes économies en réduisant les dépenses au chapitre des tests de laboratoire, des consultations médicales, des médicaments, de la dialyse et, éventuellement, des greffes de reins.

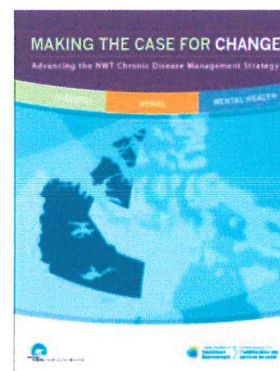
*« Le gouvernement s'est engagé à améliorer la santé des Canadiens et des Canadiennes », a déclaré la ministre fédérale de la Santé, Rona Ambrose. « Cette collaboration, axée sur la recherche de solutions novatrices, est un excellent exemple de la capacité des gouvernements et des dirigeants de la santé de travailler ensemble à l'amélioration du système de santé pour les Canadiens et les Canadiennes. »*

Les projets d'amélioration ont également permis de mettre au point toute une gamme d'outils pratiques et personnalisés, tels que les guides de pratique clinique pour la prise en charge de la néphropathie, un formulaire de consultation pour les patients atteints de maladies rénales, des trousseaux de formation pour l'auto-prise en charge du diabète, une base de données centralisées pour l'aiguillage et l'admission des patients souffrant de néphropathie ainsi que des modalités normalisées en matière d'aiguillage et d'échange d'information sur la santé mentale.

Les projets d'amélioration ont été dirigés par des équipes d'amélioration interdisciplinaires, interrégionales et interprovinciales regroupant des cadres supérieurs, des responsables des politiques et des chefs de file cliniques du MSSS et de huit autorités sanitaires régionales.

La collaboration sur la GMC a eu aussi pour effet de renforcer les capacités locales en matière d'évaluation, de gestion du changement et de gestion du rendement en formant près de 80 membres du personnel du ministère et incitant 190 autres personnes à prendre part à ces initiatives.

« Les Territoires du Nord-Ouest ont pris l'engagement, à tous les niveaux, de créer des systèmes et des environnements qui améliorent la santé et les services de santé. Notre collaboration avec la FCASS et les recommandations du rapport contribuent grandement à l'intégration des meilleures pratiques dans la conception des services de santé grâce à la formation de partenariats efficaces avec les collectivités », a affirmé Tom Beaulieu, ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux des T.N-O.



Le rapport recommande sept stratégies pour favoriser encore davantage les améliorations dans les T.N-O. :

- 1) Faire du soutien à l'auto-prise en charge une pratique courante pour l'ensemble du personnel de soins primaires.
- 2) Adopter des politiques et des modalités normalisées en matière d'aiguillage clinique et d'échange d'information.
- 3) Appuyer l'adoption de pratiques intégrées de gestion de cas pour les patients ayant besoin de soins chroniques complexes.
- 4) Intégrer l'utilisation de guides de pratique clinique normalisés et fondés sur les données probantes pour d'autres maladies chroniques.
- 5) Établir des lignes directrices et des modalités claires concernant le consentement du patient et l'échange d'information.
- 6) Mettre en place des méthodes normalisées de collecte et de suivi des données pour toutes les initiatives de GMC.
- 7) Harmoniser les efforts déployés avec le développement d'un système territorial d'information clinique pour appuyer la GMC.

« La FCASS est heureuse d'avoir pu apporter son appui au personnel dévoué des T.N-O. qui a su conjuguer les données probantes et l'expertise locale en vue d'améliorer la santé des malades chroniques », a souligné Stephen Samis, vice-président, Programmes, de la FCASS. « C'est grâce à des initiatives comme la collaboration avec les T.N-O. que la FCASS réussit à améliorer les services de santé au Canada. »

Outre le soutien accordé par le gouvernement fédéral à la Fondation canadienne pour l'amélioration des services de santé, ce rapport et les trois projets d'amélioration ont été financés, en partie, par l'Initiative de viabilité du système de santé des territoires (IVSST) du gouvernement du Canada, l'Initiative sur le diabète chez les Autochtones de Santé Canada et la Stratégie canadienne sur le diabète de l'Agence de santé publique du Canada.

La [Fondation canadienne pour l'amélioration des services de santé](#) est un organisme sans but lucratif qui a pour mandat d'accélérer l'amélioration et la transformation des services de santé pour les Canadiens et les Canadiennes. À cette fin, la FCASS collabore avec des gouvernements, des responsables des politiques et des dirigeants du système de santé pour traduire les données probantes et les pratiques novatrices en politiques, programmes et outils concrets, ainsi que pour développer les qualités de leadership. La FCASS est financée dans le cadre d'une entente conclue avec le gouvernement du Canada.

**Renseignements :**

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NEWS RELEASE

## Northwest Territories Works With Provincial and Territorial Partners on Proposed Canada Job Grant

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 27, 2013)** – Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty attended a provincial/territorial labour market ministers meeting this week to discuss the importance of maintaining critical funding under existing labour market agreements.

Established in 2008, these agreements provide supports, training and opportunities for underrepresented groups in labour markets, including youth, persons with disabilities, Aboriginal people, recent immigrants, social assistance recipients and long-term unemployed and older workers. The federal government is proposing a new Canada Job Grant program to replace the labour market agreements when they expire in April 2014. Premier Bob McLeod and his provincial and territorial counterparts expressed concerns during Council of the Federation meetings in July that the new program would compromise the progress and success achieved by the current labour market programs, including effects on small and medium businesses.

“Our government has a vision of a strong, prosperous territory that provides opportunities to all Northwest Territories residents in their communities and regions,” said Minister Lafferty. “Access to the right training and other supports ensures NWT residents are able to take advantage of current and emerging opportunities. To best meet the needs of our residents, we have to be able to design flexible programs that take into account our geographic and cultural diversity, range of partners, unique opportunities and needs and the legacy of intergenerational impacts from residential schools.”

The current labour market agreement between the Northwest Territories and Canada provides critical funding for flexible programs to assist northerners to acquire the basic skills necessary to improve their employability and participation in the territorial economy.

“We have seen very promising results from our labour market investments,” said Minister Lafferty. “Up to 66% of clients were working three months after receiving training and, in critical areas like our smaller communities where opportunities are limited, this is significant. I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with all governments to ensure that every Northerner can acquire the skills they need to be successful in today’s labour market.”

Provincial and territorial labour ministers released a report this week entitled *Building Skills Together* that proves programs delivered under current labour market agreements are successful in preparing Canadians to enter the workforce.

Minister Lafferty will be engaging with industry and communities in the coming weeks to discuss the proposed Canada Job Grant.

For more information, read the *Building Skills Together* report [here](#).

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NEWS RELEASE

## Minister Ramsay Discusses Northern Infrastructure Needs at Meeting of Transportation Ministers

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 30, 2013)** – Transportation Minister David Ramsay reiterated the importance of investing in NWT transportation infrastructure during the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety in Winnipeg last week. He also used the opportunity to highlight the importance of investments in northern infrastructure as central to the development of the North's potential and to contribute to a sustainable and prosperous future for all Canadians and the national economy. The Council is made up of Ministers from all provinces and territories and includes federal Transport Minister Lisa Raitt.

Minister Ramsay described the Department of Transportation's plan, titled *Corridors for Canada III: Building for Prosperity*, to strategically invest \$600 million over ten years to improve NWT transportation infrastructure (winter roads, highways, bridges, marine and airport) under the renewed Building Canada Plan. "Our ten-year investment aligns with Canada's *Northern Strategy* envisioning social and economic development in a region that's central to our country's national identity and economic future," said Minister Ramsay. "This is a plan that will connect communities, promote economic diversification, create long-term jobs and contribute to the Canadian advantage."

Minister Ramsay also highlighted construction progress on the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway, the northernmost section of the Mackenzie Valley Highway, a key project that will improve access to the community and provide improved year-round access to the Beaufort Delta region.

During the same meeting, the Council finalized a vision statement for transportation in Canada. Minister Ramsay described it as "a national vision for transportation that will serve as an excellent guide for future collaborations between our governments." The vision developed by federal, provincial and territorial Ministers provides direction on where Canada's transportation system should be in 2030 to drive the country's long-term economic growth and enhance quality of life.

*Corridors for Canada III: Building for Prosperity* is a \$600 million strategic investment plan released by the Department of Transportation earlier this year. Copies of the document are available at <http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca/live/documents/content/C%20for%20C3%2013-06-04%20FINAL.pdf>

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NEWS RELEASE

## Premier Announces Deputy Minister for the Department of Lands

**YELLOWKNIFE (September 30, 2013)** – Premier Bob McLeod announced today that Mark Warren has been named as the Deputy Minister for the Department of Lands effective April 1, 2014, the date on which the new department will be formally established.

Mr. Warren's twenty years of management experience in the Government of the Northwest Territories include appointments to the then-Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, NWT Housing Corporation, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Department of Executive. He has spent the past two years leading the development of the Land Use and Sustainability Framework and assisting with the Regulatory Improvement Initiative. Under his leadership, the GNWT completed the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy, expanded the Waste Reduction and Recovery Program and developed the Greenhouse Gas and Biomass Strategies. He was responsible for representing the GNWT on the implementation committees of the first three settled land claims in the NWT and his team was responsible for negotiating five land-claim processes.

"Mr. Warren is a valued addition to our senior management team," said Premier McLeod. "His extensive experience with sustainable development, environmental stewardship and Aboriginal self-government will serve the GNWT well as we take on the responsibilities of managing public lands, water and resources through devolution. Mr. Warren will be responsible for ensuring that decision-making about land management recognizes Aboriginal and treaty rights as well as third-party interests; takes ecological, spiritual, cultural, recreational and economic values into consideration; is a shared responsibility across the NWT; and is clear, transparent, consistent and communicated."

The Department of Lands will be established on April 1, 2014 to administer the sustainable use of public land in the NWT after devolution. While Mr. Warren's appointment will not formally take effect until that date, he has already assumed responsibility for the planning and preparations to establish the new department, while continuing to serve as Assistant Deputy Minister of Executive Operations in the Department of Executive. Premier McLeod will appoint a minister responsible for the new department in the coming months.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Community Planning and Development Act Comes into Force

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 1, 2013)** – The new Community Planning and Development Act and Regulations come into force on October 1, 2013. The new statute and regulations replace the Planning Act and provide more options for municipal governments to implement local solutions and direct local development.

“Ensuring our legislation reflects the needs of community governments is a priority,” said Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod. “The Community Planning and Development Act will provide municipal governments with better tools for reaching their goals. For example, municipalities will now have the ability to more easily pass zoning bylaws and manage development at the local level.”

The new Act and Regulations were developed in cooperation with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC) to replace the Planning Act. The new Act better reflects the way the GNWT now deals with municipalities and provides them with more autonomy in community planning.

Supporting community governments to build capacity in the area of planning and development is helping us build sustainable, vibrant, safe communities as envisioned in the goals of the 17th Assembly of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

For more information please visit MACA’s website at [www.maca.gov.nt.ca](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca).

For more information, contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

## Devolution Re-Shapes the GNWT

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 1, 2013)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has completed a redesign of its organizational structure to incorporate the devolving programs and services, Premier Bob McLeod announced today. Some departments will be receiving significant new functions and new responsibilities as of April 1, 2014. This is when responsibility for managing land, water and resources transfers from the federal to the territorial government, in accordance with the *NWT Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement*. The agreement was signed in June of this year.

“This is an exciting time for the Northwest Territories. As our territory continues to evolve politically and economically, devolution brings new opportunities for residents, Aboriginal governments, businesses, and investors in all regions of the NWT,” said Premier McLeod. “We are committed to having the necessary structure in place on April 1st to ensure a smooth transition and the ongoing delivery of quality programs and services that meet northern needs.”

The new organization design will integrate the GNWT’s existing responsibilities with functions coming from the federal government. The departments of **Industry, Tourism, and Investment (ITI)** and **Environment and Natural Resources (ENR)** will take on federal functions related to their existing mandates, and a new department of **Lands** will be created to support, manage and administer the sustainable use of public land in the NWT. The GNWT’s existing responsibilities for managing Commissioner’s Lands will transfer from **Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA)** to the new Lands department.

The organizational design incorporates jobs for transferring federal employees currently working in the Regional Office of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, as well as new positions to replicate work currently performed in Ottawa. No federal staff is transitioning from the south.

The GNWT will welcome approximately one hundred and twenty existing AANDC NWT employees into its ranks. These northerners are currently delivering the devolving programs and services across the NWT.

“We recognize and value the knowledge and experience of the federal employees currently doing this work and look forward to welcoming them into the GNWT,” said Minister of Human Resources Glen Abernethy. “We have built a structure that combines the strengths of both organizations, including our existing skilled and experienced staff.”

The GNWT’s Department of Human Resources will soon launch a recruitment campaign to fill additional positions created through devolution. The GNWT hopes to fill as many as possible from within the NWT, but expects to do some southern recruiting for jobs that require specialized technical knowledge.

For more information about the GNWT’s new departmental structure as of April 1, 2014, see our accompanying backgrounder or visit [devolution.gov.nt.ca](http://devolution.gov.nt.ca).

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## **BACKGROUNDER**

### **The GNWT's New Departmental Structure after Devolution**

The signing of the *Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement* on June 25, 2013, marked a major milestone in the political and economic development of the Northwest Territories. The Agreement will see responsibility for managing public land, water and resources in the NWT transfer from the Government of Canada to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) on April 1, 2014.

After devolution, the GNWT will be responsible for delivering public programs related to land, water and resource management in the territory. These programs are currently being delivered by the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), both through its regional office in the NWT and in the department's Ottawa location. In keeping with the devolution agreement, staff in the NWT will be given the opportunity accept a job offer with the GNWT. Ottawa-based employees delivering programs will not be transitioning. The GNWT will create and staff new positions to undertake this work. Changes to the GNWT's departmental structure will also be required to accommodate these new program responsibilities.

### **Industry, Tourism, and Investment (ITI)**

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) will integrate new responsibilities devolved from the federal government related to its mandate with its existing responsibilities.

After devolution, ITI responsibilities will include:

- Programs and services related to mineral and petroleum resources exploration and development
- Manage land tenure and the registration of mineral and petroleum resource rights
- Administration of mineral and petroleum resource royalties
- Economic analysis associated with petroleum and mineral resource developments
- Coordination of petroleum resource policy and planning through the Mackenzie Valley Petroleum Planning Office
- Research and advice related to geoscience through the NWT Geoscience Office
- Guidance on Aboriginal consultation requirements and the NWT regulatory system associated with mineral and petroleum rights, exploration and activities to industry and communities
- Overall energy planning and policy development

- Operating public tourism facilities, including a system of NWT parks
- Tourism marketing, training and product development
- Economic analysis in support of economic diversification
- Business advice and access to investment capital with the NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation and Community Futures Organizations
- Traditional economy programs and services, including arts and fine crafts, film, agriculture, fisheries, trapping and commercial game harvesting
- National and international trade matters for the GNWT
- Negotiation and monitoring of socio-economic agreements with resource developers

### **Environment and Natural Resources (ENR)**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) will integrate new responsibilities devolved from the federal government related to its mandate with its existing responsibilities.

After devolution, ENR responsibilities will include:

- Waste Reduction and Management
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Forest Fire Management
- Conservation Lands Planning and Protected Areas
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Water Regulation
- Watershed Programs and Partnerships
- Taiga Environmental Laboratory
- Environmental Impact Assessment, Cumulative Impact and Monitoring
- Contaminated Sites and Remediation
- Environmental Protection
- Wildlife Research and Management
- Operational Policy, Legislation and Communications and Strategic Planning
- Interim Resource Management Assistance
- Traditional Knowledge
- GNWT Science Agenda
- Climate Change Programs
- Energy Alternatives
- Field Support Services, including the inspection and enforcement of leases, licenses and permits issued by the department.

### **Lands**

A new department will be established to support, manage, protect and administer the sustainable use of public land in the NWT. The new department's responsibilities will include responsibilities for Commissioner's Lands currently delivered by MACA as well as new lands related responsibilities devolved from the Federal Government:

- Administration and management of Commissioner's Land and Territorial Lands (land inventories, leases, dispositions, valuation, survey applications, mapping)
- Land use sustainability standards, guidelines and policies
- Land use initiatives
- Major Project assessments

- Land use planning, including regional land use plans
- Land use administration, including permitting and securities
- Compliance and enforcement of land use, including inspections
- Informatics shared service centre, supporting ITI, ENR and Lands

**Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA)**

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) will transfer its existing responsibilities for public land management (i.e. Commissioner's Land) to the new Lands Department.

