



THE PREMIER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

*Pam - Alan is waiting for this*

MR. FLOYD ROLAND  
CHAIR  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MAR 27 2000

Department of Executive - Overview Presentation

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Committee with an overview of the mandate and programs of the Department of Executive.

During the course of the presentation, I agreed to provide Committee Members with further information and have attached briefing materials on each of the following subjects:

- Affirmative Action statistics for the Department of Executive;
- new and redesigned positions created within Ministers' offices;
- new positions created within the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat and Regional and Community Relations Division of the Cabinet Secretariat; and
- the Regulatory Reform Initiative;

I trust this information will satisfy the Committee's request and invite you to contact me should you require any further information.

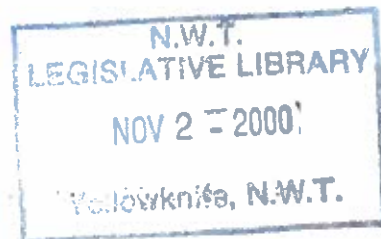
Stephen Kakfwi

Attachments

- c. Members, Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development

*Doug Schanste,  
Clerk  
Doug Fox  
Laurel Girard*

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
YELLOWKNIFE NT  
CANADA X1A 2L9  
Telephone (867) 669-2311  
Facsimile (867) 873-0366



## Briefing Note

<b>Affirmative Action Analysis Department of Executive</b>
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Total Number of employees may not equal total number of positions due to positions being double filled as a result of maternity leave, etc. or because of vacancies within the department.

<b>Total for Executive Offices</b>
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\*Does not include the Premier, Ministers or casual employees.

	Number	Representation
Employees	61	%
Inuit	3	5
Dene	8	13
Metis	5	8
Indigenous Non-Aboriginal	10	17
Other	35	57

There are 16 Indigenous Aboriginal employees within the Department comprising 26% of total staff.

<b>Management Employees</b>
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	Number	Representation
Management Employees	11	%
Indigenous Aboriginal*	2	18
Indigenous Non-Aboriginal*	9	82
Female Employees*	4	36

\*Some employees may be counted in more than one category.

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**SUBJECT**

New Positions, Ministers' Offices

**STATUS**

The following new positions have been established within the Department of Executive, Ministers' Offices:

- Ministers' Office:            Additional Minister (Ministerial compensation only)  
   Executive Assistant  
   Executive Secretary
- Premier's Office:            Executive Assistant (RWED)  
   Executive Secretary (providing support to the Principal  
   Secretary)

**BACKGROUND**

One additional Member of the Executive Council and four new staff positions have been added to the Ministers' Offices since the election of the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly:

Additional Minister At the close of the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly, there were six Members of the Executive Council. The 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly decided to expand the size of the Executive Council through the election of one additional Member.

Executive Assistant (additional Member) This position has been created to support the additional Member of the Executive Council and serves the same role as other Ministerial executive assistants.

Executive Secretary (additional Member) This position has been created to support the additional Member of the Executive Council and serves the same role as other Ministerial executive secretaries.

Executive Assistant (RWED) This position is assigned to the Premier as a result of his RWED portfolio assignment. The position is supported by the Department of Executive and staffed by an individual seconded by the Department from RWED. The position remains with the Premier only as long as he holds the RWED portfolio. The Executive Assistant RWED handles all the RWED mail, briefing notes, speeches, meetings and liaison duties with the department, public, and MLAs.

**Executive Secretary** This position provides secretarial support to the Principal Secretary comparable to the secretarial support provided to Ministers.

In addition to the new positions, the former position of Premier's Executive Assistant has been revised and assigned additional duties

The revised position is titled Chief of Staff and is responsible for

- providing for overall operational and administrative services to Members of the Executive Council and their staff;
- providing Executive Assistant services to the Premier in his daily tasks and for his Intergovernmental Affairs portfolio; and
- managing and overseeing the operations of the Premier's office.

