

FOCUS GROUP IN IQALUIT

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*SUCCESS & IDEAS FROM THE
FROM THE GROUP*

IQALUIT FOCUS GROUP

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REASON FOR MEETING

- *TO GET SOLUTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES TO THE CURRENT DEFICIT ELIMINATION STRATEGIES OF THE GNWT*

PARTICIPANTS

- *PRESIDENT OF NUNAVUT TUNGAVIK INC.*
- *DEPUTY MAYOR OF IQALUIT*
- *PRESIDENT OF IQALUIT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE*
- *SECRETARY TREASURER OF N.T.I.*
- *PRESIDENT OF THE BAFFIN REGION INUIT ASSOCIATION*

PARTICIPANTS

- *REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF UNW*
- *VARIOUS GNWT PERSONNEL*
- *ARCTIC COLLEGE STAFF AND STUDENTS*
- *ELDERS*
- *COMMUNITY RESIDENTS*

DEFICIT REDUCTION STRATEGIES

- **MAKE MANAGERS MORE ACCOUNTABLE BY REWARDING GOOD FISCAL CONTROL**
- **STANDING ORDERS FOR GOODS SHOULD BE BASED REGIONALLY INSTEAD OF TERRITORIALLY**
- **BASE CAPITAL BUDGET ON "NEEDS" AS A OPPOSED TO COMMUNITIES' "WANTS"**
- **USE ONE WINDOW APPROACH TO DELIVERY OF SERVICES**
- **CAPITAL BUDGETS ARE PLANNED OVER FIVE YEARS BUT DEPARTMENT PLANS ARE BASED ON ONE YEAR CYCLE**

DEFICIT REDUCTION STRATEGIES

- GNWT'S CURRENT DEFICIT FIGHTING STRATEGY IS REACTIONARY., WE NEED LONG TERM DEFICIT MEASURES.
- GNWT SHOULD BE HOLDING MEETINGS TO GET INPUT FROM NWT RESIDENTS ON HOW TO FIGHT DEFICIT
- THE GNWT SHOULD LOOK AT OTHER REVENUE GENERATING SOURCES TO HELP OFF-SET CONTINUED FEDERAL TRANSFER CUTS
- COMPILE AN INDEX OF AVAILABLE HUMAN RESOURCES INSTEAD OF CONTINUALLY BRINGING PEOPLE FROM THE SOUTH

DEFICIT REDUCTION STRATEGIES

- **THE CURRENT BIP HAS TO BE REVAMPED NOT ONLY TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS BUT TO ENHANCE COMPETITION IN LARGER COMMUNITIES**
- **ELIMINATE DUPLICATION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES DELIVERED BY INDIVIDUAL NWT DEPARTMENTS**

REVENUE GENERATION IDEAS FOR GNWT

- PRIVATIZE AIRPORT SO THAT THE COMMUNITY CAN AGGRESSIVELY MARKET THE INFRASTRUCTURE AVAILABLE (i.e.. BOEING AIRCRAFT)
- GNWT SHOULD IMPLEMENT TAX REGIME CONDUCIVE TO BRINING COMPANIES NORTH AS WELL AS DEVELOPING NEW COMPANIES
- INVESTIGATE THE SUCCESS OF OTHER "HAVE NOT" AREAS OF THE COUNTRY TO SEE HOW THEY HAVE MOVED AWAY FROM FEDERAL DEPENDENCE ON TRANSFERS (i.e.. NFLD.. AND NEW BRUNSWICK)

REVENUE GENERATION IDEAS FOR GNWT

- ❑ *LEVERAGE GNWT PROGRAMS THROUGH EDT WITH LAND CLAIM GROUPS*
- ❑ *NORTHERN ACCORD SO THAT THE GNWT WILL HAVE CONTROL OVER NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES*
- ❑ *MARKET OUR NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT MORE AGGRESSIVELY FOR TOURISM AND OPPORTUNITIES (i.e. FILM COMPANIES)*
- ❑ *DEVELOP STRONGER BASE OF EXPORT OF OUR RENEWABLE RESOURCES (i.e. FISH AND FUR)*

REVENUE GENERATION IDEAS FOR GNWT

- *DEVELOP LONGER TERM ECONOMIC APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND LONG TERM JOB CREATION*
- *THE GNWT SHOULD CONTINUE THE EXPLORATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BECAUSE OF OUR DIVERSITY AND REMOTENESS DEVELOP OUR EXPERTISE FOR EXPORT IN THIS AREA*
- *START ARCTIC RESEARCH STATIONS - THESE WILL THEN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR UNIVERSITIES, RESEARCH INSTITUTES ETC..*
- *INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE "TAX HAVEN" OPTION*

UNREALISTIC DEFICIT STRATEGIES BY GNWT

- **BY CUTTING WAGES AND BENEFITS TO EMPLOYEES ESPECIALLY., THE GNWT IS TAKING MONEY OUT OF THE ECONOMY**
- **ELIMINATION OF KEY DEPARTMENTS LIKE PERSONNEL WILL CAUSE DUPLICATION OF HIRING PRACTICES, COUNSELING, REFERRAL, AND WILL COST GNWT MORE IN LONG RUN**
- **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT IS GOOD IDEA BUT THE NWT MIGHT BE DUMPING PROGRAMS AND COSTS TO COMMUNITIES THUS SAVINGS WILL BE MINIMAL**

UNREALISTIC DEFICIT STRATEGIES BY GNWT

- LAYING OFF EMPLOYEES WITHOUT LONG TERM PLANNING OF THE NEED FOR SAID EMPLOYEES IS SHORT-SIGHTED AND COST IN-EFFECTIVE
- ANNOUNCED PRIVATIZATION OF PARKS FOR EXAMPLE IS SHORT SIGHTED AND NOT CONDUCIVE TO ALL AREAS OF THE NWT.
- PRIVATIZATION OF THE DELIVERY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE GNWT CREATES UNLEVELED PLAYING FIELD IN REMOTE AREAS OF THE NWT
- AMALGAMATING DEPARTMENTS AS ANNOUNCED SOUNDS GOOD, BUT CAN THE GNWT QUANTIFY SAVINGS

UNREALISTIC DEFICIT STRATEGIES BY GNWT

- **ALL ANNOUNCED REDUCTIONS ARE BASED ON SPENDING SIDE OF GOVERNMENT BUT NO STRATEGY HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED TO LOOK AT A REVIEW OF EFFECTIVE AS OPPOSED TO INEFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO SAVE MONEY**
- **EMPLOYEES WERE ASKED FOR THEIR INPUT AT THE DEPARTMENT LEVEL BUT MANY OF THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS WERE IGNORED BY SENIOR BUREAUCRATS**

OVERVIEW

- *Accomplishments*
- *Status*
- *Issues*
- *What was learned during "THE FOCUS GROUP"*

Key Issues

- *Prioritize the issues*
- *Included suggested courses of action for issues*

Next Steps

- *Summarize past actions taken*
- *Specify future actions*
- *Suggest a time and place for the next checkpoint*