After devolution, MACA responsibilities will continue to include:

- Community Operations and Governance
- Community Governance
- School of Community Government
- Sport, Recreation, and Youth
- Emergency Measures and Emergency Management
- Office of the Fire Marshall



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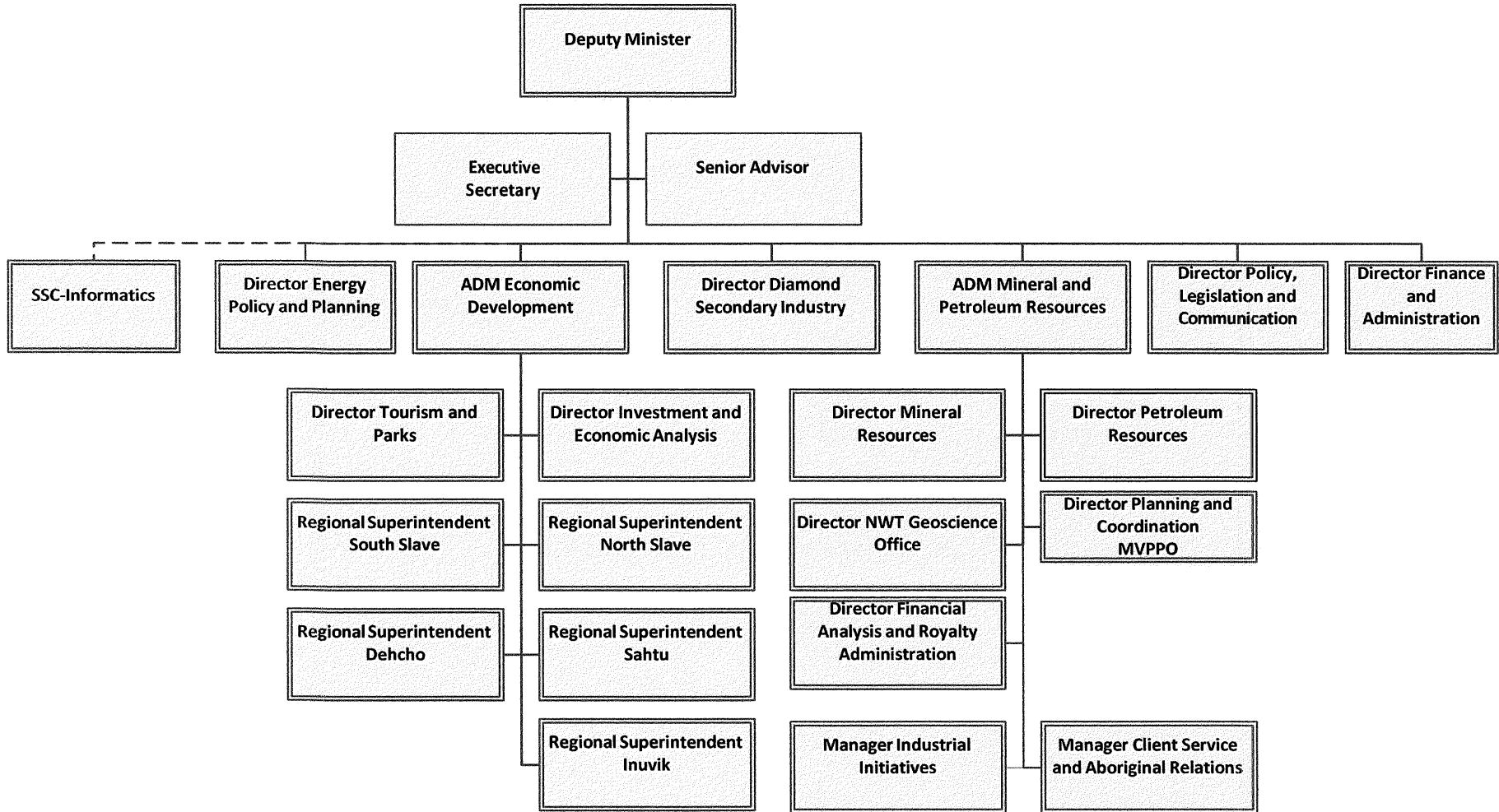
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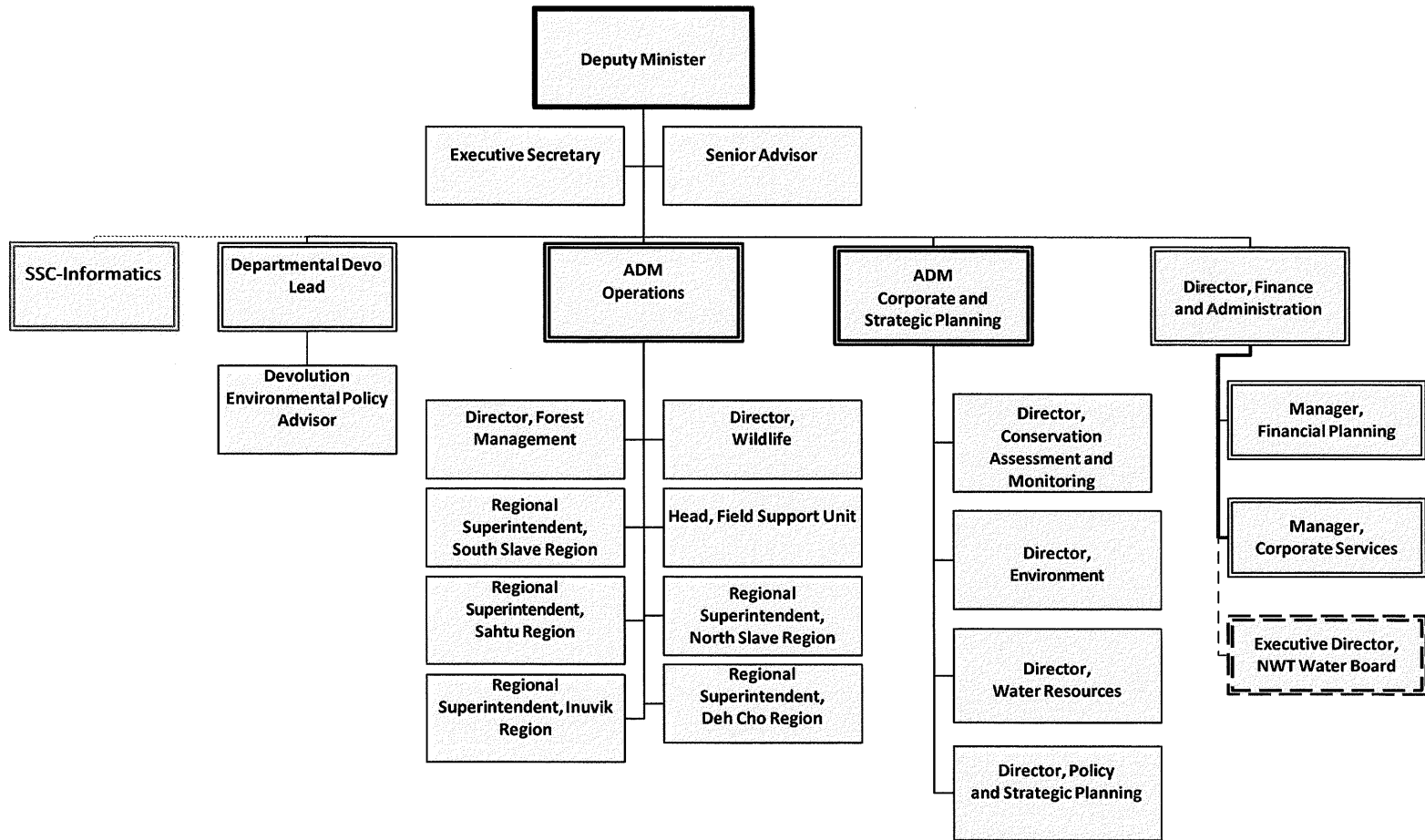
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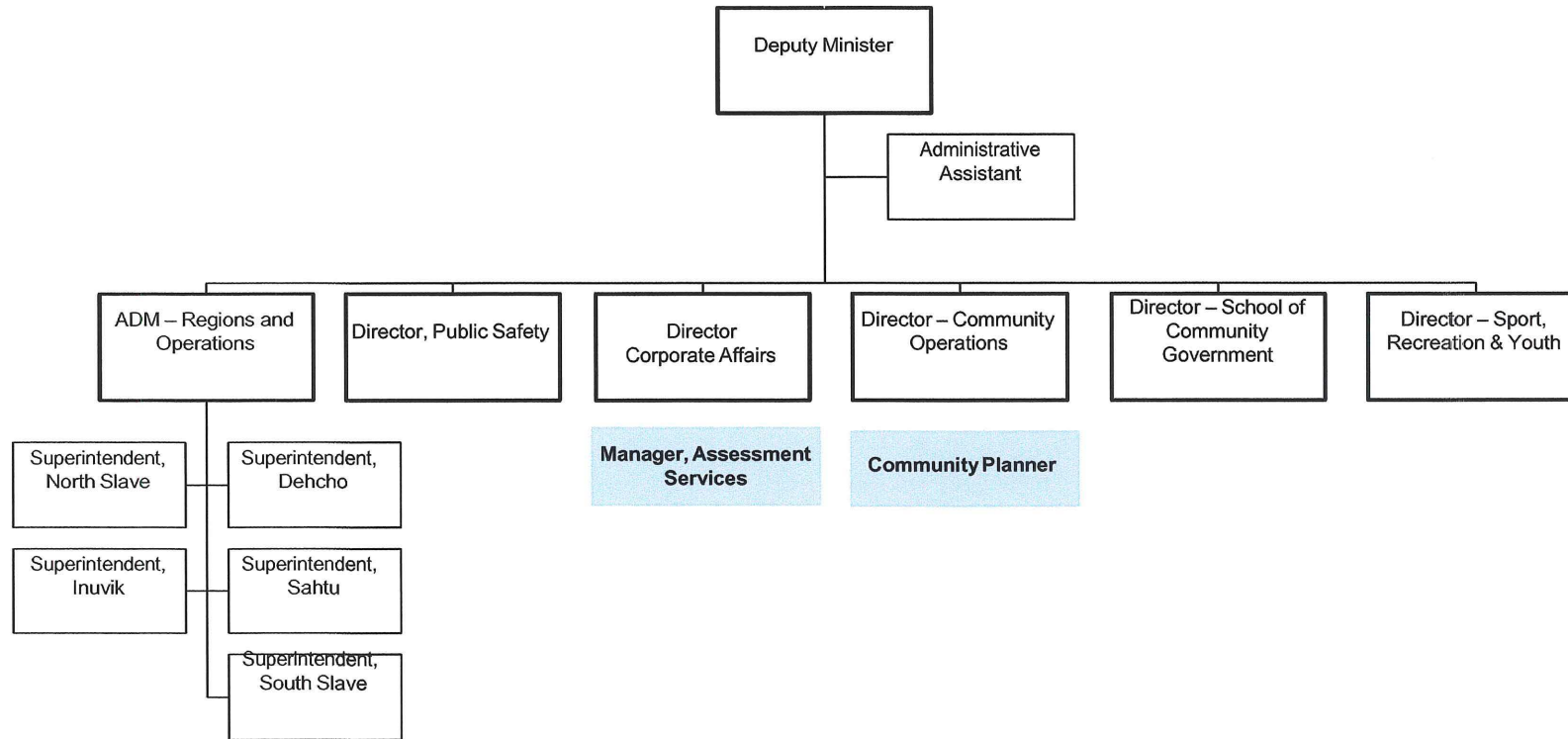
# Industry, Tourism & Investment Deputy Minister



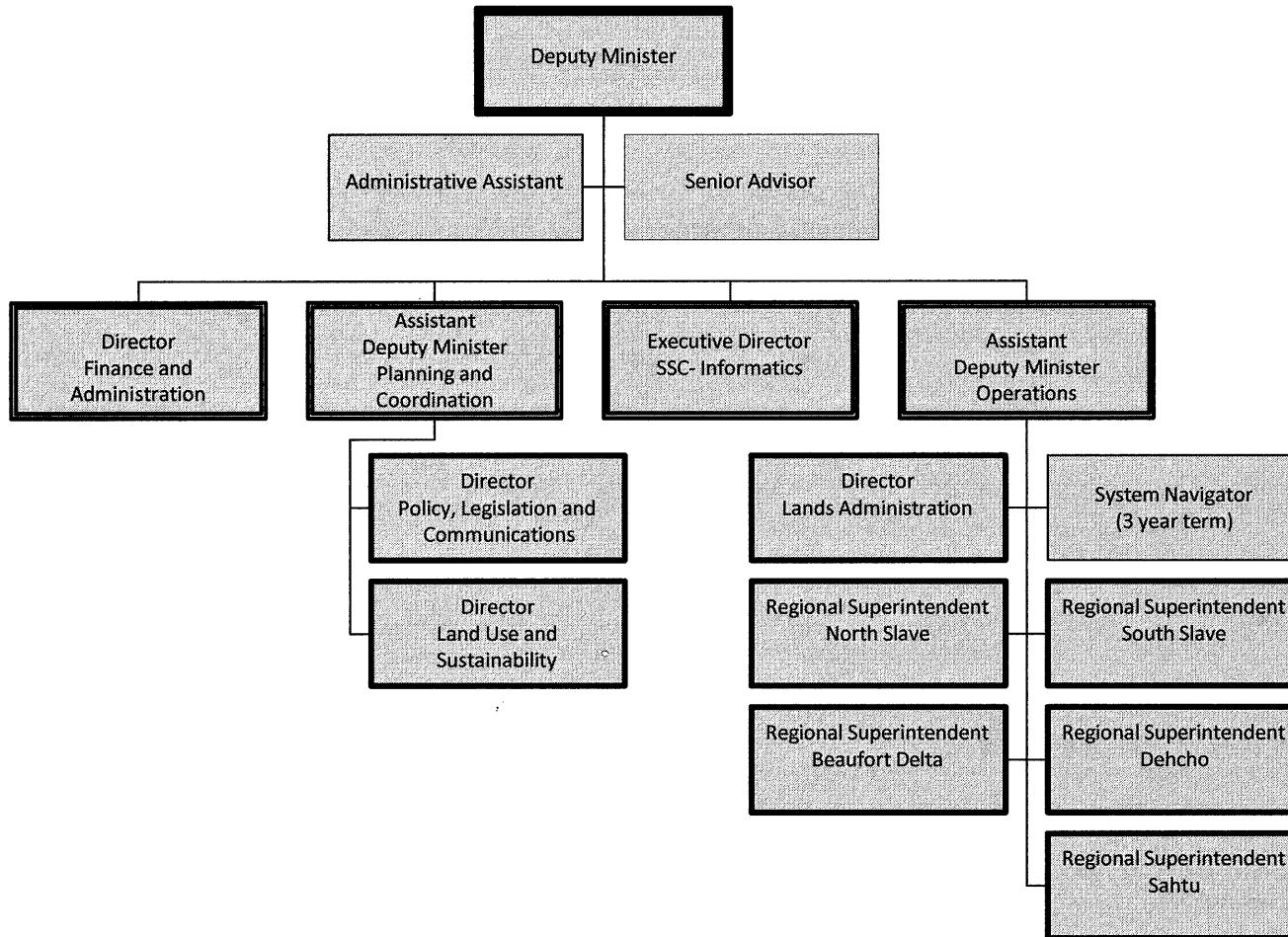
# Environment & Natural Resources



# Department of Municipal & Community Affairs



# Department of Lands





NEWS RELEASE

## The Best of NWT Film on the Big Screen at Yellowknife International Film Festival

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 1, 2013)** - Northwest Territories talent will be on the big screen this week at the 7th Annual Yellowknife International Film Festival, which kicks off tonight with an opening reception and film screenings at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre.

Running from October 1-6, the Yellowknife International Film Festival is an annual event put on by Western Arctic Moving Pictures. This year's event is also sponsored by the departments of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) and Education, Culture and Employment (ECE).

"The film festival is an ideal event to showcase our talented artists, and I am pleased to see so many NWT filmmakers in the line-up this year," said Minister of ITI David Ramsay. "We have been working closely with groups involved in the film industry through the NWT Film Commission, and through this cooperation we have seen our northern film industry really flourish."

For the first time ever, the festival will include an awards ceremony to wrap up the event. It will be held on Sunday, October 6 at NACC, and hosted by a representative from the NWT Film Commission.

Supporting local filmmakers and providing assistance through the NWT Film Commission supports economic diversification in the NWT, a key goal of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

For more information, please contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

## Department of Human Resources Launches New Website

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 4, 2013)** - Minister of Human Resources Glen Abernethy announced the launch of a redesigned and improved [website](#) today.

"We are proud of the human resources programs and services offered to employees and clients," said Minister Abernethy. "Investment in technologies to effectively improve internal communications on these programs and services means employees are better able to support the priorities of the Government and meet the expectations of Northerners for high quality services."

The site features a fresh look, easy navigation and a focus on client needs. The user-friendly environment also includes dynamic search and document management systems. Users can share content using the social sharing buttons.

The redesigned website helps fulfill the commitment made in the 20/20: A Brilliant North – NWT Public Service Strategic Plan to have the right tools to effectively communicate with employees and clients.

You can visit the website at [www.hr.gov.nt.ca](http://www.hr.gov.nt.ca).

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NEWS RELEASE

### Northern Aviation Scholarships Awarded

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 7, 2013)** – Seven Northwest Territories (NWT) students have been awarded \$5,000 scholarships under the Northern Aviation Scholarship program (formerly the Aviation Career Development Program) for the 2013-2014 school year. The scholarships are given each year to students from the NWT and Nunavut who are pursuing full-time studies leading to a northern aviation career.

Minister of Transportation David Ramsay extended his congratulations to this year's recipients. "Our NWT recipients come from around the territory and they all have one thing in common – a passion for northern aviation," he said. "It's great to see the next generation of aviation specialists pursuing the training they need to play a role in our future growth and prosperity."

This year's recipients from the Northwest Territories are:

- Adam Ahenakew from Hay River, recipient of a scholarship sponsored by the NWT Department of Transportation. Adam is a third time recipient.
- Michael Gray, recipient of a scholarship sponsored by the NWT Department of Transportation. Michael is a first time recipient.
- Dakota Miller, recipient of a scholarship sponsored by North-Wright Airways. Dakota is a second time recipient.
- Brittney Norris, recipient of a scholarship sponsored by the NWT Department of Transportation. Brittney is a second time recipient.
- Kylar Villebrun, recipient of a scholarship sponsored by the NWT Department of Transportation. Kylar is a second time recipient.
- Colby Wallis, recipient of a scholarship sponsored by the NWT Department of Transportation. Colby is a second time recipient.
- Alexander White, recipient of a scholarship sponsored by the NWT Department of Transportation. Alexander is a first time recipient.

The Northern Aviation Scholarship program is an initiative of the Governments of Northwest Territories and Nunavut with individual scholarships sponsored from Discovery Air, First Air, Keewatin Air, and North-Wright Airways. The program is intended to encourage residents of the NWT and Nunavut to pursue a northern aviation career by assisting with some of the costs associated with aviation training.

The Department of Transportation's participation in the Northern Aviation Scholarship program supports the priorities of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly to increase employment opportunities for residents and to encourage people to enter the workforce with the skills and training they require to meet northern employment opportunities.

A later announcement will be made to name Nunavummiut recipients.

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NEWS RELEASE

## NWT Receives Results From International Literacy Assessment Report

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 8, 2013)** – The Northwest Territories (NWT), in partnership with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), released the first national and jurisdictional results of the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) today. The results show current adult literacy rates across Canada and for the territory.

PIAAC is a ground-breaking international study of adult learning and skills. It measures not only adult literacy and numeracy but also problem solving in technology-rich environments, and provides extensive contextual data on adult skills at work. Nine hundred NWT residents took part in the study, representative of all cultural, linguistic and educational backgrounds.

“These results are new indicators to provide us with a baseline to help track literacy levels among adults, and moving forward, will inform the structure and objectives of literacy programs,” said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. “The data provides us with what we need to know to ensure we continue to build a stronger education system. It is also critical to understanding where we need to address our program gaps for skills and training, and ensure the needs of our adult learners are being met.”

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) is currently reviewing, developing and assessing several literacy programs, in partnership with Aurora College and the NWT Literacy Council. These include the Adult Literacy and Basic Education program, the Adult Recognition Model and programming for out-of-school and at-risk youth in small communities. ECE is also developing an Accountability Framework for the Education and Training of Adults in the NWT to improve planning, monitoring and evaluation of programming effectiveness and access.

For more information on the PIAAC results, please review the attached backgrounder.