**SUBJECT****New Positions, Cabinet Secretariat****STATUS**

The following new positions have been established in support of the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat:

- Special Advisor to Cabinet
- Policy Advisor
- Administrative Assistant

The Department of Executive has also recognized the requirement for ongoing funding for the previously established Regional and Community Relations Division, which includes the following three positions:

- Director, Regional Coordination
- Director, Communications
- Communications Officer

**BACKGROUND****Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat (3 PYs in total)**

A Secretariat has been established within the Department of Executive to coordinate the GNWT's participation in the Intergovernmental Forum. The Secretariat, comprised of a Special Advisor, Policy Advisor, and an Administrative Assistant, and will:

- coordinate the GNWT's participation in the Intergovernmental Forum;
- participate in bilateral discussions with Aboriginal governments on territorial matters not addressed at self-government and land claim negotiations; and
- assist in the development and implementation of intergovernmental agreements such as the Beaufort/Delta Political Accord.

**Regional and Community Relations Division (3 PYs in total)****Regional Operations (1 PY)**

The current regional structure reflects an administrative design that dates back to 1987 and may no longer be appropriate to the new NWT.

The Department of Executive has established the position of Director, Regional Coordination to coordinate a review of regional operation, which will examine:

- How regions can best be structured to ensure consistent and efficient program delivery throughout the new NWT.
- How regional operations can best contribute to community and regional based capacity building.
- How regional structures can best prepare the GNWT and Aboriginal Governments for the transfer of authorities and programs through self-government and land claim agreements.
- Opportunities to enhance communications within regions and between the regions and headquarters operations.

Communications (2 PYs):

Several departments have established communications programs to assist in the fulfillment of their departmental mandates and to help ensure transparency and public accountability in the delivery of programs and services

The Executive's communications program is managed by a Director of Communications and Communications Officer and includes:

- communicating approved agendas, goals, strategies and initiatives of the GNWT within government and to the public;
- coordinating and promoting integrated communications at the interdepartmental level;
- coordinating the development, production and distribution of a range of Department of Executive publications (e.g., the *Self-Government Handbook*, the *Bear Facts*)

## REGULATORY REFORM UPDATE

### Background:

The Regulatory Reform Secretariat is a small, specialized office with a mandate to develop policy and legislative reforms that will eliminate unnecessary government "red tape, streamline process and improve efficiency in the way the GNWT delivers regulatory programs and services. A secondary purpose is to represent Northern interests in the development and application of national and international standards. The Secretariat was established in March, 1997.

### Work Completed to Date:

➤ *Legislative Reform.* The *Regulatory Reform Measures Act* was enacted by the Thirteenth Legislative Assembly in Fall 1998 as an omnibus bill that amended 16 regulatory statutes and repealed three others. Highlights included:

- *faster approvals, less duplication, reduced paperwork* particularly with respect to boiler plant ratings, electrical installations and elevator safety.
- *new rules for community governments and local/regional organizations*, by establishing authority for certain services within the Office of the Fire Marshal to be transferred to community administration and by providing mechanisms for regional boards to carry out social assistance activities.
- *voluntary compliance mechanisms for environmental protection*, encouraging property-owners to use environmental audits and environmental site-assessments to identify and come forward with problems.
- *streamlined Public Utilities Board processes*, by establishing clear authority for "negotiated settlements" and eliminating "rubber stamp" procedures when franchise agreements and board decisions were filed.
- *liquor licensing reforms*, including provisions making it easier to ensure that children were not in licensed premises, broadening the powers of the board to set terms and conditions on licences and eliminating requirements for unnecessary hearings.
- *eliminating delays in property transactions under the Commissioner's Land Act*, especially the requirement for direct approval by the Commissioner for all acquisitions by GNWT employees.
- *improved efficiency and consumer protection when dealing with door-to-door salespersons*, and harmonizing regulatory requirements in the NWT with those in other provinces and territories.
- *eliminated cumbersome reporting requirements within legislation for self-governing professions*, specifically lawyers and chartered accountants.
- *eliminated outdated licensing and structural standards for motion picture theatres*, several of which had been unchanged for over thirty years.

