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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Dear Mr. Fournier:

Further to our brief conversation of May 28, 1996, I write to seek your advice regarding a matter which the Premier has asked me to raise with you.

For quite some time now the Deninu Ku Band Council of Fort Resolution has been involved in the development of a plan to build commercial space in the community of Fort Resolution. At one point they had an arrangement to develop their proposal in association with The Northern Store which, as you know, does business throughout the Northwest Territories. The Northern Store was to have occupied a significant amount of the space and the balance would have been made available as office space. The expectation is that the GNWT would likely be one of the occupants of those facilities if, in fact, they were constructed.

I understand that the negotiations with the Northern Store did not go as well as had been originally expected and, as a result, the Band began to look at other options. The problem, however, is that there is relatively little appropriate space in the area of Fort Resolution that would be considered appropriate for such a development. According to the Band, the best available undeveloped property is a piece of land which happens to be owned by the Premier and by Mrs. Morin. I believe you will see that the parcel of land in question is described in the disclosure statement that the Premier provided to you early in the life of the Thirteenth Assembly.

When the Band expressed interest in the lands owned by Mr. and Mrs. Morin, the Premier indicated that he was not interested in selling, in part because he was genuinely reluctant to dispose of it but, more significantly, because he felt it could give rise to an allegation of conflict and he simply does not want to put himself in that position.

When the Band was unable to conclude an arrangement with the Northern Store they again expressed interest in the Morin property. The Premier remains reluctant to sell but he has been persuaded that it could mean that the project would have to be shelved. Accordingly, and because he does not wish to stand in the way of a development which would be of value to his community, the Premier has started to think that perhaps he should accommodate the Band - provided that he can do so without putting himself in a conflict situation.



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I would appreciate it if you could consider the matter and provide me with the benefit of your thoughts. The early reluctance to do anything with this has now resulted in any situation where time is fairly tight so I would greatly appreciate it if you get back to me at your earliest convenience. I can be reached at (403) 669-2325 or by FAX at (403) 873-0385.

Thanks very much for taking the time to have a look at this.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Avison". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "D" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Don Avison