For more information:

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## Backgrounder

Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)

October 8, 2013

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The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) literacy survey, known in Canada as the International Survey of Adults (ISA), has been completed and both the Pan-Canadian and International reports were released on October 8, 2013, along with NWT-specific PIAAC data.

### **Purpose of PIAAC Data**

The PIAAC results are an important source of data for policy-makers on labour market-related skill levels of adults in the NWT. The skills assessed include prose literacy, document literacy, numeracy, and problem solving in a technological environment.

Once analyzed, the data will offer a new and detailed picture of:

- Problem solving skills in technology-rich environments;
- Problems faced by readers with low skills; and
- Links between education and training, employment and unemployment, and skill use.

### **Precursor to PIAAC**

- The most recent NWT literacy data the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) had was from the 2003 International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey (IALSS). The results of the IALSS report led to the development of the NWT Literacy Strategy.
- PIAAC results do not have the same benchmark as the IALSS report. This will be considered when communicating results and comparisons between the two reports. It will take time to analyze and interpret the data from PIAAC. This information will be included in six thematic reports produced between 2014 and 2016 by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) and the Government of Canada.
- These reports will provide specific information on:
  - Skills and the labour market in Canada;
  - Education and skills;
  - Skills of official-language minority populations;
  - Skills of recent immigrants;
  - Skills of Aboriginal populations; and
  - Skills, health, and social outcomes.

### **Why is PIAAC important?**

- PIAAC gives us current data on NWT literacy, numeracy and problem solving levels, which will help inform our programs and policies.
- It gives us data to further inform our efforts to match skills and training to opportunities for our adult learners.

- PIAAC is the most comprehensive international survey of adult skills ever undertaken. Its results have been broken down by country and, in Canada, by jurisdiction to provide an accurate breakdown of where our residents stand on an international scale.

#### **How was the PIAAC data collected?**

- A total of 900 NWT residents in 13 communities were surveyed: 450 were Aboriginal and 450 were other residents. Surveys were conducted in either English or French in Canada.
- The GNWT funded an oversample of its Aboriginal population; not all jurisdictions in Canada did.
- The PIAAC survey was conducted in 24 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. Canada's data collection size is the largest sample of all participating countries, at approximately 26,000 respondents.

#### **How can PIAAC reports and data be accessed?**

- CMEC has created a website ([www.piaac.ca](http://www.piaac.ca)) where the Pan-Canadian National PIAAC Report, the OECD International Report and sections containing background material and common questions and answers (Q and As) about the reports can be easily accessed. This website was launched on October 8, 2013.
- A page has been created on the ECE website containing the PIAAC National Report and background material, as well as a link to the CMEC PIAAC website. This was also launched on October 8, 2013.
- Both ECE and the NWT Statistics Bureau have the PIAAC NWT data files, which will be used to write NWT specific reports on literacy. In order to allow for accurate and meaningful data analysis, it is expected that this will take time to complete.

#### **NWT-Specific PIAAC Findings**

- While Canada, as a whole, performs at the OECD average in literacy and slightly below average in numeracy, the average literacy and numeracy scores of NWT residents surveyed, in all age groups, ranked 12<sup>th</sup> out of the 13 provinces and territories.
- NWT residents, 16-24 years old, who have less than post-secondary education (Bachelor's degree or higher) recorded an average literacy score of 19 points below the Canadian average and 25 points below the OECD average.
- However, the average literacy scores of NWT residents, ages 16 to 54 years old, with post-secondary education (Bachelor's degrees or higher) are equivalent to or higher than Canadian averages in the same age groups.
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people with similar levels of education across Canada have similar skills proficiencies.

- This tells us that education has a strong positive influence on proficiency, regardless of ethnicity, leading to a significant and enduring advantage. Education is key to eliminating the skills gap.
- There is a clear relationship between participation in organized adult learning and proficiency; but those who could benefit most are not always those who access it.
- These findings also inform us that focusing on improving our early childhood investments and the K-12 education system will also benefit the literacy results of our young adults.
- Canadians are among those most equipped for proficiency in Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments. NWT residents performed above average in this category, with 76% residents able to complete the computer-based assessment.
- 43.7% of those in managerial and professional occupations scored at Level 2 or 3, the higher of two categories (1 or below and Level 2 or 3), in the area of Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments (PS-TRE). This area encompasses the thinking and problem solving skills necessary to be digitally literate. In this occupational group, 49.2% of residents across Canada scored in this range.
- 5% of NWT residents scored at the highest level for PS-TRE (i.e., Level 3), which is close to the OECD average of 6% and the Canadian average of 7%. (Canadian results ranged from 0 or non-applicable to 9%).

#### **Adult Education in the Northwest Territories**

- Adult education increases opportunities for residents to improve their literacy and basic skills, in order to actively participate in their communities, lead productive lives and contribute to a strong Northern workforce.
- Adult education courses are available in 26 communities through the Adult Literacy and Basic Education program. ALBE is delivered by Aurora College, Non-Government Organizations, and the Department of Justice. Adult Educators work with communities to plan programming that meets their needs.

#### **ECE Initiatives to Improve Education and Skills**

- ECE is currently developing and implementing a number of initiatives which will improve NWT literacy scores:
  - *Early Childhood Development Framework* – which will better prepare our children to enter the K-12 school system;
  - *Education Renewal and Innovation Framework* for Kindergarten to Grade 12 – which will have long term, positive effects on future generations of adults as students graduate high school with more skills;
  - *Early Development Instrument (EDI)* – helps inform the ECD Framework with data on how our children are doing at age 5;

- *Junior Kindergarten Demonstration sites* – currently underway in four communities, with territory wide implementation within three years;
  - *NWT Literacy Council Out of School Youth Project: Skill Builders for Young Parents* – which targets out-of-school and at-risk youth;
  - *Adult Recognition Model* - being piloted this fall, is an alternate pathway for completing an NWT Senior Secondary Diploma through a Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process; in partnership with Aurora College;
  - A Comprehensive Review of Adult and Postsecondary Education;
  - *Assessment of Aurora College*;
  - *Accountability Framework for the Education and Training of Adults in the NWT* – which will improve planning, monitoring and evaluation of programming effectiveness and access; and
  - *Adult Literacy and Basic Education (ALBE) Review Action Plan* – which includes:
    - Modularization of the curriculum so that adults have flexibility to complete and track their successes throughout courses;
    - Revisions to curriculum to ensure continual quality improvement; and
    - Curriculum designed to meet the needs of adult learners.
- 
- The Department of Education, Culture and Employment, in partnership with Aurora College and the NWT Literacy Council, has additional initiatives currently being offered to residents, including:
    - Literacy Outreach Programs at each of the three Aurora College campuses - delivered in partnership between Aurora College and Yellowknife Association for Community Living.
    - Financial Literacy Modules are being delivered in communities to enable adults to manage their finances through to retirement.
    - The Northern Adult Basic Education (NABE) initiative, delivered through Aurora College with funding from CanNor, complements the work ECE is doing with the ALBE Review, including development of short-term courses with embedded literacy.





NEWS RELEASE

### NWT Delegation Returns From Bakken Trip

**NORMAN WELLS (October 9, 2013)** – An NWT delegation has just returned from a tour of the Bakken oil formation in Saskatchewan and North Dakota. The trip stressed the importance of community and resident preparedness, the need to work closely with industry and community leaders to ensure development is done in an environmentally sustainable and safe way, and how other regions have dealt with rapid and profitable resource development.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay led the delegation, which also included members of the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, Aboriginal and business leaders from the Sahtu Region, National Energy Board staff and Government of the Northwest Territories representatives.

The group travelled to regions in Saskatchewan and North Dakota that are benefitting from the development of resources from the Bakken formation. They spoke with government officials regarding administration of oil and gas in those areas and met with members of the Three Affiliated Tribes on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota to hear how they are dealing with and benefiting from the booming development and visited hydraulic fracturing operations.

"The lessons learned on this trip are invaluable and will help us effectively manage growth in the Northwest Territories," said Minister Ramsay. "We heard time and time again that we need to prepare people for this development. Not only did we learn about how other jurisdictions deal with challenges and opportunities that come with oil and gas development, we also had an opportunity to see for ourselves how the area has benefitted from this growth and how it has been done in an environmentally sustainable and safe way."

"This trip has given us a better idea of what can happen in the North with resource extraction," said Norman Yakeleya, MLA for Sahtu. "We must be one step ahead of this new hydraulic fracturing technology, and this Bakken visit tells us we are on track."

"I enjoyed the trip and meeting the Native Americans and seeing how they were dealing with this development," said Greg Laboucan, Chief of Fort Good Hope. "It was great to learn about various aspects of use of hydraulic fracturing technology and how this technique has been used responsibly."

"I enjoyed learning about the different operations and development and seeing how people in this area are dealing with the development," said Sherry Hodgson, Vice President of the Norman Wells Land Corporation." Although we have a different operating environment, we will face many of the same challenges. I look forward to bringing this knowledge home to my organization."

The trip took place from September 30-October 4.

For more information:

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### Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Seniors Take Action on Healthy Aging

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 9, 2013)** - Healthy aging, healthy living and getting a better understanding of the continuum of care options available for seniors across the country were the focus of discussions at the annual meeting of Provincial and Territorial Ministers (P/T) Responsible for Seniors.

P/T Ministers want to encourage the creation of supportive environments for seniors to age in place across Canada and lead active, socially engaged lifestyles, which contribute to healthy aging.

“Seniors are one of the fastest growing populations, not only in the Northwest Territories but for the rest of Canada as well,” said Tom Beaulieu, Minister Responsible for Seniors and Chair of the 2013 meeting of Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Seniors. “This morning, P/T Ministers discussed the need to exchange information and best practices on healthy aging that will benefit seniors across the country. Manitoba and New Brunswick have agreed to lead this process.”

As co-leads of the Seniors’ Working Group subcommittee for the Council of the Federation, the Ministers of Alberta and Saskatchewan, will consult with the Premiers Health Care Innovation Working Group co-chairs to help coordinate the priorities of the seniors’ subcommittee.

The meeting was an opportunity for P/T Ministers responsible for seniors to share insights and discuss issues of importance to seniors such as healthy aging, housing, and aging in place. P/T Ministers also agreed to meet again in P.E.I. in 2014.

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**For more information, contact:**

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## **Les ministres provinciaux et territoriaux responsables des aînés prennent des mesures concrètes sur le vieillissement en santé**

**YELLOWKNIFE (le 9 octobre 2013)** – Le vieillissement en santé, une vie saine et une compréhension accrue des options de soins polyvalents offerts au Canada ont fait l'objet de discussions lors de la réunion annuelle des ministres provinciaux et territoriaux (PT) responsables des aînés.

Les ministres provinciaux et territoriaux veulent encourager la création de milieux favorables pour les aînés au Canada afin que ceux-ci puissent vieillir chez-eux, mener une vie active et prendre part à la vie de la société, ce qui permet de contribuer au vieillissement en santé.

« Les aînés constituent l'un des segments de la population dont la croissance est la plus rapide, non seulement dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest, mais également dans le reste du Canada », a déclaré Tom Beaulieu, ministre responsable des Aînés et président de la réunion de 2013 des ministres provinciaux et territoriaux responsables des aînés. « Ce matin, les ministres provinciaux et territoriaux ont discuté de la nécessité de mettre en commun l'information et les pratiques exemplaires en matière de vieillissement en santé dont bénéficieront les aînés du Canada. Le Manitoba et le Nouveau-Brunswick ont accepté de diriger ce processus. »

À titre de codirigeants du sous-comité du groupe de travail sur les aînés du Conseil de la fédération, les ministres de l'Alberta et de la Saskatchewan communiqueront avec les coprésidents du Groupe de travail sur l'innovation en matière de santé des premiers ministres pour aider à coordonner les priorités du sous-comité des aînés.

La réunion a permis aux ministres responsables des Aînés de partager leurs idées et de discuter des enjeux d'importance pour les aînés, notamment le vieillissement en santé, le logement et le vieillissement chez soi. De plus, les ministres ont convenu de se réunir à nouveau à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard en 2014.

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**Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez contacter :**

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# News Release

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15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial (F/P/T) Ministers  
Responsible for Seniors  
***On-going collaboration to support the well-being  
of seniors living in Canada***

**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, October 10, 2013**—This week, Federal, Provincial and Territorial (F/P/T) Ministers Responsible for Seniors met to review recent collaborative work and discuss ways to further support the well-being of seniors living in Canada. Building on the forum's actions over the past year, Ministers agreed on shared priorities for the year ahead.

Older Canadians are healthier, living longer, more active lives, and continue to make valuable contributions to our communities, families and workplaces. With the growing number of seniors in Canada the ongoing work in the interest of older Canadians is more important than ever.

“Our government continues to work hard to improve the lives of seniors,” said the Honourable Alice Wong, Minister of State (Seniors) and federal meeting co-chair. “I welcome the opportunity to meet with my provincial and territorial colleagues to discuss, among other things, increasing seniors’ financial literacy, and ways to help older workers balance the competing demands of work and care.”

“In the Northwest Territories, we encourage healthy aging and support seniors to stay with loved ones for their remaining years,” said the Honourable Tom Beaulieu, Minister Responsible for Seniors for the Northwest Territories and meeting co-chair. “These past two days, we have shared our healthy aging perspectives with Ministers from all other provinces and territories. We are pleased with the collaboration and discussion among Ministers and we appreciate the opportunity to showcase our territory.”

Ministers agreed to work on the following priorities:

- Assist older workers balancing the competing demands of work and care by ensuring that employees and employers are aware of the programs, services and benefits that could potentially enable older workers, who are also caregivers, to continue to be a part of the Canadian labour force;
- Explore options to support seniors and near seniors by increasing awareness for the need to plan for aging in place, including having the knowledge and skills to make informed financial decisions. These options may include how technology can support aging in place.

The F/P/T Ministers Responsible for Seniors approved an information resource on Powers of Attorney and joint bank accounts. This booklet helps develop an understanding of the benefits and risks associated with these two financial management tools commonly used by seniors. The booklet will be made public and will be distributed by the provinces and territories at their discretion.

F/P/T Ministers Responsible for Seniors will reconvene in October 2014 to review progress on the work being done and identify new priorities.

“I look forward to welcoming F/P/T Ministers to continue our ongoing collaboration towards supporting the well-being of seniors in Canada,” said Prince Edward Island Minister of Community Services and Seniors Valerie E. Docherty.

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"While Québec shares the concerns of other governments regarding these subjects, it does not subscribe to, or take part in, pan-Canadian approaches in fields within its jurisdiction and intends to fully assume its responsibilities in these matters. Quebec will continue to contribute to this forum by sharing expertise, information and best practices."

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# Communiqué

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15<sup>e</sup> réunion des ministres fédéral, provinciaux et territoriaux (FPT)  
responsables des aînés

***Une collaboration soutenue pour favoriser le mieux-être des aînés au  
Canada***

**YELLOWKNIFE (TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST), le 10 octobre 2013**—Cette semaine, les ministres fédéral, provinciaux et territoriaux (FPT) responsables des aînés se sont réunis pour examiner les récents travaux qu'ils ont réalisés de manière collaborative et discuter des façons permettant d'appuyer davantage le mieux-être des aînés vivant au Canada. Se fondant sur les mesures prises par le forum au cours de la dernière année, les ministres ont convenu de priorités communes pour l'année à venir.

Les aînés au Canada sont en meilleure forme, vivent plus longtemps, mènent une vie plus active qu'avant et continuent d'apporter une précieuse contribution à leurs collectivités, à leurs familles et à leurs milieux de travail. En raison de l'augmentation du nombre d'aînés au Canada, les travaux en cours, entrepris dans l'intérêt des personnes plus âgées, sont plus importants que jamais.

« Notre gouvernement continue de travailler fort pour améliorer la vie des aînés, a signalé l'honorable Alice Wong, ministre d'État (Aînés) et coprésidente fédérale de la réunion. Je suis heureuse d'avoir l'occasion de rencontrer mes collègues des provinces et territoires pour discuter notamment de l'amélioration des connaissances financières des aînés et des mesures à prendre pour aider les travailleurs âgés à concilier les exigences concurrentielles liées au travail et à la prestation de soins. »

« Dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest, nous encourageons les aînés à vieillir en santé et à demeurer avec leurs proches pendant les dernières années de leur vie, a affirmé l'honorable Tom Beaulieu, ministre responsable des Aînés pour les Territoires du Nord-Ouest et coprésident de la réunion. Au cours des deux derniers jours, nous avons communiqué nos points de vue sur le vieillissement en santé aux ministres des autres territoires et provinces. Nous sommes satisfaits de la collaboration et des échanges qui ont eu lieu entre les ministres et sommes heureux d'avoir eu la chance de mettre notre territoire en valeur. »

Les ministres ont convenu de travailler sur les priorités suivantes :

- aider les travailleurs âgés à concilier les exigences concurrentielles associées au travail et à la prestation de soins en veillant à sensibiliser les employés et les

employeurs aux programmes, aux services et aux prestations qui peuvent potentiellement aider les travailleurs âgés, qui sont aussi des personnes soignantes, à continuer de participer à la population active canadienne;

- étudier les possibilités visant à appuyer les aînés et les personnes approchant l'âge de la retraite en sensibilisant la population à la nécessité de planifier le vieillissement chez soi et de posséder les connaissances et les compétences pour prendre des décisions financières éclairées. Ces possibilités peuvent notamment inclure la façon dont la technologie peut appuyer le vieillissement chez soi.

Les ministres FPT responsables des aînés ont approuvé une ressource documentaire sur les procurations et les comptes conjoints. Cette ressource documentaire aide à comprendre les avantages et les risques associés à ces deux outils de gestion financière utilisés fréquemment par les aînés. La ressource documentaire sera rendue publique et les provinces et territoires pourront la distribuer sur leur territoire à leur convenance.

Les ministres FPT responsables des aînés se réuniront de nouveau en octobre 2014 afin d'examiner les progrès accomplis sur le travail en cours et de se fixer de nouvelles priorités.

« Je serai heureuse d'accueillir les ministres FPT afin de poursuivre notre collaboration continue pour appuyer le mieux-être des aînés au Canada », a signalé la ministre des Services communautaires et des Aînés de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, l'honorable Valerie E. Docherty.

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Ce communiqué est offert sur demande en d'autres formats.

**Pour en savoir plus (médias seulement) :**

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« Bien que le Québec partage les préoccupations des autres gouvernements concernant ces sujets, il ne souscrit, ni ne participe aux approches pancanadiennes dans les domaines qui relèvent de sa compétence et entend continuer d'assumer pleinement ses responsabilités. Le Québec continuera à contribuer à ce forum en partageant de l'expertise, de l'information et des bonnes pratiques. »





NEWS RELEASE

### NWT Fire Service Merit Award Recipients

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 11, 2013)** – Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Robert C. McLeod has recognized members of the NWT Fire Service for their work in protecting our families and homes from the threat of fire by awarding the annual Fire Service Merit Awards. The awards are announced each year during National Fire Prevention Week.

