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1997 01 16

The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew
Member of Parliament for Western Arctic
Room 249, West Block Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Ethel,

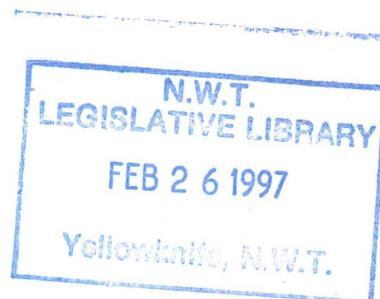
The need to identify and develop a new source of potable water for Fort McPherson has become a very important issue in our community.

In that regard, our Hamlet Council is interested in pursuing assistance through the Federally sponsored Infrastructure Program as a means of rectifying the existing problems. Your assistance in directing our Council to the appropriate authorities responsible for the Infrastructure Programs as well as advising us on the application process would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your continued assistance and anticipated response.

Sincerely,

Philip M. Blake
Mayor



1997 02 03

The Honourable John Todd
Minister of Finance
Government of the N.W.T.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Mr. Minister,

We have just learned that the Federal Government has made an offer to the provinces and territories to extend the Canada Infrastructure Works Program to cover the 1997 construction year.

The past Canadian Infrastructure Program was a successful cooperative venture among the three tiers of Government (Federal, Territorial, Municipal). A large part of the program's success could be attributed to the willingness of municipalities and Aboriginal groups who achieve consensus on community priorities. With the wrap up of Phase 1 of the Infrastructure Program, communities are left with permanent structures and enhanced programs and services that will remain for years to come. The federal initiative to renew this program will enhance the opportunities gained from the past program substantially. Further, the renewal of the Canada Infrastructure Program will allow N.W.T. municipalities the opportunity to ensure desperately needed northern infrastructure and create much needed employment opportunities.

We as community leaders support the principles put forward by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as ingredients to the success of any future program

- Municipal sponsorship must be retained and projects must be identified by municipal governments;
- the program must be accessible to all municipal governments;
- the three orders of government should be equal partners in the management of the program;
- the program should build on the success of the past National Infrastructure Program;

The Honourable John Todd
1997 02 03
Page 2

- spending should be incremental; and
- criteria for eligibility must be reasonable as not to prelude municipal government from participating.

We would like to thank you for your support of this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Philip M. Blake
Mayor

c.c. Ethel Blondin-Andrew, M.P. for the Western Arctic

