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EDITORIAL

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Remember the Canary Islands?

Remember that time in the Canary Islands?

Perhaps you don't. But Gordon Wray does. He and his wife, deputy minister Dwight Noseworthy and his wife, and an entourage of three flew down to the Canary Islands in October of 1989, to attend a tourism conference.

Last year about this time, during the sitting of the legislative assembly, MLA Brian Lewis asked the Honorable Mr. Wray about the Canary Islands trip.

"When you spend a lot of money, you expect to learn a lot," Lewis said. "So I would like to ask the minister: What did he learn?"

Mr. Wray replied with great gusto that the trip may actually have saved the government "hundreds of thousands of dollars."

How so? Well, Wray and his wife, and his officials, while sweating it out on those small sunny islands off the coast of Spain, decided not to participate in Expo '92 at Seville, Spain.

Considering the GNWT had spent \$11.7 million on Expo '86, Wray was to be congratulated for his fine fiscal judgement in the tropical heat.

Unfortunately, the permafrost seems to have set in again and the lure of balmy white sand beaches is enticing the Honorable Minister to return to Spain.

Two weeks ago in the assembly he announced his intentions to introduce a bill concerning territorial representation at Expo '92. Of his comments a year ago, he says now he hadn't really

said there would be no GNWT participation, only that the participation wouldn't be of the same kind as Expo '86.

Wray's logic in suggesting such a mind-boggling scheme at a time the N.W.T. is suffering the combined chomp of the GST and the recession, not to mention the feds' desperate efforts to reduce the deficit and the GNWT budget, indicates he may have had too much sun.

The hours his officials have put in attempting to justify such foolishness can only be imagined. They should be concentrating on the community economic strategy. Odds are they will use that very strategy as part of their ex-

cuse for flying south while the unemployed sit at home wondering what governments are supposed to do.

Perhaps Wray's flipflop is a small issue in the grand

scheme of government. But for the voters who are asked to bear the brunt of hard times, it is a sign that the kind of thinking that has brought the country to its present shaky state still persists in our politicians.

Think again Mr. Wray. Put the palm trees out of your mind, or else the voters will buy you a one way ticket to the Canary Islands and save themselves hundreds of thousands of dollars, for real this time.

BV

GNWT at Expo '92

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