“Fire prevention and response is critical to maintaining the security of our communities,” said Minister McLeod. “The dedication of the both paid and volunteer firefighters is something we should recognize, because it benefits all of us.”

NWT Fire Service Merit Awards are based on nominations from community members and fire chiefs. The awards honour and recognize individuals and community fire departments for their significant contribution to fire safety and fire service across the territory.

The 2013 award recipients are:

- Scott Whitmore – Fort Simpson Fire Department (Individual Award)
- Yellowknife Fire Department
- Hay River Fire Department

Recognizing and supporting the NWT fire service helps to create sustainable, vibrant, and safe communities as outlined in the 17th Assembly’s vision of *Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners*.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Income Security Programs Continue to Improve

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 18, 2013)** – On March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) tabled its report and recommendations on Income Security Programs (ISP) across the Northwest Territories. The report was presented to the Standing Committee on Government Operations on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

The report outlined nine recommendations across four ISP programs, detailing a need for focused actions and planning, clarified policy and program guidelines for the public and for ISP staff, full compliance through regular auditing processes, improved staff training and development, program targets, and evaluation standards.

“We were pleased to read the recommendations from the Auditor General,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “All of their recommendations aligned with the actions we had taken to that point. The focused review of our Income Security Program has helped us further identify service gaps, which we have moved to address. These are only the first steps as we move to fulfill the recommendations provided by both the Auditor General and the Standing Committee.”

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment categorized the recommendations into four areas of focus: policy clarification, compliance and auditing of files, staff training and development, and program evaluation.

“Once we had completed our internal review of the program in 2012, we recognized that these complex programs were not meeting the needs of our clients or our client services officers and we developed an action plan to address these gaps, which we tabled this session,” said Minister Lafferty. “With the recommendations and action plan to guide our progress, we are confident that we are on the right track to improve Income Security programs across the Northwest Territories.”

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NEWS RELEASE

### Celebrating Small Business Week 2013

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 21, 2013)** - October 20-26 is Small Business Week across Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will help celebrate by hosting events and providing learning opportunities to assist small business owners and encourage future small business start-ups.

The GNWT supports small- and medium-sized businesses through various programs run by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) and the NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation (BDIC).

"We are invested in helping small businesses succeed, and they are a crucial element of the NWT economy," said Minister of ITI David Ramsay, who is also responsible for the BDIC. "When I talk to entrepreneurs throughout the territory, I am impressed with their determination, resilience and hard work. Although our economy is constantly changing, our small business owners evolve right along with it."

This year, the BDIC has a number of events planned to celebrate small businesses in the Northwest Territories, including small business learning sessions and an open house on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

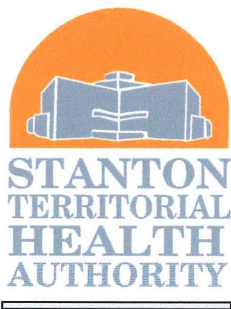
The [BDIC](#) is an independent Crown Corporation that supports the economic objectives of the GNWT by encouraging the creation and development of business in the NWT. The BDIC offers financial assistance to small businesses through contributions and loans. It also offers a number of learning services through the NWT Canada Business Service Centre.

A complete list of BDIC Small Business Week events and learning sessions is available at: [www.bdic.ca/sbw](http://www.bdic.ca/sbw).

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**News Release: Stanton chosen as 2013 Bell Let's Talk Community Fund partner**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 22, 2013)** – Stanton Territorial Health Authority (STHA) is pleased to announce that it is one of 53 community organizations chosen to be 2013 Bell Let's Talk Community Fund partners.

As part of the Bell Let's Talk mental health initiative, STHA will receive \$30,000 to further initiatives currently underway to improve access to mental health services. STHA will be using this funding to improve access and management for mental health patients at many levels in the health and justice system. This funding will help initiatives designed to improve the delivery of mental health services across the NWT and the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut and allow for the coordination of care for mental health patients from their first contact with the health or justice system to their return home. In particular, this funding will be used to:

- Improve training of front line staff in the police, health and justice systems;
- Facilitate the creation of a communication system to allow assessment from remote communities to a central location; and
- Improve access to mental health care for residents of remote communities.

One in five Canadians will experience a mental health issue or problem each year – and two out of three won't seek the help they need because of the stigma surrounding the disease. The Bell Let's Talk Community Fund was created to support community-focused organizations, large and small, that are working across Canada to fight this stigma and increase access to care. For more information on the Bell Let's Talk Community Fund, please visit the Community Fund section at [bell.ca/letstalk](http://bell.ca/letstalk).

**For more information:**

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NEWS RELEASE

## Boat Safety Training a Top Priority for NWT Tourism Operators

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 23, 2013)** – To improve the safety of all boaters and make the boating experience enjoyable for tourists, a train-the-trainer course for Pleasure Craft Operating Certification (PCOC) will be held in Yellowknife from October 28-30 in preparation for the next tourism season.

Participants who successfully complete the course will become Transport Canada certified trainers with the ability to provide PCOC certification training to tourism operators in the NWT.

“Having a pool of qualified trainers that we can call upon to deliver boat-safety training to tourism operators across the territory will help to ensure an overall safer boating experience for everyone,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) David Ramsay. “People who spend time on the water during their stay here can come to expect a high quality of safety and service when they visit the NWT.”

The three-day course will be hosted by the Department of ITI and includes both the general PCOC training and a train-the-trainer course. Participants who already have their PCOC card can also attend to refresh their training, with content targeted exclusively for northern boating realities.

By providing training to local tourism operators, the Government of the Northwest Territories remains committed to strengthening and diversifying the economy, a key priority of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Portion of Highway 1 to be Designated the Highway of Heroes

**HAY RIVER (October 23, 2013)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories will honour the sacrifices of first responders and service men and women by designating a portion of Highway 1 (the Mackenzie Highway) as the NWT's "Highway of Heroes" on November 8, 2013. The Highway of Heroes will run from the Alberta border to Enterprise.

Transportation Minister David Ramsay says the Highway of Heroes is a nationally-recognized way to acknowledge those men and women who have given their lives in protecting our country and our communities. "Travellers are being given the opportunity to consider and reflect upon the sacrifice of those who have given their lives in the performance of their duty," he said. "It is a worthy notion to provide this permanent memorial to what their families have lost so that we can gain."

A ceremony marking the designation will be held on Friday, November 8, at 2:00 p.m near kilometre 83 of Highway 1. Representatives of the Government of Northwest Territories, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian Armed Forces and community fire departments will be present as the Highway of Heroes receives its new designation.

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NEWS RELEASE

Project Gearshift - Part of the GNWT's Strategy for Reducing Harm to Young Drivers

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 23, 2013)** – Drive Alive, the Northwest Territories' road and trail safety program, is delivering on the commitment of the Government of Northwest Territories to injury prevention by supporting the introduction of *Project Gearshift* in schools in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

*Project Gearshift* is a peer-driven school-based program through which teen drivers promote road safety to their community's young drivers, identifying their own priorities, solutions and actions. Drive Alive is partnering with Parachute Canada, the national injury prevention organization, which developed the Project Gearshift program.

"Teen and young drivers are increasingly aware of their responsibility for their own safety," said Minister of Transportation David Ramsay. "Through Project Gearshift, they will have the tools to identify and take action on issues that are important to reduce risk-taking behaviours and promote safe driving among their peers."

Each NWT school that introduces Project Gearshift is eligible for \$1,000 in annual support from the Drive Alive program and its Project Gearshift organization can draw on resources from Drive Alive to support its activities.

If a Project Gearshift school identifies availability of professional driver training as an issue and takes action to bring professional driver training to its community, Drive Alive will support that training by covering 50% of the cost up to \$3,000. This support will help ensure all NWT residents have access to professional driver training, which leads to lower auto insurance premiums and reduced number of collisions, particularly among young drivers.

The Drive Alive program, which is delivered through the Department of Transportation, helps advance the goal of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly to promote sustainable, vibrant, and safe communities.

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## Fred Henne Beach Audit Report: Recommendations Released to Improve Beach Safety

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 24, 2013)** – Recommendations to make Fred Henne Territorial Park beach safer have been released by the Lifesaving Society of Alberta and the Northwest Territories. The Lifesaving Society performed a [comprehensive aquatic safety audit](#) on the unsupervised waterfront beach and unsupervised boat launch facilities at Fred Henne Territorial Park in July. The purpose of the audit was to analyse and provide recommendations to maximize the safety of beach users.

The report included four priority recommendations:

1. Consult with the Department of Health and Social Services to establish a regular schedule for taking bacteriological water samples of the swim area during the swim season.
2. Make equipment such as a reaching pole and a buoyant throwing aid available on the beach in appropriate locations.
3. Add appropriate signage in regards to identification of hazards, children require direct supervision, location of emergency phone and equipment, rules of use and detailed safety rules.
4. Place emergency numbers next to the phone and at the beach public access points.

The report also made four primary and 27 secondary recommendations. Other recommendations included developing a detailed safety and emergency plan, revising the colour and placement of buoys, restricting swimming in the boat launch area, developing and implementing a comprehensive awareness campaign about the importance of adult supervision, reducing the size of the swimming area and more.

“We are going to work with the Lifesaving Society to put these priority recommendations in place to make the beach safer,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) David Ramsay. “We are all responsible for keeping the beach safe and everyone who uses the beach has a responsibility for understanding the rules for water safety. We welcome the Lifesaving Society’s report and will look closely at all of their priority, primary and secondary recommendations to do everything we can to make our territorial parks safe and fun for families.”

“The government has demonstrated a genuine desire to review and improve beach safety at territorial Parks,” says Kelly Carter, standards and safety manager, Lifesaving Society AB/NWT. “The audit process involved input and collaboration with various levels of government, along with community partners. The recommendations will help to enhance and promote optimal safety for the beach, but ultimately it is up to the public to make Water Smart® choices in, on and around the water.”

While the recommendations do not specifically include lifeguards, ITI has engaged the Lifesaving Society to perform a lifeguard feasibility study to identify the costs and steps that



would be required to provide lifeguards. Previous advice from the Lifesaving Society has indicated that providing a lifeguard service could require restrictions on beach access, introduction of new rules for beach usage and additional priority and primary recommendations that would need to be implemented before a supervised waterfront could be considered an option.

The Lifesaving Society also performed an audit of the Hay River Territorial Park beach. The final report with recommendations is expected in late November.

The [Lifesaving Society](#) is a national charity working to prevent drowning and water-related injury. They save lives and prevent injury through training programs, Water Smart public education, water-incident research, aquatic safety management services and lifesaving sport.

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NEWS RELEASE

## NWT Residents Honoured at Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle Ceremony

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 28, 2013)** – Five Northwest Territories (NWT) residents and organizations were honoured this morning at the third annual Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle Award Ceremony. The event recognizing the important and lasting contributions of those dedicated to the arts and cultures of the North took place in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly.

"Arts, culture and heritage are fundamental to the strength and diversity of the Northwest Territories," said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. "They encourage pride in who we are as individuals and as a territory, which contributes to healthy, productive communities. This year's recipients have made a positive and lasting impact on the lives of countless NWT residents, and I applaud them for both their outstanding achievement and their passion."

The Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle provides lasting recognition of those contributing to the preservation and promotion of the arts, culture and heritage in the NWT. It helps build awareness 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 2013 Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle recipients are:

- Justin Memogana from Ulukhaktok – Youth Category;
- Emily Kudlak from Ulukhaktok – Elder Category;
- David Gon from Behchokò – Individual Category;
- Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute – Group Category; and
- Yellowknife Choral Society – Minister's Choice Award.

More information about each recipient is available on the attached backgrounder.

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### **NWT Residents Honoured at Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle Ceremony**

**Purpose:** To provide lasting recognition of, and gratitude towards, those who contribute to the preservation and promotion of cultures and heritage in the Northwest Territories. The Culture and Heritage Circle helps build awareness of the importance of promoting, protecting, preserving and celebrating our unique culture, heritage and ways of life among all Northerners.

#### **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 leadership 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.

#### **2013 Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle Award Recipients:**

Spending time with Elders and teaching traditional songs and dances, 25 year old **Justin Memogana** is a strong young Aboriginal leader. He stepped in to lead the traditional Inuvialuit drum dance group in Ulukhaktok after the founding elders passed away and has filled the role with an incredible amount of passion, energy and respect. He is an ambassador for his culture and is described as being the community's "inukshuk; there to provide guidance and reliability." He is the recipient of the Youth Award.

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

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Reflecting on what it means to practice traditional culture in a contemporary world, **David Gon** demonstrates a strong level of commitment and enthusiasm to share the Tłıchǵ language with youth. He has translated many songs, which are used in the schools and in language classes, as a way to reach youth and pass on the language. He also worked with students on a music project that saw the production of several songs in English and Tłıchǵ. He is the recipient of the Individual Award.

**Emily Kudlak** is a strong advocate for preserving, practicing and sharing her Inuinnaqtun language and culture locally, regionally and internationally. She has been Ulukhaktok's Inuinnaqtun Language Officer for several years and helped develop the language curriculum for Helen Kalvak Elihakvik School. She is the recipient of the Elder Award.

In order to promote, preserve and revitalize the Gwich'in language and culture, the **Gwich'in Tribal Council** created the **Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI)** in 1992. This non-profit society has spent 20 years researching and recording more than 100 projects so they are available for future generations of Gwich'in people. Most recently, the GSCI submitted hundreds of geographical place names from the Gwich'in settlement area along with the oral history associated with each. Earlier this year, the Government of the Northwest Territories approved 414 of these names as official NWT geographical names. The GSCI is the recipient of the Group Award.

For 25 years the **Yellowknife Choral Society** has passionately worked to create a vibrant city and territory through music. By commissioning works from local musicians, leading workshops in communities and encouraging the development of youth and community choir groups, the Choral Society has become a staple in the artistic fabric of the North. For all their work in, and support of, music across the Northwest Territories, the Yellowknife Choral Society receives the Minister's Choice Award.

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

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NEWS RELEASE

NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy Connects Businesses and Communities to Economic Opportunities

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 29)** – A new Northwest Territories (NWT) Economic Opportunities Strategy sets out a plan to connect NWT businesses and communities with economic opportunities by fostering a climate for growth, building on success in key sectors, investing in regional diversification and promoting opportunity readiness for people and businesses.

The Governance Committee presented the Strategy to Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay and the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Environment, Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, and Minister for the Arctic Council.

"The Northwest Territories is evolving, and so is our economy," Minister Ramsay noted. "Increasing growth, diversity and certainty in other sectors of our economy outside of our rich natural resources sector is imperative and the NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy has been developed to do just this."

"I am pleased to receive the NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy which outlines a plan to ensure that businesses and communities maximize the tremendous economic opportunities that exist in the territory," said Minister Aglukkaq. "I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with our partners to advance a strong and diversified economy."

The NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy was prepared by a Governance Committee representing the NWT's primary economic stakeholders: the NWT Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Aboriginal Business Association (NABA), the NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC), the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) and the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

The Strategy includes targets and objectives that position the 117 actions that it recommends be initiated over the next 10 years.

"Resource development is the backbone of our economy, but small and medium-sized business are its heartbeat," says Hughie Graham, Past President of the NWT Chamber of Commerce and Member of the EOS Governance Committee. "The Economic Opportunities Strategy casts a spotlight on opportunities to diversify and strengthen regional economies which will provide jobs and prosperity to people and businesses at the local level. That's why it is so important to the NWT Chamber of Commerce."

"In recognizing the growing economy, the participation of northern businesses and the benefits that the NWT's growing economic independence will bring all residents, the Economic Opportunity Strategy underscores the importance of the NWT's growing Aboriginal Business community," says, Darrell Beaulieu, Chair of the Northern Aboriginal Business Association. "Aboriginal companies are not only engaging and participating in all sectors of the NWT economy, they are now a part of guiding its growth and development."

"Thanks to the effective engagement of NWT communities, this Strategy is firmly grounded in the grass-roots of our Territory's economy," says President of the NWT Association of Communities Mervyn Gruben. "The NWTAC is pleased to have been involved in such a collaborative process, from consultations with our communities early in the process to continued involvement and engagement in the implementation as we move forward."

Work by the Governance Committee to prepare the Economic Opportunities Strategy began in May of this year guided by the findings of an independent Advisory Panel that engaged with NWT residents, business representatives, organizations and governments to get a full understanding of issues, challenges and opportunities related to resource development and regional diversification in the NWT.

The last NWT Economic Strategy "Common Ground" was released in 2000.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Premier Bob McLeod Announces Changes to the Cabinet

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 30, 2013)** – Premier Bob McLeod today announced changes to the Executive Council that will help it continue to achieve success in creating a strong, prosperous territory providing jobs and opportunities for all Northwest Territories residents. The changes will help also prepare the Cabinet for additional responsibilities being transferred to the Government of the Northwest Territories through Devolution.

"We are midway through our term and have accomplished many of the tasks we set for ourselves at the beginning of the 17th Legislative Assembly," said Premier McLeod. "As we prepare for the next two years and the new responsibilities we will be assuming from Canada, we have an opportunity to capitalize on our past successes and to refocus our energies for the task ahead."

The Premier has made the following portfolio changes:

- Minister David Ramsay assumes responsibility for the Department of Justice and the Public Utilities Board. He continues as Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.
- Minister Tom Beaulieu assumes responsibility for the Departments of Transportation, Human Resources, and Public Works and Services.
- Minister Glen Abernethy assumes responsibility for the Department of Health and Social Services, Seniors, and Persons with Disabilities.
- Minister Robert C. McLeod has been designated Minister of Lands effective April 1, 2014. He will continue as Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Municipal and Community Affairs, Homelessness, and Youth.

Ministers Jackson Lafferty, Michael Miltenberger and Premier McLeod continue with their existing portfolios.

"We have made significant progress over the past two years, but have a lot more to achieve," said the Premier. "We have a strong team that will continue to work hard to create the kind of territory the people of our territory want and our Legislative Assembly has envisioned. I thank all Ministers for their past efforts and look forward to continuing to work together with them to advance the best interests of the Northwest Territories.

With the exception of the Lands portfolio, all portfolio changes take effect October 31, 2013.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Education Renewal and Innovation Framework Announced

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 31, 2013)** – A new framework released today by Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) Jackson Lafferty will shift the foundation for Kindergarten to Grade 12 education in the Northwest Territories.

