



## CONSTITUTIONAL WORKING GROUP

### PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: OCTOBER 1997 - MARCH 1999

The following workplan, approved by the CWG on September 19, is based on the decision taken by the CWG at its May 14-15 workshop to endeavour to formally present a final constitutional package, ratified by northern residents, to the Government of Canada before April 1, 1999. The federal legislation and possibly territorial legislation required to establish the new government for the western territory would be drafted and enacted after the NWT has been divided.

The CWG proposes to enter into a political accord with the federal and territorial governments and the Aboriginal Summit whereby the parties would commit to continuing the western constitutional process beyond April 1, 1999 through to its completion.

The key elements of the CWG workplan for the period of October 1997 to March 1999 are:

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| OCTOBER 1997 - DECEMBER 1997: | Preparations for second round of community consultations.  |
| OCTOBER 1997 - MAY 1998:      | Ongoing discussions between the Aboriginal Summit, DIAND and the GNWT on the substance and process for the CSGA.   |
| OCTOBER 1997 - MAY 1998:      | Ongoing discussions between the Aboriginal Summit, DIAND and the GNWT on a possible political accord to commit the three parties to continue the western constitutional development process beyond April 1999 to completion. |
| JANUARY 1998 - MARCH 1998:    | Second round of public consultations and other public communications initiatives.  |
| APRIL 1998 - MAY 1998:        | CWG makes necessary revisions to the constitutional package.   |
| JUNE 1998 - SEPTEMBER 1998:   | Federal response to revised constitutional package.  |
| JUNE 1998 - SEPTEMBER 1998:   | Preparations for major constitutional conference, including publication of <i>Partners II</i> and other communications initiatives.  |

JUNE 1998 - AUGUST 1998:	Review of final constitutional package ( <i>Partners II</i> ) at Aboriginal assemblies and meetings of other interested stakeholders (eg. NWT Association of Municipalities).
OCTOBER 1998:	Constitutional conference to review <i>Partners II</i> .
OCTOBER 1998:	CWG makes any necessary revisions to <i>Partners II</i> resulting from conference.
OCTOBER 1998:	CSGA is finalized.
OCTOBER 1998:	Political Accord to continue western constitutional process beyond April 1999 is finalized.
NOVEMBER 1998:	Aboriginal Summit Joint Leadership meeting to approve and recommend a final CSGA.
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1998:	Federal review and approval in principle of final constitution, CSGA and political accord.
NOVEMBER 1998 - JANUARY 1999:	Preparations for plebescite on the proposed constitution.
NOVEMBER 1998 - JANUARY 1999:	Preparations for ratification of the CSGA.
FEBRUARY 1999 - MARCH 1999:	Plebescite on the proposed constitution.
FEBRUARY 1999 - MARCH 1999:	Ratification of the CSGA.
MARCH 1999:	Formal presentation of the ratified constitution and CSGA to the Government of Canada.
APRIL 1999 - ????	Initiating the drafting of federal and territorial legislation.