**Work Completed to Date (continued):**

- Regulations were necessary with regard to several of the statutory reforms in the *Regulatory Reform Measures Act* and the majority of these have now been made.
- A series of surveys and studies were conducted, most in partnership with the NWT Chamber of Commerce, to identify Northerners' perceptions of regulatory obstacles to economic growth and business development.
- The Secretariat represented the GNWT in a Canada-wide horizontal review of regulations affecting the mining and mineral exploration sectors.
- Steady progress has been made in bringing Northern perspectives to the *National Standards System* and, for the first time, an NWT resident was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Standards Council of Canada, the federal crown corporation which manages and coordinates standardization processes across the country.
- Under the leadership of the Motor Vehicles Division in the NWT's Department of Transportation, the Secretariat participated in the negotiation of an agreement with the Province of Alberta on extending the *Partners-in-Compliance* program to the Northern motor transport industry. This program provides incentives for truckers and firms who maintain an exemplary record of regulatory compliance.
- in partnership with the Consumer Protection section in MACA and the Legislation Division in Justice, the Secretariat worked to establish a new and improved framework for motion picture ratings in the Northwest Territories.

**CURRENT PROJECTS:**

The Regulatory Reform Secretariat is presently managing a number of key projects that are well underway.

**(i) policy development**

- development of a government-wide Policy to guide departments in the development, implementation and evaluation of regulatory programs and services.

**(ii) research projects**

- conducting research into revamping the framework for business licensing in the Northwest Territories.
- research into policy and legislative reforms necessary for harmonizing NWT requirements for disclosing the cost-of-credit when consumers enter into leases or other credit arrangements.



**Current Projects – research (continued):**

- examining options for a new approach to the regulation of pesticides, possibly including consolidating a stronger regulatory framework within the territorial *Environmental Protection Act*.
- in partnership with the Consumer Protection section in MACA, research and development of an initial proposal for the use of a "voluntary code of conduct" for sellers and distributors of videotapes and films in the Northwest Territories.
- working with other Canadian jurisdictions through the Standards Council's *Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee* to develop a mechanism for ensuring that the Government of Canada involves provincial/territorial governments in the negotiation of international trade and standards agreements.
- research into regulatory barriers to the implementation of e-commerce in the Northwest Territories.
- examining regulations used in other jurisdictions with regard to activities of collection agencies and loan brokerages. The Northwest Territories presently licences collection agencies but is the only provincial/territorial legislation with no regulation-making authority to control the kinds of tactics they use.
- identifying specific regulatory issues in oil, gas and pipeline development and researching options for legislative or policy change.

**(iii) project coordination**

- *Launch of the Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS)*. Yellowknife has been selected as one of seven cities across Canada where the CSS will be released. This Strategy will guide many aspects of Canada's positioning in international trade and will impact on all regulatory areas at the national and territorial level. In partnership with the Northern Manufacturers' Association, the Secretariat is coordinating the Yellowknife launch event, including a satellite to the Great Hall of Minister Manley's speech and tours/presentations at Yellowknife manufacturing facilities.
- *Consultations on Public Access to Environmental Protection Information*. In partnership with the Environmental Protection Division, the Secretariat will bring together stakeholders to discuss GNWT policies with regard to the handling of information related to regulation of the environment.
- *Finalization of Regulations Required Pursuant to the Regulatory Reform Measures Act*. There are a handful of regulations that still need to be drafted and these will be completed by Spring 2000.

- *Ongoing Representation of Northern Interests at the Standards Council of Canada (SCC).* The Secretariat continues to represent the Northwest Territories on the SCC's *Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC)*. Projects there include the coordination of input into a new federal MoU with Mexico with regard to the regulation of gas-burning appliances; issues surrounding standards for genetically-modified food products; and international standards for the protection of privacy in e-commerce. The Northwest Territories delegate currently chairs PTAC.
- *Participation in an Evaluation of the Way Building Designs are Reviewed by the Office of the Fire Marshal.* The Secretariat, by direction of the previous FMB, is included in a working-group that is examining procedures, policies and mandate of the building review function within the GNWT.
- *Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) Agreement Negotiations.* As part of the APEC initiative, an international working-group was established to negotiate the extension of a current multi-lateral agreement to provide for the mutual recognition of product safety certification systems. Canada was awarded the Chair for these negotiations and invited the Secretariat's Executive Director to take on that role. This is the first time a provincial/territorial official has held a position of this nature. The first round of negotiations took place in Beijing in December 1999 and are continuing over the internet.
- *Program Wind-up and Office Closure.* Plans are underway to terminate the Regulatory Reform Initiative and transfer current projects and responsibilities to respective departments.