Called *Education Renewal and Innovation Framework: Directions for Change*, the framework will create a change in approaches to teaching and learning. It will encourage partnerships, improve relationships between communities and schools and focus on helping children develop a strong sense of identity. It will support educators and life-long learning, renew learning experiences inside and outside the classroom and develop effective assessment tools that measure this learning.

“The framework incorporates research, data and best practices from the North, across Canada and around the world to help the government focus on the right approaches that will ensure we are meeting the needs of our children and families,” says Minister Lafferty. “As Malala Yousafzai said at the United Nations earlier this year, ‘one child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world.’ We must have the collective courage to move towards that change. ECE is committed to creating a foundation of access, support, dedicated programs and services, and collaboration across government and Northern stakeholders in a renewed education system.”

Over the next several months ECE will finalize a multi-year action plan to support the commitments in the framework. The plan will outline the directions, actions and timelines, estimate costs over the next ten years and will be supported by an evaluation framework.

The framework is one of several initiatives developed by the Government of the Northwest Territories to address challenges like poverty, mental health, addictions, early childhood development, safety, the legacy of residential schools and school attendance. Other challenges within the school system, like authentic learning, staff recruitment, training and retention and transitions to work or learning after high school will be met primarily through school programming and policies themselves, preparing children for a prosperous and healthy future.

To read the framework and for more information, visit [www.ece.gov.nt.ca](http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca).

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NEWS RELEASE

## NWT Fishing Industry Rebounding; Reaches One Million Pound Mark

**HAY RIVER (November 1, 2013)** – Local fishers are breathing new life back into the industry, with nearly one million pounds of fish harvested from Great Slave Lake this season - an increase of 25% over last year.

“Our commercial fishery is resilient and I commend the fishers for investing their time, effort and money into revitalizing this important sector,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. “I believe the time is right to consider ways to invest in this sector that will not only support NWT fishers in their efforts but also add to the fishery’s resilience and capacity to weather future economic challenges.”

NWT fishers were significantly affected by the 2008 economic downturn with annual harvests dropping from an all-time high of 2.6 million pounds in 2001 to just over 700,000 pounds in 2009. Less than 20% of the available harvest was realized in 2012.

The recovery of the NWT fishery is a result, in part, of steps taken by the NWT Fishermen’s Federation to improve efficiencies at their ice packing plant in Hay River. Consideration is now also being given to having a winter fishery for the first time since 2007.

Indicators of a rebound in the NWT fishing industry come on the heels of the NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy, released October 29th. As well as improving incentives and supports for NWT fishers, it includes recommendations for new processing facilities in Hay River and the expansion of export and domestic markets for fish caught in Great Slave Lake.

In addition to increased volumes identified for export markets, domestic markets for NWT fish also offer potential for expansion and growth of the NWT fishery.

By investing in the local fishing industry, the Government of the Northwest Territories is taking steps to strengthen and diversify the economy, a key goal of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

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NEWS RELEASE

## New Wildlife Act Ensures Responsible Stewardship Through Partnership

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 4, 2013)** – The new *Wildlife Act* was passed on Friday in the NWT Legislative Assembly. The consultative and collaborative approach used to develop the Act demonstrates the GNWT's commitment to strengthen relationships with Aboriginal governments through respect, recognition and responsibility.

"No other public government has worked so closely with Aboriginal governments to jointly draft legislation on issues of deep and abiding interest to all," said Minister of Environment and Natural Resources J. Michael Miltenberger. "This collaborative process has resulted in one of the most advanced pieces of wildlife legislation in the country."

"All NWT residents have had the distinct opportunity to provide input on the *Wildlife Act*," said Malcolm Stark, member of the Stakeholders Wildlife Act Advisory Group (SWAAG). "This is not the norm in any other jurisdiction."

The *Wildlife Act* continued a collaborative drafting process that started with the *Species at Risk Act* in 2006. The Wildlife Act Working Group, which included representatives from Aboriginal governments and wildlife co-management boards, has been involved in the development of the bill since 2009. SWAAG, NWT residents, and other interested parties also provided input.

"The *Wildlife Act* upholds constitutionally enshrined Aboriginal and treaty rights and the provisions in land claim agreements," said Norman Snowshoe, Vice President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. "The Act recognizes our land, resources and self-government agreements function as modern treaties, and it will ensure we share the responsibility for protecting this precious resource."

"This is a major accomplishment that took years of hard work and consultation with Aboriginal governments and stakeholders," said the Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, Robert Hawkins. "As a committee we were pleased to have heard the public's advice and guidance on this essential legislation and tried to reflect as many of those views through balancing harvesting rights and conservation, while at the same time ensuring the best interest and access to wildlife for all."

The new *Wildlife Act* is an important milestone as the GNWT prepares to take on new responsibilities for land and resources through devolution on April 1, 2014.

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NEWS RELEASE

### Pan-Territorial Permafrost Workshop to be Held in Yellowknife

**Yellowknife (November 4, 2013)** – Decision-makers from all three territories will meet with permafrost researchers and other experts in Yellowknife on November 5-7 to share knowledge, network and explore ways to deal with climate change impacts on permafrost in Canada's North.

The main goal of the Pan-Territorial Permafrost Workshop is to improve peoples' understanding of permafrost in Northern communities and ensure their research and infrastructure needs are being met.

Northern cultural sites, community and industry infrastructure, including roads, buildings, coastlines, mining camps, solid waste sites and pipelines are already being compromised by thawing permafrost. These impacts are expected to grow in number and severity in the future.

Presentations and discussions during the workshop will help identify common and unique challenges as well as actions for dealing with current and projected impacts of thawing permafrost on northern communities and infrastructure. Workshop proceedings will be available via a live webcast.

The event is co-sponsored by the Governments of the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. Financial support is being provided by the Aboriginal and Northern Development Canada Climate Change Adaptation Program and the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency.

Visit [www.permafrostworkshop2013.ca](http://www.permafrostworkshop2013.ca) for detailed information on the Pan-Territorial Permafrost Workshop. For more information about climate change adaptation, permafrost and impacts on Northern communities consult the Pan-Territorial Adaptation Strategy on-line at [www.anorthernvision.ca](http://www.anorthernvision.ca).

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NEWS RELEASE

## Preventing Drownings on the Ice – Another Healthy Choice

YELLOWKNIFE (November 4, 2013) – With water activities and boating now ended for the season, the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) reminds residents that drownings can still occur and we all need to make healthy choices to keep ourselves and our families safe.

Minister of Transportation Tom Beaulieu reminds those who cross rivers and lakes during the winter that there need to be at least four inches of stable ice under your feet, six inches under your snowmobile and eight inches under your vehicle before you can safely cross on the ice. “Every year we see people starting trails on the ice before it has been tested and this is a dangerous practice,” Minister Beaulieu said. “This is of particular importance when vehicles and snowmobiles are on the ice before it is safe, putting the driver and passengers and their rescuers at risk.” The Minister also reminds people that it is dangerous and illegal to drive on an ice crossing before it is open.

Here are some ways you can keep yourself and members of your family safe from drowning this winter:

1. Those in Yellowknife should heed the warnings of the Yellowknife Fire Department on ice conditions. In other parts of the territory, wait to cross the ice until it has been tested for both thickness and suitability. Contact your community government for information on ice testing in your community;
2. When crossing the ice on foot, ensure you are walking on clear, blue, or green ice, and not on snow which creates an insulating barrier that can keep the ice below unsafe. In the early and late parts of winter, consider wearing a personal flotation device to provide additional warmth and buoyancy;
3. Be aware that even the most cautious person could go through the ice. Think about what you would do if that were to occur and what you would want with you (ice picks, rope, staff, whistle, waterproof matches, etc.);
4. Carry dry clothes in a water-tight container in case you are submerged and need to get out of your wet clothes;
5. Walk only where you are confident that others would see you if you go through the ice; and
6. When driving equipment on the ice, ensure that you are wearing a floater suit for warmth and buoyancy. Never work alone, and always wear occupant restraints.

The Drowning Prevention Action Plan is delivered through a collaboration between the GNWT Departments of Health and Social Services; Municipal and Community Affairs; Industry, Tourism and Investment; Education, Culture and Employment; and Transportation under the Healthy Choices Framework, together with the Coroner’s Office, the NWT and Nunavut Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission, and our external partners the Lifesaving Society of Alberta and

the NWT, Parachute Canada, Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons, Dene Nation, and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.

The Healthy Choices Framework is a Government of Northwest Territories initiative to encourage and support safe and healthy choices by investing in prevention, education and awareness, a priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

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JOINT MEDIA RELEASE (FFT and GNWT)

### Francophone Residents Engaged for French-language Services

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 5, 2013)** – As part of their ongoing collaboration, representatives of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Francophone Affairs Secretariat and the Fédération franco-ténoise (FFT) will be travelling to four NWT communities to inform residents about the GNWT's Strategic Plan on French language communications and services and to meet with them on community priorities.

"We have entered a new era of cooperation with our Francophone community," said the Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Minister Responsible for Official Languages. "The strategic plan was developed in partnership with the Fédération franco-ténoise and we are continuing to work closely with both the FFT and the Francophone community as we move into implementation. We must ensure we are on the right track to meet the needs of our Francophone residents."

Four meetings are planned in the coming months, one in each of the NWT communities where there is significant demand for communications and services in French:

- Fort Smith – November 9, 2013
- Hay River – November 30, 2013
- Inuvik – January 25, 2014
- Yellowknife – February 1, 2014

"On behalf of the Francophone and Francophile community, I am proud to acknowledge the benefits of our closer collaboration with the GNWT, which focuses on the successful implementation of the government's strategic plan," stated Richard Létourneau, President of the FFT.

The engagements form part of a broad range of initiatives the GNWT is undertaking to increase the ability of government departments to offer French-language services. These engagements, in conjunction with existing service assessments, will help finalize operational plans that will guide the changes needed to deliver quality services in French.

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## COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE CONJOINT (FFT et GTNO)

Les résidents francophones se mobilisent pour les services en français

**Yellowknife, le 5 novembre 2013**– Dans la continuité de leur collaboration, des représentants du Secrétariat aux affaires francophones du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) et de la Fédération franco-ténoise (FFT) se rendront dans quatre collectivités des TNO dans le but d'expliquer aux résidents le Plan stratégique du GTNO sur les communications et les services en français, et de faire le point avec eux sur les priorités des collectivités.

« Nous entamons une nouvelle ère de coopération avec notre communauté francophone, a déclaré Monsieur Jackson Lafferty, ministre responsable des langues officielles. Le plan stratégique a été élaboré en partenariat avec la Fédération franco-ténoise et nous continuons de travailler en étroite collaboration avec la FFT et la communauté francophone alors que nous entrons dans l'étape de mise en œuvre. Nous devons nous assurer d'être sur la bonne voie afin de répondre aux besoins de nos résidents francophones. »

Quatre réunions auront lieu dans les mois à venir dans les collectivités des TNO où les communications et les services en français font l'objet d'une demande importante :

Fort Smith le 9 novembre 2013  
Hay River le 30 novembre 2013  
Inuvik le 25 janvier 2014  
Yellowknife le 1<sup>er</sup> février 2014

« Au nom de la communauté francophone et francophile, je me réjouis des avantages de notre relation plus étroite que jamais avec le GTNO, qui est axée sur la réussite de la mise en œuvre du plan stratégique du gouvernement », a ajouté Richard Létourneau, président de la FFT.

Ces engagements s'inscrivent dans le cadre des diverses initiatives du GTNO visant à augmenter les capacités des ministères gouvernementaux à offrir des services en français. Ces engagements, associés aux évaluations des services existants, permettront de finaliser les plans opérationnels qui donneront le ton aux changements requis pour offrir des services en français de qualité.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Grand Opening of New Business Incentive Policy Office in Hay River

**HAY RIVER (November 8, 2013)** – The Business Incentive Policy office has now officially moved to Hay River from Yellowknife, creating four jobs in the community and marking an important move in the decentralization of jobs from Headquarters to other Northwest Territories communities.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay greeted the grand opening attendees today and joined Kim Wilkins, new office manager, in cutting the ribbon at the new office location, located on the second floor of the Royal Bank building.

“Relocating this office to Hay River demonstrates our government’s commitment to creating jobs in communities and spreading the social, economic and employment benefits of government activity throughout the NWT,” said Minister Ramsay. “The Business Incentive Policy supports the creation and growth of competitive businesses as a foundation for our economy by providing an incentive to NWT-based businesses that recognizes the higher cost of doing business in the North.”

The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to increasing employment opportunities where they are needed most through decentralization and other initiatives for creating and staffing jobs in communities. All departments will continue to look for opportunities to increase community employment, fulfilling an important priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

Links:

[Business Incentive Policy](#)

[Registration – Business Incentive Policy](#)

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### Recognition Awards Draw Praise for NWT Trappers

**Yellowknife (November 12, 2013)** – Trapping traditions continue to strengthen as trappers from across the NWT are honoured for their achievements during last year's season through the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Trapper Recognition Program.

"I want to offer my congratulations to all the recipients of this year's awards," said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. "We recognize the hard work that NWT trappers put into their craft, and the well-earned contribution they bring to our economy. We hope to see these traditions continue to thrive as more youth become involved in trapping each year."

Awards are given out to the top trapper in each region for 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 in the territory.

#### Trapper Recognition Awards 2012/13

Region	Highest Sales \$	Highest # Pelts	Senior Trapper	Youth Trapper
<b>South Slave</b>	Sheldon Boucher (Fort Resolution)	Donovan Boucher (Fort Resolution)	Frederick Elleze (Fort Providence)	Ty Martin (Fort Smith)
<b>North Slave</b>	Jimmy Mantla (Behchokö)	Jimmy Mantla (Behchokö)	Louis Simpson (Whati)	Augustus Casaway (Lutselk'e)
<b>Sahtu</b>	Michael Jackson (Fort Good Hope)	Michael Jackson (Fort Good Hope)	Hyacinthe Kochon (Colville Lake)	Keenan McNeely (Fort Good Hope)
<b>Dehcho</b>	Charlie Tale (Wrigley)	Charlie Tale (Wrigley)	William Norwegian (Jean Marie River)	Jarrett Oskenekisses (Wrigley)
<b>Inuvik</b>	Jim Elias (Tuktoyaktuk)	Jim Elias (Tuktoyaktuk)	Neil Colin (Fort McPherson)	Robert Cole (Inuvik)

Keenan McNeely from Fort Good Hope is the recipient of this year's Youth Trapper NWT award.

Unfortunately, Mr. Louis Simpson of Whati passed away this year. The award will be presented to his family on his behalf. The GNWT would like to recognize Mr. Simpson's many years of dedication to the fur industry.

Through the GMVF Program, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment 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.

With initiatives such as Trapper Recognition programs and the GMVF program, the GNWT is taking steps to diversify the economy and provide all communities and regions with opportunities and choices, a key priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

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NEWS RELEASE

## ENR Seeks Information on Meat Wastage in Yellowknife

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 13, 2013)** – The North Slave Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is asking for the public's help in identifying the person or persons responsible for wasting moose meat in Yellowknife.

The rump of a moose, including part of the backstraps and tenderloin, was found dumped at the Yellowknife Sand Pits on October 28, 2013. Officers believe the animal was harvested this fall.

It is against the law to waste, destroy, abandon or allow to spoil any meat from big game. All meat, including the necks and ribs, must be taken and used. The only parts of big game that may be left in the field are the head, lower legs, internal parts (lungs, guts, etc.) and meat damaged from gunshot.

If you have any information regarding this incident, or if you see any instances or evidence of meat wastage, please contact the North Slave office at 873-7181 or the Report a Poacher toll-free line at line at 1-866-762-2437.

Information provided will remain anonymous. The Report a Poacher line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Information provided is passed on to a Renewable Resource Officer.

For more information or to request a photo, contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

## Government of the Northwest Territories Donates to Typhoon Relief

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 15, 2013)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories is joining the Government of Canada and other provinces and territories in responding to the typhoon-devastated Philippines by stepping up to help the island nation in its efforts to care for survivors.

To assist with humanitarian relief efforts, the Government of the NWT will contribute \$25,000 to the Canadian Red Cross.

“Our sincerest sympathies and prayers go out to the people of the Philippines and those who have lost friends or family from around the world,” said Premier Bob McLeod. “The Northwest Territories has a large Filipino community, and our thoughts are also with Northerners who have loved ones in the area.”

Relatives and friends seeking information on Canadian citizens believed to be in the affected areas should contact the Emergency Watch and Response Centre by calling 1-800-387-3124 or 613-996-8885 or e-mailing [sos@international.gc.ca](mailto:sos@international.gc.ca)

Those interested in helping the Philippines by giving a donation can go to [redcross.ca](http://redcross.ca)

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NEWS RELEASE

## GNWT Continues to Track Obed Mountain Mine Spill

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 19, 2013)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is continuing to track the Obed Mountain Mine spill into the Athabasca River.

“Currently, there is no cause for concern about the spill in the Northwest Territories,” said Environment and Natural Resources Minister J. Michael Miltenberger. “We are continuing to track the spill and are making preparations for monitoring in the NWT should, or when, the plume moves into the Slave River.”

The spill occurred on October 31, 2013 when an onsite water containment pond was breached at the Obed Mountain Mine near Hinton, Alberta. The release consisted of a significant quantity of process water, containing water mixed with naturally occurring materials, mainly clay, mud, shale and coal fines. Testing is being done for contaminants such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH); benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes (BTEX); metals; and total suspended solids. ASERT reports results of these tests indicate values are quite low as the plume dissipates.

Continued monitoring of the plume movement in the Athabasca River is being done by helicopter. A team of independent fish and hydrology experts are also conducting water sample tests at numerous points along the Athabasca River to determine impacts on fish and wildlife.

The plume is estimated to arrive at Lake Athabasca between November 29 and December 3. Should flow rates remain the same, the plume could enter the NWT between December 7 and 10.

The majority of water in the Slave River comes from the Peace River. The Slave River has a mean annual flow rate in excess of 4000 cubic metres per second so further dilution of the plume is expected.

The GNWT was alerted to the spill by Environment Canada’s National Emergencies Centre and Alberta Environment Support and Emergency Response Team (ASERT) and is receiving daily updates on the situation.

“Cooperation is essential for effective environmental monitoring and water management in the Mackenzie River Basin,” said Minister Miltenberger. “We will continue to work with officials in Alberta to monitor this spill and look forward to concluding negotiations on a transboundary water management agreement that will ensure effective coordination between our governments in the near future.”

Information and updates on the Obed Mountain Mine Spill and updates can be found online at: [www.obed.ca](http://www.obed.ca).

