



TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 37-12 (1) TABLED ON FEB 27 1995



Press Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

94-061

Negotiated Contract for Forest Fire Airtanker Services

YELLOWKNIFE (August 18) — Public Works and Services Minister Don Morin is expecting to complete negotiations with Fort Smith Dene-Metis Holdings Ltd. for the provision of facilities and services for Renewable Resources' Forest Fire Management Program by the end of November.

Mr. Morin said today he is looking for a deal that will give "the best value" at a cost to government that is comparable to what it normally spends for airtanker services in the Northwest Territories. About \$ 5.5 million is spent annually on this service.

"We also want to make sure that construction and operating benefits of a new facility in Fort Smith remain in the Territories. That means a negotiated contract will have to reflect 100 per cent NWT ownership and investment, northern subcontractors, equipment and labour.

Renewable Resources Minister Silas Arngna'naaq said he expects completion of a negotiated contract will provide a significant opportunity for northern companies currently in the aviation industry that are interested in participating in the project.

The project would involve construction of airtanker hanger and maintenance facilities in Fort Smith. About 70 jobs would be provided during the one-year construction period. Between 25 to 60 jobs could be created after construction, depending on the amount of other business opportunities resulting from the facility.

**Contact: Bob Doherty
Deputy Minister
Public Works and Services
(403) 873-7114**



