



NTI NEWS RELEASE

98-006 Feb. 26th, 1998 (Cambridge Bay, NT) **Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. opposed to implementation of Keewatin Pilot Project by GNWT Municipal & Community Affairs. Recommends that any issues of Community Empowerment and devolution be referred to the Nunavut Government after Division for its review and consideration.**

After a review by Nunavut Tunngavik's Shadow Cabinet research team of the issues at hand with the Keewatin Pilot Project, NTI's Board, meeting in Cambridge Bay, has passed a resolution to inform Manitok Thompson, the Minister of Municipal & Community Affairs, that the KPP initiative should be deferred to the Nunavut Government when it takes office.

One of our main concerns is that the timing of this initiative is off. New GNWT initiatives should not cause the Nunavut Government to be faced with a patchwork of responsibilities. KPP would significantly alter the structure and authorities of the Nunavut Government and the community governments within Kivalliq in a manner that could interfere with the Nunavut Government's ability to implement the decentralized model approved in "Footprints 2."

NTI will further communicate in a letter to Minister Thompson that MACA has continually mis-represented NTI's position on this initiative.

"I am concerned about misleading statements Manitok Thompson has made in the Legislative Assembly and in public forums about communications with NTI on this matter," said NTI President Jose Kusugak.

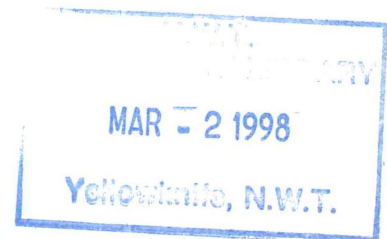
"The minister has repeatedly stated that NTI has never responded to an August, 1996 letter offering a briefing on Community Empowerment. She has also said the letter was an effort to consult NTI regarding the Keewatin Pilot Project. And she has said she discussed this initiative with me directly. Those statements are simply not correct," Kusugak said. In fact, NTI invited the Minister to come and do a presentation on Community Empowerment.

NTI has always supported community empowerment. It has always supported devolution. NTI's consistent position on these matters has been that they should be done by the Nunavut Government, in an orderly and efficient manner.

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- Arctic Bay
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- Baker Lake
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- Coral Harbour
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- Kankin Inlet
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- Repulse Bay
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- Whale Cove

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- Kitikmeot
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- Qajaq Haven
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- Pelly Bay
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- Taloyank