The GNWT will provide updates as required.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Road Crash Victims Remembered Across Canada

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 20, 2013)** – Today is the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims. Transportation Minister Tom Beaulieu says remembering victims of road crashes in the Northwest Territories will help reduce the number of preventable injuries and deaths among our residents, leading to a healthier people.

“Each time someone is seriously injured or killed in a motor vehicle collision, there are lessons we can recall which may have prevented that injury or fatality,” Minister Beaulieu said. “I encourage everyone who has ever had a friend, family member or loved one injured or killed in a collision to honour them by reducing their own risks on our roads and trails.”

The Drive Alive program emphasizes four actions everyone can take to significantly reduce their chances of being a road crash victim:

1. Drive at a speed appropriate for road and weather conditions;
2. Give driving your full attention, and do not drive when your judgment is impaired by alcohol, drugs, distractions or fatigue;
3. Be prepared for the unexpected, with the means to stay warm and hydrated while waiting for help; and
4. Ensure that everyone in your vehicle is wearing a properly fitting seat belt or child restraint.

The National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims is marked across Canada. The theme for this year’s remembrance is “Victims and their families and friends are not the only ones impacted by road crashes. Entire communities suffer the loss.” For more information about the events being held to mark the Day, visit [http://ccmta.ca/remember\\_souvenez-vous/home.php](http://ccmta.ca/remember_souvenez-vous/home.php).

Drive Alive is the road and trail safety program of the Government of the Northwest Territories, helping deliver on the priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly to ensure a healthier people by investing in prevention, education and awareness. For more information about Drive Alive, go to <http://drivealive.ca>.

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NEWS RELEASE

## First Ever NWT Mineral Development Strategy Outlines Plans to Revitalize the Resource Sector

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 21, 2013)** – The new Northwest Territories (NWT) Mineral Development Strategy establishes a comprehensive plan to ensure the long-term growth of a sustainable mining industry that will create jobs and economic opportunities for the people of the NWT.

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay officially launched the Strategy at an event last night during the 41<sup>st</sup> Yellowknife Geoscience Forum. “Restoring a positive investment climate is important if we are to discover new deposits and establish new mines to sustain and grow our economy” Minister Ramsay said. “The NWT Mineral Development Strategy will ensure our mineral resources continue to be developed in a way that benefits NWT residents, ensures development is sustainable, and upholds our commitment to protect the environment.”

The *NWT Mineral Development Strategy* focuses on five key areas:

- Creating a competitive edge;
- Establishing a new regulatory environment for the NWT;
- Enhancing Aboriginal engagement and capacity;
- Promoting sustainability; and
- Enriching workforce development and public awareness.

Developed in partnership by the GNWT and NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, the *NWT Mineral Development Strategy* also includes information about the roles the NWT mining industry, Aboriginal groups and local governments and communities will play in revitalizing the industry and encouraging new investment.

“This Strategy is an important step forward for mining in the NWT,” said Brook Clements, President of the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines. “We are establishing a strong foundation that will position us well for a strong and vibrant mineral exploration and development sector in the NWT for many years to come.”

An implementation plan is under development that will outline detailed actions the Government of the NWT will undertake to ensure the goals of the *NWT Mineral Development Strategy* are realized. The plan will be released in early 2014.

The creation of an environmentally sustainable NWT Mineral Development Strategy was a key priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, and will strengthen the economy and help to provide all communities and regions with opportunities and choices.

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NEWS RELEASE

## New Vision for NWT Health and Social Services System to Improve Services to Residents

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 22, 2013)** – The Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of the Northwest Territories health and social services system has agreed on actions to improve services for NWT residents says Minister of Health and Social Services Glen Abernethy.

Members of the JLC met in Yellowknife last week and approved a vision statement and actions designed to improve efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery. “We all want a system that focuses on the patient,” said Minister Abernethy. “Working together, we can drive improvements to our system that will benefit all northerners.”

The vision statement establishes a goal of operating as a seamless, integrated health and social services system. Priorities for action identified at last week’s meeting include moving forward on implementing collaborative shared services for the system to ensure that all territorial authorities can tap into shared expertise in areas such as finance, procurement, quality assurance and human resource planning. “This is not about centralization,” said Joe Handley, Public Administrator for the Stanton Territorial Health Authority. “It’s about improving service to residents by sharing resources and expertise.”

JLC members will also consider options for updating the structure of the NWT’s health and social services system to establish a territorial authority that gives every region a voice in how the system operates. Liz Wyman, Chair of the Yellowknife Health and Social Service Authority, noted that “lack of action on integration is frustrating,” and it is time to move forward.

“We need to bring our system into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and make sure we have a structure that improves access to care and consistency of care,” said Minister Abernethy, noting that this will allow the NWT to take full advantage of modern health technology, such as electronic medical records.

JLC members support the government’s Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan and want to see more aggressive action in this area, including expanding access to the Dalhousie/Stanton psychiatric telehealth service to all regions of the NWT. “Addictions do not recognize authority boundaries,” said Danny Bayha, Chair of the Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority.

Another priority identified at the meeting was an increased focus on Aboriginal health. “Setting up the Division of Aboriginal Health and Community Wellness is a step in the right direction,” said Jim Antoine, Public Administrator of the Deh Cho Health and Social Services Authority. “Now we need to work with communities.” Members agreed to look for ways to enhance prevention and promotion programs and encourage healthy living.

For the first time, the Department and Authorities will collaborate to develop a strategic plan to guide the NWT health and social services system. There are currently nine strategic plans for the system, said Brenda Johnson, Chair of the Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority. “We do them in isolation and that has to stop.”

The JLC includes the Chair or Public Administrator of all Northwest Territories health and social services authorities and the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services. The Minister of Health and Social Services chairs the group. The next meeting is scheduled for January in Fort Smith.

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### **Backgrounder: Joint Leadership Council Vision Statement**

NWT residents will receive the best possible quality of health and social services, no matter where they live. All residents will have equitable access to a consistent standard of care and services, and the NWT health and social services system will be accountable to NWT residents for delivering on this vision.

We will achieve this by operating as a seamless, integrated health and social services system, ensuring:

- Client and patient-centred care,
- Effective system leadership,
- Consistent application of standards, policies and clinical practise guidelines across the NWT,
- Deployment of system resources to areas of greatest need, and
- Easy access to services for clients and patients.

### **Health and Social Services Authority Chairperson/Public Administrator**

- **Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority (DHSSA)**  
Mr. Jim Antoine – Public Administrator
- **Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority (BDHSSA)**  
Mr. Peter Clarkson – Public Administrator
- **Tlicho Community Services Agency (TCSA)**  
Mr. Joe Mackenzie – A/Chairperson
- **Stanton Territorial Health Authority (STHA)**  
Mr. Joe Handley – Public Administrator
- **Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority (FHSSA)**  
Ms. Brenda Johnson – Chairperson
- **Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority (YHSSA)**  
Ms. Elizabeth Wyman – Chairperson
- **Hay River Health and Social Services Authority (HRHSSA)**  
Mr. Michael Maher – Public Administrator
- **Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority (SHSSA)**  
Mr. Danny Bayha – Chairperson



NEWS RELEASE

## Partners Celebrate Betty House Sod-Turning

**Yellowknife (Nov. 22, 2013)** – Construction is set to begin on the \$4.8 million Betty (Better Environment To Transition in Yellowknife) House project in Yellowknife. The transitional home for women will be celebrating a sod-turning event on Friday, November 22 at 10 a.m. on the BETTY House site on 54<sup>th</sup> Street, across from Aurora College.

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWTHC), the City of Yellowknife, the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition and the YWCA Yellowknife will be hosting the event to signal the beginning of the building of Betty House.

“The Betty House fills a critical shelter need,” the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, Minister Responsible for Homelessness as well as the NWTHC said. “The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is a proud partner in the construction of the Betty House. The transitional home for women and women with children is part of the NWTHC’s overall priority of strengthening the supports for homelessness.”

Construction of the Betty House will continue through the winter months with a goal of completion in spring 2014. The NWTHC is contributing \$2.3 million for the completion of the facility. Dominion Diamond Corporation (\$700,000) and the Government of Canada (\$1.8 million) are also major funding partners for the project.

“The City is excited to see the starting of Betty House in Yellowknife. We have great hopes that it will contribute to a better life for many Yellowknifers and northerners,” said Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck.

Lyda Fuller, Executive Director of YWCA Yellowknife said, “The YWCA is thrilled that the Betty House is beginning to take shape. This signals a significant step forward for single women and women with children who are transitioning from life in an emergency shelter or have been on the streets of Yellowknife with nowhere else to turn.”

The community is invited to come join in the celebration and witness the sod-turning. Refreshments will be provided.

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NEWS RELEASE

Premier McLeod to Chair Working Group of Aboriginal Affairs Ministers and National Aboriginal Organization Leaders

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 22, 2013)** – Premier and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Bob McLeod joined Aboriginal Affairs Ministers and National Aboriginal Organization Leaders earlier this week in Winnipeg, Manitoba for a meeting of the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (AAWG). During the meeting, Premier McLeod was called upon by his colleagues to take on responsibility for leading the important work of the AAWG and assume the Chair of the group when it rotates later next year.

“In the coming months, I look forward to the opportunity to chair the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group and I thank my colleagues for their support in taking on this leadership role,” said Premier McLeod. “In the Northwest Territories, we work in very close partnership with Aboriginal governments and we will highlight this approach through the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group. We know first-hand what we can achieve through cooperation and mutual respect and this is something that we will share with the rest of Canada.”

The AAWG is composed of Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs from all provinces and territories and Leaders from the five National Aboriginal Organizations: the Assembly of First Nations, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Métis National Council, and the Native Women's Association of Canada.

The AAWG promotes coordination and collaboration on key priority issues to further support and ensure a stronger future for Aboriginal communities across the country. This includes reinforcing and developing efforts to support safe communities and prevent violence against Aboriginal women and girls, enhancing skills training and educational opportunities, building strong working relationships with Aboriginal communities to support economic development and continuing to work with the federal government to address housing challenges and to enhance emergency management and support services.

The AAWG is currently chaired by the province of Manitoba. The Northwest Territories will assume the role of Chair in July 2014 following the annual meeting of Premiers and National Aboriginal Organization Leaders in conjunction with the Council of the Federation summer meeting.

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NEWS RELEASE

## Museum Alive! Open House at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 26, 2013)** – The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) is pleased to announce the [Museum Alive! Open House](#) – a fantastic opportunity to see the museum come to life and experience contemporary NWT culture in an interactive way.

Visitors of all ages are invited to attend the event on Sunday, December 1, between 12 – 4pm to enjoy storytelling in the Aviation and Discovery Galleries, live music provided by the Fiddlecats, hand games, crafts, a photo booth, refreshments, and much more.

Exhibits will be brought to life by PWNHC staff and special guest interpreters, providing fascinating information and facts about the exhibits and artifacts that can be found at the museum. There will also be an opportunity for visitors to bring their old photos of family and friends to be digitized by NWT Archives.

“We are excited to invite the community for a peek behind the scenes at the museum,” says Barb Cameron, Director of the PWNHC. “*Museum Alive!* focuses on the art and skills of keeping culture and heritage alive with exhibits featuring stories and demonstrations from museum staff and local experts. If you have not yet had the chance to visit the museum, or want to experience it in a different way, this will be a great opportunity.”

This open house is part of the museum’s [Amazing Family Sundays](#) series of events happening throughout the fall in Yellowknife.

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NEWS RELEASE

## NWT Collaboration to Reduce Drownings Receives National Recognition

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 27, 2013)** – The GNWT’s collaborative approach to addressing the large number of preventable drownings has been recognized with the [Award for Collaborative Excellence](#) from the Canadian Collaborative Centres for Injury Prevention (CCCIP). The award is given every two years to recognize national leadership in injury prevention collaboration.

The NWT’s drowning prevention collaboration draws together GNWT departments and agencies with external partners to address the leading causes of drownings in the territory. The award recognizes the success of this collaborative approach, including the more than 50% reduction in the average number of yearly drownings over the past five years.

“All NWT residents need to be involved in creating safe, sustainable communities and making healthy choices,” said Tom Beaulieu, Minister of Transportation. “The success of this collaborative approach is a testament to the willingness of our residents to watch, prepare, and train to stay safe on our waterways. Congratulations to the Drowning Prevention team for this award recognizing their commitment to healthy and safe communities.”

The award made particular mention of the GNWT’s collaboration with the [Lifesaving Society](#) of Alberta and the NWT to bring the Water Smart program to all communities in the Northwest Territories. Barbara Costache, the Chief Administrative Officer for the Lifesaving Society, says community engagement and a collective effort are keys to building public awareness around drowning prevention. “The Lifesaving Society collaborates with partners for its health and safety mandate of drowning and injury prevention, sport, recreation, and active living,” she said. “The Society congratulates the residents of the Northwest Territories and looks forward to enhancing the Water Smart program with our partners to reduce drowning in the Northwest Territories.”

In the past 10 years, the number of drownings in the NWT has dropped significantly, in large part because of success in encouraging residents to wear lifejackets and to boat sober. In the five years from 2004-2008, there were 36 drownings in the NWT compared to 16 in the period starting in 2009 (including 2013 to date). This is still five times higher than the national per capita average.

The [NWT Drowning Prevention Action Plan](#) is part of the [Healthy Choices Framework](#) initiative, which invests in prevention, education, and awareness to help ensure sustainable, vibrant, and safe NWT communities.

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## BACKGROUND

The [NWT Drowning Prevention Action Plan](#) is managed through the Injury Prevention table of the Healthy Choices Framework, with all partners meeting regularly to plan drowning prevention activities for the current and coming year. The collaboration promotes three main actions to significantly reduce one's risk of drowning:

- Boat sober
- Wear a lifejacket when on or by the water
- Be trained for water activities

This award recognizes the following partners who contribute to the action plan:

- Department of Health and Social Services
- Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Education, Culture and Employment
- Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
- NWT Coroner's Office
- Royal Life Saving Society
- Transport Canada
- Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission
- Northwest Territories Recreation and Parks Association
- Dene Nation
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Power and Sail Squadron

The Water Smart™ program is available to every community in the NWT through the Royal Life Saving Society of Alberta and the Northwest Territories, with support from Transport Canada and the GNWT. Other water safety training initiatives include boat safety training for NWT commercial boat operators (ITI) and training to ensure safe work practices for those whose work involves tasks on, near, and over water (WSSC).

The Drowning Prevention collaboration will continue to grow to include all those interested in harm reduction and the prevention of injuries and fatalities related to activities on and near the NWT's waterways. Efforts to further reduce the number of drownings in the Northwest Territories continue. Despite a reduction of more than 50% in the number of drownings over the past five years, further reductions will be necessary to bring drowning levels in the Northwest Territories to the Canadian per-capita average. That would mean a reduction of more than 80% from the current five-year level. The goal of the partners in the NWT Drowning Prevention Action Plan is to have zero drownings in 2014, a level that was achieved in 2011.

The [Canadian Collaborative Centres for Injury Prevention](#) is a network of national, provincial, and regional injury prevention organizations mandated to analyze and act on leading injury issues across Canada. The [Award for Collaborative Excellence](#) recognizes and celebrates the value and power of collaboration as the keystone to effective injury prevention and safety promotion practice in Canada.





NEWS RELEASE

## Talking About Addictions – Another Healthy Choice

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 27, 2013)** – Youth in the Northwest Territories have a new weekly 30-minute radio show to celebrate their healthy choices about drugs and alcohol.

*Feel Real Radio* features a youth host, youth interviews, stories from across the territory and music by NWT musicians. Hosted by 2013 Inuvik high school graduate Jacey Firth-Hagen, *Feel Real Radio* airs Thursdays at 7 PM on CKLB-FM or can be heard as a [podcast](#). It celebrates positive and inspiring stories of NWT youth who are making healthy choices – particularly when it comes to alcohol and drugs.

The program was developed by the Department of Health and Social Services in collaboration with the Native Communications Society. The show went on air on November 21<sup>st</sup> and will continue through the end of February 2014, including the holiday break. It is part of a new [My Voice, My Choice](#) outreach to NWT youth that also includes a website with information about alcohol and drugs, podcasts, and ways to connect with *Feel Real Radio*.

"The new website and radio show provide a platform for youth to talk to other youth," said Glen Abernethy, Minister of Health and Social Service. "We hope this campaign will encourage youth to talk about the challenges with addictions and make healthy choices for the rest of their lives."

"Basically, the *Feel Real Radio* show is saying that the youth are our future," says Lawrence Nayally, the lead producer for *Feel Real Radio*. "Let's listen to what they've accomplished, what they're doing in their communities to strengthen their connection to each other, and also what's important to them."

Youth are being encouraged to join in conversations with My Voice, My Choice and *Feel Real Radio* through social media. The campaign includes opportunities to participate through [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and a toll-free comment and suggestion line at 1-855-254-REAL. Visit <http://myvoicemychoice.ca/> for more information.

Investing in prevention, education, and awareness is a priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. Increasing communication about addictions and delivering My Voice, My Choice activities to youth are key actions identified in [A Shared Path Towards Wellness: The Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan](#).

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NEWS RELEASE

## New Occupational Health and Safety Training Program for GNWT Employees

**YELLOWKNIFE (November 28, 2013)** – A new comprehensive occupational health and safety training program will enhance workplace safety and well-being for all GNWT employees. The GNWT has partnered with the [Northern Safety Association](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to safer northern workplaces, to provide training to employees.

“This formal agreement with the Northern Safety Association on comprehensive occupational health and safety training is a significant milestone for the GNWT and fulfills a commitment in our public service strategic plan,” said Tom Beaulieu, Minister of Human Resources. “Our work on the priorities of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly depends on safe, healthy workplaces for all of our employees who are carrying out those tasks. Upholding and enhancing occupational health and safety across all GNWT worksites has been a key goal for GNWT departments and agencies.”

The new training program will provide employees with general knowledge about occupational health and safety, including training about how to sit on and chair occupational health and safety committees. It will also provide specialized occupational health and safety training to GNWT employees based on their work environment.

Training opportunities support departments and agencies to implement the GNWT’s [corporate occupational health and safety training program](#).

The NWT Public Service Strategic Plan, [20/20: A Brilliant North](#), commits the GNWT to the continued development and implementation of occupational health and safety programs in its workplaces.

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NEWS RELEASE

## New Charter Confirms Commitment to a Poverty-free NWT

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 5, 2013)** – Twenty-four delegates at the NWT Anti-Poverty Roundtable signed an [Anti-Poverty Charter](#) and committed to plans of action.

“Poverty is complex and requires action on many fronts,” said Glen Abernethy, Chair of the Social Envelope Committee of Cabinet. “Our Government’s priorities all work together to address poverty. By supporting our people to be healthy and educated, we encourage them to take advantage of economic opportunities. Those opportunities create prosperity for their communities, making them more sustainable and encouraging further personal investments in healthy lifestyles. During the roundtable, we heard deeply personal accounts of living in poverty, and participants agreed to start work immediately.”

“I was very pleased to attend the roundtable and excited to see the passion and discussion from Territorial organizations as well as Aboriginal leaders to work on developing an action plan to end poverty,” said Alfred Moses, Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs. “There has been plenty of talk and now is the time to take action.”

The roundtable provided a broad forum for Aboriginal organizations, community organizations, band councils and non-government organizations to identify best practices, priorities, and actions they can take in partnership with the GNWT to eliminate poverty. They divided into small groups to develop their own concrete plans for action that could be implemented in their home communities.

The new charter confirms participants’ commitments to work together at all levels to develop a territorial action plan. Over the coming months, the GNWT will continue to invite stakeholders to sign the charter and propose actions to eliminate poverty in the NWT.

Delegates all identified the need to move from talk to actions. Julie Green, representing the No Place for Poverty Coalition, highlighted this, saying, “I want to stress the need for action now in areas such as access to affordable quality childcare and safe housing. We need to look at the short-term as well as the long-term.”

Liidlil Kue Chief Minnie Letcher highlighted the necessity of a co-operative, multi-sectoral approach: “At the community level we know what needs to be done – just ask us.”

A territorial action plan and performance measurement framework will support evidence-based decision-making to eliminate poverty. Monitoring and reporting results will help all participants develop and adjust their own plans for action.

[Building on the Strengths of Northerners: A Strategic Framework toward the Elimination of Poverty in the NWT](#) identifies five priority areas, with a focus on children and families, healthy living, safe and affordable housing, sustainable communities and better integration of services. By targeting these areas, the Framework provides the roadmap for stakeholders to work together to eliminate poverty, a goal of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

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# THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ANTI-POVERTY ACTION PLAN

## ***PARTNERS AGAINST POVERTY***

### ***A Charter for Working Together Toward the Elimination of Poverty in the NWT***

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*This Charter dated November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework: *Building on the Strengths of Northerners* resulted from consultation across the Northwest Territories, with input received from people in all regions. The work was led by a Steering Committee representing non-government organizations, Aboriginal governments, business and industry, people living in poverty, the Government of Canada and the GNWT.

It sets out a shared vision, three principles and five key “Pillars for Action” for poverty reduction in the Northwest Territories.

The Strategic Framework sets out the basis for work towards the elimination of poverty in the NWT.

This Charter is the next step in moving toward a “Poverty-Free NWT”. It states our shared commitment to work together for the benefit of all residents of the NWT. It confirms our vision and principles to guide action within the five priority areas.

Eliminating poverty is a complex challenge and will be a long-term process requiring on-going commitment. This Accord symbolizes our individual and collective commitment to work together toward the goal of a Northwest Territories free of poverty.

# THE ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

## OUR VISION OF THE FUTURE

**Building on the strengths of our people and communities, Northerners will have access to the supports they need to live in dignity and free from poverty, as active participants in community life.**

### GETTING THERE - GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We are committed to the following principles as we work together to achieve a poverty-free NWT:

- Respect and equality are essential to anti-poverty work.
- People are our most important resource.
- How we do things is as important as what we do.

### PRIORITIES

The Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework contains five priorities to meet our vision for the elimination of poverty:

- Children and Family Support
- Healthy Living and Reaching Our Potential
- Safe and Affordable Housing
- Sustainable Communities
- Integrated Continuum of Services

### GOALS

Each priority is supported by a goal that identifies the outcome we are working towards. These are:

1. Children and families lead healthy lives free from poverty in a safe and nurturing environment.
2. NWT residents have access to the supports they need for healthy living and reaching their full potential.
3. Everyone has a roof over their head and a safe and affordable place to call home.
4. Sustainable communities managing their resources based on current need while ensuring that adequate resources are available for future generations.
5. NWT residents receive a continuum of integrated services according to their needs

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR RESULTS

We believe that, working together, we can fulfill our vision of a North free from poverty. We know it will take all of us to make meaningful change – government cannot do it alone.

We recognize the need for partnership, for supporting on-going research into best practices, for holding ourselves accountable and evaluating our success in the implementation of the strategy.

We further recognize the complex nature of poverty, and the need for the involvement of all sectors. We know that new opportunities and new issues will continue to emerge so will need to be able to review and adjust our goals and activities as required.

Our vision can be achieved by working in a variety of ways, both individually and collectively.

This includes:

- Working individually within our own community or organization by:
  - Developing and implementing a plan for action to meet the needs of the people we serve;
  - Monitoring and reporting on the results we achieve.
  
- Working collectively by:
  - Meeting annually to review progress and plans for ongoing work;
  - Establishing an evaluation process to monitor and report on our activities;
  - Developing an open communications plan to increase awareness of the many issues related to the elimination of poverty in the NWT;
  - Supporting on-going discussion and the development of solutions to issues that may arise.

This Charter confirms the collective efforts of many people and organizations committed to working together to combat poverty in the NWT. We believe that people are best served when we all work together to address social issues.

Every one of us has a role to play.

**APPROVAL BY CONSENSUS**

By signing this Charter, we agree to work within our own organization towards achieving the vision set out in the Charter, to support each other in achieving the collective goals and to report annually on progress. We also commit to doing this in the spirit of respect, recognition and responsibility.

\_\_\_\_\_

Government of the Northwest Territories

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Date

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Date

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Date

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Etc.



NEWS RELEASE

### Post-Devolution Public Service Team

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 6, 2013)** – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) confirmed today that 120 employees of the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) have accepted offers of employment with the GNWT to provide the experience and knowledge required to administer public land and resources after devolution. The jobs will begin on April 1, 2014.

“This was an overwhelmingly positive response, and I welcome these dedicated federal staff to the GNWT,” said Premier Bob McLeod. “Their commitment and experience will help ensure a smooth transition as we responsibly develop the NWT’s significant natural resource potential and manage the land and environment according to Northern priorities and values.”

As part of the Devolution Agreement, the GNWT has committed to provide reasonable job offers to all permanent AANDC employees working in the NWT who will be affected by the transfer of programs and responsibilities. Federal employees working in Ottawa are not covered by this provision. On October 1 of this year, the GNWT issued offers of employment to 123 federal employees in the region, matching them as closely as possible with their federal responsibilities, authorities, and pay. Recipients had 60 days to indicate their acceptance. A further twelve offers of employment were also issued subsequent to October 1 which have later due dates for response.

In addition to positions being offered to federal employees as part of the Devolution Agreement, more than 100 new positions will be created to perform work currently being done in Ottawa and to provide additional support. These positions will be filled through other staffing processes, providing new opportunities for existing GNWT staff and other experienced job seekers. Early hiring has already begun and staffing of new positions will utilize the [Careers](#) website as they become available.

“This is an exciting time for the GNWT as we take on new legislative authorities, public programs and employees,” said Minister of Human Resources Tom Beaulieu. “Devolution will bring the significant knowledge of territorial and federal employees working in land management in the region under one roof, resulting in an experienced and effective public service with shared priorities working hand-in-hand to meet the needs of Northerners.”

Devolution has been a priority of the Legislative Assembly for many years and will mark the culmination of a political evolution that began with the creation of the GNWT in 1967. Through a strong working relationship with Aboriginal governments, the GNWT’s approach to resource development ensures meaningful involvement, control, and shared benefits to all residents. The GNWT was recently named one of Canada’s top 100 employers.

For more information on the devolution of land and resources in the NWT or to view the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement, visit [devolution.gov.nt.ca](http://devolution.gov.nt.ca) or contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

## NWT Premier to Attend the Commemorative Service for the Passing of Nelson Mandela

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 8, 2013)** -- Premier Bob McLeod will travel to South Africa this week to pay his final respects to His Excellency Nelson Mandela, former President of the Republic of South Africa, as part of the Canadian delegation being led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper. The Premier will represent the Northwest Territories at the commemorative service being held in Johannesburg on December 10 and Mr. Mandela's lying in state in Pretoria on December 11.

"Much will be said about the character, influence and strength of Nelson Mandela in the coming days," said Premier McLeod. "This is an opportunity to reflect on our own experience and those around us who have carried great personal burdens. Our experiences in the North, particularly those related to residential schools, require strength and a true spirit of reconciliation for all northerners. I will be taking this week to reflect on how we can continue to work together to reconcile our past and our differences as we move forward."

Northerners share His Excellency's passion for a united, prosperous society where all are respected and free and share the benefits and responsibilities of democracy. Nelson Mandela was the first foreign leader to be appointed an honorary member of the Order of Canada, and received honorary Canadian citizenship in 2001.

The flag of the Northwest Territories on all Government of the Northwest Territories' buildings will be flown at half-mast from sunrise to sunset on the day of the funeral.

For more information, please contact:

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NEWS RELEASE

## Limited Resident Barren-Ground Caribou and Bison Harvest Approved

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 9, 2013)** – A limited resident harvest has been approved for the Beverly and Ahiak barren-ground caribou herds and the Slave River Lowlands bison herd in the Northwest Territories.

“Resident hunters will be able to harvest one bull from the Beverly and Ahiak herds during the 2013-2014 hunting season as well as one bison from the Slave River Lowlands bison herd,” said J. Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. “Based on the results of the 2013 calving-ground population survey, resident harvest of the Bluenose-East herd will remain closed.”

The Bluenose-East herd survey indicated a decline in the number of breeding females since the last survey in 2010. The current estimate of breeding females in this herd is about 34,500. The 2010 estimate of breeding females was about 51,800.

The estimated size of the herd based on the 2013 calving ground survey was about 68,000 animals. The estimated size of the herd in 2010, based on a June calving-ground and a July post-calving survey, was just over 100,000. A post-calving survey was attempted for this herd in 2012 but was unsuccessful due to poor weather.

“While I understand resident hunters had hoped to be able to harvest from this herd, it will not be possible at this time for conservation reasons,” said Miltenberger. “Aboriginal subsistence harvesters are being encouraged to harvest bulls only and to take only what they need to help the recovery of the breeding females.”

Resident hunters will be able to purchase one tag to harvest a bison from the hybrid/plains bison population in the Slave River Lowlands Wildlife Management Unit U. This population is considered stable with an estimated 1,700 bison in 2009. Harvesters are reminded it is not a disease-free herd and some animals are infected with bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis. Fact sheets about the safe preparation and cooking of wild game are available from regional and local ENR offices.

All harvesting of bison in the Mackenzie wood bison range remains closed for the 2013-14 hunting season. This conservation measure follows the large losses of animals to anthrax in 2012 and responds to recommendations made by the Mackenzie Bison Working Group and the Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board.

Current management actions for the Bathurst caribou herd remain in effect for the 2013-2014 hunting season due to the continuing low numbers of the herd. A joint proposal is being developed collaboratively with the Tłı̨chǫ Government on management actions for the herd for 2012-2016 and beyond.

New population surveys for the Bluenose-East and Bathurst herds will be done in 2015.

These management actions support an environment that will sustain present and future generations, a priority of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

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## **Backgrounder**

### **2013 Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Population Estimate**

- A calving-ground survey was carried out between May 31 – June 8, 2013 and field conditions were good, resulting in a survey with good precision.
- Initial transect lines were flown at 10km intervals to map the distribution of caribou including breeding females on the calving ground and to assess timing of calving.
- Similar to the June 2010 survey, the main calving area showed higher densities of calving cows extending between 30 and 125 km west of Kugluktuk in Nunavut.
- For the systematic reconnaissance survey, the core calving area was stratified and 38 tightly spaced lines were designed for the photographic survey.
- Areas of lower density of caribou adjacent to the core calving area were also flown and surveyed by small fixed-wing aircraft on June 5 and 6.
- A composition survey was conducted from June 5-7 throughout the entire calving area to determine the proportion of breeding females.
- Results of the Bluenose-East herd survey indicate a decline in the number of breeding females since the last survey in 2010. The current estimate for the breeding females in this herd is about 34,500 cows, plus or minus 1,900 animals. The 2010 estimate of breeding females was 51,800 plus or minus 4,800.
- Estimated size of the herd based on the 2013 calving ground survey was about 68,300 animals, plus or minus 7,600.
- Estimated size of the herd in 2010, based on a June calving ground and a July post-calving survey ranged from 102,700, plus or minus 20,400 animals, to 122,700, plus or minus 16,200.
- A post-calving survey was attempted for this herd in 2012 but was unsuccessful due to poor weather.
- Breeding females are the single most important part of the herd, and a declining trend in their number is a concern for the long-term stability of the herd.
- The number of breeding cows has dropped by about 16,000 animals since 2010.
- A fall composition survey conducted in October of 2013 indicates the sex ratio in the herd was similar to 2009 (44 bulls:100 cows).
- Late-winter recruitment surveys conducted in March indicate that the calf:cow ratios were normal in 2010 and 2011 and low in 2012.
- Preliminary survival analyses of collared cows and the herd's overall demographics suggest that the survival rates of Bluenose-East is 10-15% lower than required for a stable herd.

- Higher mortality of cows is likely the combined effect of natural causes and harvesting.
- Caribou harvest reporting by community monitors and wildlife officers suggests that the harvest sex ratio since 2010 was about 65% cows and 35% bulls for the Bluenose-East caribou herd.
- Wounding losses and wastage probably contribute to high cow mortality rates.
- Since implementation of harvest restrictions on the Bathurst herd in 2010, the Bluenose-East caribou herd has become the main herd of barren-ground caribou harvested by aboriginal hunters in the Tł̨ch̨ communities and Deline, with some harvest from Kugluktuk in Nunavut.



NEWS RELEASE

## Gwich'in Tribal Council and GNWT Sign Memorandum of Intent on Capacity Building

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 12, 2013)** – Members of Cabinet of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly and the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) Board of Directors met at the Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife and signed a Memorandum of Intent on Capacity Building. The agreement commits the GTC and Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to develop terms of reference to provide GNWT internship and secondment opportunities for Gwich'in.

The two governments discussed a range of other topics, including addictions treatment programming in the Beaufort Delta, collaboration on Arctic Council initiatives and on environmental issues like hydraulic fracturing and the recent Athabasca River coal mine spill.

"The Gwich'in are working hard to negotiate a strong self-government agreement with Canada and GNWT. Today's agreement represents a real opportunity for Gwich'in to gain valuable professional opportunities in preparation for our self-government," said President Robert A. Alexie.

Minister of Human Resources Tom Beaulieu added, "this is an exciting step for the Gwich'in and the GNWT as we explore ways to work together to build capacity in Gwich'in communities."

"The bilateral meetings and collaboration taking place between our two governments is producing some very positive results," said Minister R.C. McLeod. "The Gwich'in leadership has been very proactive over the past year, with a real emphasis on positive change for Northerners in the Beaufort Delta. Our government is working hard in support of this positive change."

This was the third meeting of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the GNWT since they signed an intergovernmental agreement on October 13, 2012. The *Umbrella Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding Intergovernmental Cooperation and Coordination* recognizes the importance of the government-to-government relationship between the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the GNWT. It commits both governments to meet twice per year.

For more information:

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## **News Release: Four species added to NWT List of Species at Risk**

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 13, 2013)** –The Northwest Territories (NWT) Conference of Management Authorities (CMA), established under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, reached consensus to add four species to the NWT List of Species at Risk during a meeting in Inuvik on October 8-9, 2013.

Boreal caribou, Peary caribou, and hairy braya (a plant) will be added to the NWT List of Species at Risk as ‘threatened’ species and polar bear will be added as a species of ‘special concern’.

These are the first species to be added to the NWT List of Species at Risk since the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* came into force in 2010.

A listing of ‘threatened’ means that the species is likely to become endangered if nothing is done. A listing of ‘special concern’ means that the species may become endangered or threatened because of threats and biological factors.

The signed Consensus Agreements were provided to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) on December 12, 2013. The ENR Minister Natural Resources is responsible for ensuring their placement on the NWT List of Species at Risk within three months of receiving the signed agreements.

The CMA is responsible for developing a management plan for polar bear and separate recovery strategies for boreal caribou, Peary caribou and hairy braya in the next two years.

The Consensus Agreements were informed by species status reports, the NWT Species at Risk Committee’s species assessments and reasons for assessment, public input and the results of Crown consultation.

Species at Risk Secretariat

SC6, Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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[www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca](http://www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca)



Additional species information, the completed species status reports, the Species at Risk Committee's assessments and reasons for assessment, and copies of the consensus agreements are available at [www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca](http://www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca).

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NEWS RELEASE

## GNWT Discussing School Utilization in Yellowknife and Hay River

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 13, 2013)** – The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) has been in exploratory discussions with education partners on school utilizations in Hay River and Yellowknife since September.

“Providing the children and youth of the NWT with the best education possible continues to be a priority for this government,” said Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty. “Successfully meeting that commitment means working with all our partners to identify the right approaches to delivering high-quality educational opportunities to our children and youth that respect their needs and rights while making the best use of existing educational facilities and ensuring good management of taxpayer money.”

In June 2012, the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories ordered the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to provide Commission scolaire francophone schools in Yellowknife and Hay River with sufficient space for classrooms, a gymnasium, science labs, and career and technology spaces for secondary students. The order for construction has been stayed pending the appeal. The appeal is scheduled for March 2014. The order for interim measures prior to the expansion is being implemented.

As part of its initial work, the GNWT reached out to its education partners in Hay River and Yellowknife to discuss preliminary options that would meet the long-term needs of all students in their communities and in a manner consistent with the court order. During these exploratory discussions, the partners discussed GNWT proposals which could meet the requirements of the court order and use the existing schools more efficiently in both communities. New construction, renovation, sharing arrangements and exchanging schools between Boards and Authorities comprised the focus of the discussions.

“As a father myself, I understand families must ensure their children have the best access to a full, quality education and that objective will not be compromised,” said Minister Lafferty. “Discussions have been very preliminary to date and we are a long way from making any final decisions.”

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NEWS RELEASE

## Find the Service You Need on the GNWT's New Service Directory

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 16, 2013)** – The GNWT's new [service directory](#) provides residents and businesses with a more effective and efficient way to find the government services they require.

"The service directory connects people, information, and services," said Minister of Finance Michael Miltenberger. "Improving our use of technology will reduce red tape by making it easier for our residents to get government services."

The directory includes information on over 375 territorial government services in one easy-to-search location on the GNWT's main website.

"We've had great success providing services through part-time Government Service Officers in rural and remote communities and through offices like Services TNO in Yellowknife," said Minister Miltenberger. "This is another way to obtain service-related information. Residents don't need to know which department or office offers a specific service. Just go online and search for it. For businesses, when every second counts, being able to quickly find information or application forms or people is important. The service directory is one of the ways we're reducing red tape and making it easier for businesses to find the information they need."

The service directory is one of the first activities under the GNWT's [Service Innovation Strategy](#), which will improve GNWT program and service delivery by taking advantage of improvements in technology and a more coordinated approach. Providing easy-to-find information about government services was the first priority, and the information in the service directory will be available in French in the near future. Other activities under the strategy include putting more GNWT services online and improving the design of the GNWT website.

The Service Innovation Strategy supports effective and efficient government, one of the goals of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

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NEWS RELEASE

## NWT Energy Action Plan Focuses on Efficiency; Alternative Energy

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 16, 2013)** – Investments in energy efficiency programs, developing alternative energy systems, and reducing the high cost of energy in the Northwest Territories are highlights of the NWT Energy Action Plan, released today by the Ministerial Energy Coordinating and Climate Change Committee-of-Cabinet (MECC).

The Energy Plan presents a three-year action plan and a long term vision. The Energy Plan was developed in conjunction with the NWT Power System Plan, also released today by the Northwest Territories Energy Corporation, a business development subsidiary of the Northwest Territories Hydro Corporation. The Power System Plan provides a long term outlook and vision for our electricity infrastructure needs over the next 20 years.

“The Energy Action Plan builds on the success we have seen over the past few years due to our investments in energy conservation, efficiency and renewable energy development,” said Premier Bob McLeod, Chair of the MECC. “Residents and businesses need affordable and reliable energy, and this plan shows where we need to make investments in the short term to help residents and communities reduce their energy use and costs.”

The NWT Power System Plan proposes short term actions aligned with the Energy Plan and a long term vision for the NWT electricity system.

“We have identified immediate opportunities to further integrate renewable energy sources and increase the use of natural gas to reduce our environmental impacts, but we need to do more to stabilize the cost of energy in our communities,” said Minister Michael Miltenberger, Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. “Expanding the NWT grid to connect our existing hydro systems with communities, industry and the rest of Canada will create the backbone transmission infrastructure necessary to transform our energy system, support the potential expansion of the Taltson Hydro facility and unlock our enormous hydro potential.”

MECC is comprised of Premier Bob McLeod, Minister Michael Miltenberger, as Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Minister David Ramsay, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, and Minister Tom Beaulieu, Minister of Public Works and Services.

By reducing imported diesel and exploring alternative forms of energy use, the GNWT is taking action to maintain an environment that will sustain present and future generations, a major goal of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

Energy plan: <http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/publications/northwest-territories-energy-action-plan-december-2013>

Power system Plan: <http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/publications/vision-nwt-power-system-plan-december-2013>

Backgrounders:

Energy Plan: [http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/backgrounder - 2013 energy plan.pdf](http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/backgrounder_-_2013_energy_plan.pdf)

Power system plan: [http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/backgrounder -  
\\_nwt power system plan.pdf](http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/sites/default/files/backgrounder_-_nwt_power_system_plan.pdf)

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## NWT Power System Plan

The vision for the NT Power System Plan (NTPSP) provides a short and long term outlook for developing the necessary resources and systems to provide reliable, clean, and socially acceptable electric power for the communities and industries of the Northwest Territories.

The concept of developing the NTPSP arose when NT Energy was developing its strategic plan in 2011. It was determined that a long term plan was needed to map out energy priorities and to understand what options were available to develop energy infrastructure and stabilize energy costs in the NWT.

Work on the NTPSP was supplemented by the NWT Energy Charette which was held in November 2012 by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. The Charette brought together energy stakeholders and experts from government, industry, aboriginal governments, non-government organizations and consulting sectors to discuss opportunities and challenges for the NWT's energy sector.

### Regional Twenty Year Outlook Summary

In the NTPSP each region was reviewed to determine which potential energy options hold the most potential for future energy development. The following factors were considered:

- Grid Expansion
- Non-diesel firm power options
- Renewable Resources for diesel off-set

#### North and South Slave Regions

Snare Grid Expansion - Connect the community of Whati to the Snare grid.

Non-diesel firm power options – Primary options is Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for road connected communities.

Renewable resources for diesel off-set – Solar, wind and small hydro generation are all potential options

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

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### Dehcho Region

Taltson grid expansion - Connect the communities of Kakisa, Fort Providence and Fort Simpson to the Taltson grid.

Non-diesel firm power options - Primary option is LNG for road connected communities.

Renewable resources for diesel off-set - Solar has potential for use in this region

### Sahtu Region

Regional transmission grid – transmission connections within the region are uneconomic due to long distances and low community loads. It may become more economic if transmission can be tied to industrial loads associated with petroleum development and production.

Non-diesel firm power options - Hydro on the Great Bear River.

Renewable resources for diesel off-set – Wind and Solar are potential options.

### Beaufort Delta

Regional transmission grid - transmission connections within the region are uneconomic due to long distances and low community loads.

Non-diesel firm power options - LNG for road connected communities.

Renewable resources for diesel off-set - Wind and Solar are potential options.

### **Grid Expansion**

NT Energy is currently exploring the technical viability of the various elements of expanding the grid. The key pieces of the vision include:

- Connect two existing hydro systems at Snare and Taltson together which will improve reliability, shift two diesel communities to hydropower and consolidate our surplus hydro resources.
- Extend the grid northeast towards established mines in the Slave Geological Province in order to attract the customer base needed to support the investment and benefit electricity rates.
- The model proposes that the public sector own the transmission network while individual mine customers will pay for transmission spurs to feed into the Grid.
- Interconnect the grid to the south in Saskatchewan or Alberta to stabilize our system and tie us into the North American grid.

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- An expanded grid will create an efficient energy market and allow time for the GNWT to build and transition to renewable energy sources like hydro and wind.

### Summary of Power System Plan Recommendations

Category	0 → 5 Year Recommendations	6 → 20 Year Recommendations
Creating an NWT Grid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-feasibility work for Snare Grid and Taltson Grid interconnection</li> <li>• Secure commitment for funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and construction of a Snare Grid and Taltson Grid Interconnection</li> <li>• Expansion of NWT grid to support economic development</li> </ul>
Pursue an Intertie with Saskatchewan and Alberta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate negotiations with SaskPower to confirm opportunity for a Power Purchase Agreement</li> <li>• Negotiate with Alberta</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct interconnection between NWT Grid and SaskPower Grid</li> <li>• <i>ALTERNATIVE</i>: Construct interconnection with Alberta</li> </ul>
Undertaking Regional Initiatives: Regional Grid Expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue an extension from Snare Grid to Whati</li> <li>• Pursue an extension from Taltson Grid to Fort Providence and Kakisa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend Taltson Grid to Fort Simpson via Jean Marie River</li> </ul>
Undertaking Regional Initiatives: Firm Power Options for Replacing Diesel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LNG Implementation Study and pilot project for Inuvik</li> <li>• LNG Feasibility Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fort Simpson (Dehcho)</li> <li>• Fort McPherson (Beaufort Delta)</li> <li>• Yellowknife (North Slave)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional LNG Feasibility Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fort Liard (Dehcho)</li> <li>• Jean Marie River (Dehcho)</li> <li>• Wrigley (Dehcho)</li> <li>• Tsiigehtchic (Beaufort Delta)</li> <li>• Tuktoyaktuk (Beaufort Delta)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<p>Undertaking Regional Initiatives: Intermittent Power Options for Offsetting Diesel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to collect data, design work, and costing work for Storm Hills Wind Project</li> <li>• Achieve the installation of photovoltaic generation in five communities</li> </ul> <p>Feasibility work for solar installations in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colville Lake (Sahtu)</li> <li>• Jean Marie River (Dehcho);</li> <li>• Lutsel K'e (South Slave);or</li> <li>• Nahanni Butte (Dehcho)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional wind feasibility studies:</li> <li>• Paulatuk (Beaufort Delta)</li> <li>• Sachs Harbour (Beaufort Delta)</li> <li>• Tuktoyaktuk (Beaufort Delta)</li> <li>• Ulukhaktok (Beaufort Delta)</li> <li>• Continue to add solar installations as per GNWT Solar Energy Strategy (to achieve 20% of average load). Potential communities include:</li> <li>• Gamètì (North Slave)</li> <li>• Whatì (North Slave)</li> <li>• Wekweètì (North Slave)</li> <li>• Fort Providence (Dehcho)</li> <li>• Kakisa (Dehcho)</li> <li>• Trout Lake (Dehcho)</li> <li>• Nahanni Butte (Dehcho)</li> <li>• Fort Good Hope (Sahtu)</li> <li>• Norman Wells (Sahtu)</li> <li>• Tulita (Sahtu)</li> <li>• Deline (Sahtu)</li> <li>• Aklavik (Beaufort Delta)</li> <li>• Paulatuk (Beaufort Delta)</li> <li>• Sachs Harbour (Beaufort Delta)</li> <li>• Tuktoyaktuk (Beaufort Delta)</li> <li>• Ulukhaktok (Beaufort Delta)</li> </ul>
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## 2013 Energy Action Plan

The 2013 NWT Energy Action Plan (Energy Plan) being released by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) presents a three-year action plan and a long-term energy vision. This long term vision is based on the NWT Power System Plan, developed by the Northwest Territories Energy Corporation (NT Energy).

The Energy Action Plan builds on the successes of the 2007 Energy Plan. A great deal has been achieved since 2007, including:

- A substantial expansion of the services offered by the Arctic Energy Alliance, to support residents and businesses in reducing their own energy use. This includes the establishment of regional offices.
- Implementation of a Biomass Strategy, and the establishment of a robust renewable energy industry in the North and South Slave regions of the NWT. Estimates put the industry at 20,000 tonnes of wood pellets annually. That is equivalent of removing 2,300 homes off of oil to a low cost and environmentally sustainable alternative.
- Implementation of a Solar Strategy, including the development of the 104 kilowatt solar array in Ft Simpson.
- Investments in the energy efficiency of GNWT assets and public housing to ensure that the government is leading by example, and to build capacity of local businesses in making energy efficiency and conservation improvements to buildings.
- Efficiencies to the electricity system and the way electricity rates are established through the 2010 Electricity Review. This included the establishment of rate zones and efforts to make power more affordable in communities through lower electricity rates and an increase in the Territorial Power Subsidy Program.

The Power System Plan identifies electricity infrastructure needs over the next 20 years and proposes an electricity grid inter-tie between the North and South Slave grids and into the continental grid. Connections to the continental grid are possible through British Columbia, Alberta or Saskatchewan, but Saskatchewan likely holds the most promise due to its proximity to the Taltson hydro facility, located in the southeastern corner of the NWT.

The three year action plan contained in the Energy Plan covers the current 2013-14 fiscal year and establishes planning targets for investments to be made in 2014-15 and 2015-16. Proposed new investments include:

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- Building a transmission line from the existing Snare hydro system to the community of Whati. Technical and economic feasibility work is currently underway.
- Investments in energy efficiency programs and enhanced support to the Arctic Energy Alliance, including the establishment of a regional office in the South Slave. This will bring the number of regional energy offices to five. The other offices are in Inuvik, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson and Whati.
- Establishment of an electric hot water heater replacement program, currently being implemented as a pilot project in the communities of Fort Providence, Deline and Tulita. Electric hot water heaters can consume from 20 to 45% of a household's energy load.
- GNWT investments in wood pellet boilers in Norman Wells, in an effort to further expand the biomass supply chain throughout the Mackenzie Valley. Previous investments in biomass boilers are resulting in savings of over \$1 million per year for the GNWT.
- Investments in liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply, beginning with the Town of Inuvik. This investment will help address the current natural gas supply issue in Inuvik and open the door for further LNG development in the Beaufort Delta as well as Dehcho communities.
- Investments in solar, including solar-diesel hybrid systems and smart grid technology in smaller NWT communities. The first community for a pilot project will be Colville Lake. Projects in other communities will follow, including Jean Marie River and Lutselke.

The development of both plans was launched with the release of a Public Discussion Paper in October 2012. This was followed by the NWT Energy Charrette in November 2012.

A Charrette is a collaborative planning process that brings together a wide variety of viewpoints to develop a plan from the 'ground-up'. This differs from traditional approaches which often include consulting on a plan that has already been developed as a draft.

The NWT Energy Charrette brought together 125 energy stakeholders, including representatives from community and Aboriginal governments, non-government organizations, and experts from the NWT and other jurisdictions. The Energy Charrette Report was released in January 2013 and provided much of the basis for the development of the Energy Plan, as well as informed the development of the Power System Plan.

Over three years, the Energy Plan represents a proposed \$31.5 million investment. This budget includes all of the contribution funding provided by the GNWT for energy projects, programs, and to the Arctic Energy Alliance and the Northwest Territories Energy Corporation, a subsidiary of the Northwest Territories Hydro Corporation. The plan covers the current 2013-14 fiscal year and establishes planning targets for 2014-15 and 2015-16. These planning targets will be reviewed and revised as required by the Legislative Assembly through the regular budgeting process. The entire budget is detailed on pages 26 and 27 of the Energy Plan. Proposed new funding is reflected in the chart below:

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<b>NEW FUNDING</b>			
<b>Action Areas</b>	<b>Budget 2013-14</b>	<b>Target 2014-15</b>	<b>Target 2015-16</b>
<b>Energy Conservation and Efficiency:</b>			
Funding the Arctic Energy Alliance - Enhanced Support for Regional Positions	\$125,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
Energy Efficiency Incentive Program + Enhancement	200,000	100,000	100,000
Commercial Energy Conservation and Efficiency Program	200,000	200,000	200,000
Hot Water Heater Exchange Project	400,000	TBD	TBD
Sub-Total	925,000	700,000	700,000
<b>Energy Supply:</b>			
Hydro: Whati Transmission Line	250,000	1,400,000	1,400,000
Hydro: Water Monitoring/NWT River System Inventory	50,000	50,000	50,000
Hydro: Large-Scale Transmission Planning	500,000		
Hydro: Great Bear River Mini-Hydro initiative		200,000	
Biomass: Funding for Biomass Projects	225,000	275,000	275,000
Biomass: Promotion, Community Engagement and Project Evaluation	175,000	175,000	175,000
Solar: Photovoltaic Electricity Generation	250,000	500,000	500,000
Solar: Smart Grid Technology	125,000	125,000	125,000
Wind: Storm Hills Wind Project	50,000	50,000	
Wind: Wind Monitoring	50,000	50,000	50,000
Natural Gas: Introduce LNG Supply Chain in the Delta	100,000		
Natural Gas: Thermal Zone Conversion - Dehcho & Beaufort Delta		150,000	150,000
Innovation: Alternative Energy Technology Program - Enhancement	100,000	100,000	100,000
Innovation: Electric Vehicle Demonstration Project		15,000	15,000
Sub-Total	1,875,000	3,090,000	2,840,000
<b>GNWT Leadership:</b>			
Energy Efficiency Upgrades for Public Housing	700,000	700,000	700,000
Government Leadership: Capital Asset Retrofit Fund	1,200,000	3,500,000	3,000,000
Biomass Heating Systems	1,650,000	1,400,000	750,000
Sub-Total	3,550,000	5,600,000	4,450,000
Proposed Total	6,350,000	9,390,000	7,990,000
<b>TOTAL NEW FUNDING IN ENERGY PLAN</b>	<b>23,730,000</b>		

<b>EXISTING FUNDING</b>			
<b>Action Areas</b>	<b>Budget 2013-14</b>	<b>Target 2014-15</b>	<b>Target 2015-16</b>
Existing Programs	750,000	750,000	750,000
Arctic Energy Alliance	1,135,500	1,135,500	1,135,500
NWT Energy Corporation	700,000	700,000	700,000
Total	2,585,500	2,585,500	2,585,500
Total New + Existing	8,935,500	11,975,500	10,575,500
<b>TOTAL FUNDING REFLECTED IN ENERGY PLAN</b>	<b>31,486,500</b>		

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NEWS RELEASE

Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment Launches New Website

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 18, 2013)** – A new and improved Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) website launched today with a strong focus on client needs.

“ITI has always prided itself on having a strong relationship with our clients, and this new site will be a great way for residents to access the information they need, quickly and easily,” said Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment David Ramsay. “The new site provides an enhanced web user experience and contains current, accurate information on ITI programs and services.”

The site features a fresh look, current information highlighted on the homepage and easy navigation. Client-based material is the focus, with information on [tourism](#) and [business](#) funding, [programs and services](#) offered by ITI, and industry information on [energy](#), [petroleum](#) and [mines](#). There is also a [section](#) on what Devolution will mean to the department as it assumes new responsibilities for resource development as of April 1, 2014.

The new site will also enable ITI to respond to recommendations contained in the [Economic Opportunities Strategy](#) to better promote and market available business programs and services and to work with partners to improve online program application and delivery processes. The redesigned website is part of the Government of the Northwest Territories’ ongoing efforts to enhance the quality and availability of its resources and services to the residents of the Northwest Territories.

Visit the website at [www.iti.gov.nt.ca](http://www.iti.gov.nt.ca).

For more information:

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NEWS RELEASE

## Inaugural NWT Restorative Justice Recognition Award Presented to Paulatuk Resident

**YELLOWKNIFE (December 18, 2013)** – Mr. Fred Bennett, retired Community Justice Coordinator for Paulatuk, NT, has received the first Restorative Justice Recognition Award as a show of appreciation and gratitude for his efforts toward bettering both Community Justice and his community of Paulatuk. Mr. Bennett is the first recipient of this newly created award.

Mr. Bennett was recognized for his work of almost a decade as the Paulatuk Justice Coordinator. He has been instrumental in developing programming for on-the-land and youth hunting as measures of crime prevention. He's known for his sense of openness and readiness to volunteer to fulfill community needs.

"Today's youth need to feel support from their community members," said Minister of Justice David Ramsay. "Restorative justice is an approach that builds on partnerships for a successful conclusion. We are pleased to be able to recognize Fred Bennett's efforts and his commitment to his community."

Community Justice Coordinator Gilbert Thrasher Jr. said, "the Paulatuk Community Justice Committee is very pleased to see Fred honoured by receiving the first award presented in the Northwest Territories. Fred has always been active in the development of Paulatuk and has worked with everyone from youth to elders."

The award was presented to Mr. Bennett at a community feast in Paulatuk on December 10, 2013. Along with representatives from the Department of Justice, the whole community turned out to celebrate his contributions.

Community Justice Committees help communities to develop alternative ways of dealing with criminal justice issues, known as restorative justice. They work with local people, agencies and programs to develop approaches targeting specific needs to provide safer, healthier communities.

For more information:

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