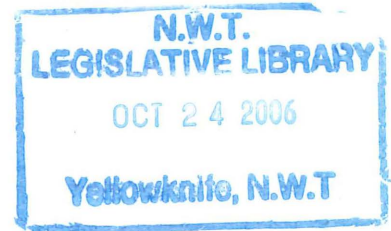




**Northwest Territories meeting to discuss impacts
of \$1 billion Conservative program cuts
September 30, 2006, 3pm
Explorer Hotel
Revised Edition, October 4, 2006**



***NOTE: The summary of presentations in this report are NOT verbatim
and should not be quoted for publication.***

Hosted by Dennis Bevington, MP Western Arctic

Chair: Mark Heyck

MP Staff: Tara Kearsy, Communications Assistant; Bethan Williams, Constituency Assistant

Recorder: Barbara Saunders

NOTE: To obtain presenter's Speaking Notes, or for more information about this report or the September 30 meeting, please email Tara Kearsy at bevind1@parl.gc.ca

Present:

Bob Brooks - YK City Councillor
Lorraine Phaneuf/Lynn Brooks – Status of Women Council of the NWT
Paul Falvo - Sierra Club Legal Counsel/Alternatives North
Steve Petersen - Federation of Labour
Louise Riordan - Canadian Cancer Society
Chuck Parker - Deputy Minister, GNWT Health & Social Services (on behalf of Minister Michael Miltenberger)
Ben McDonald - Alternatives North
Suzette Montreuil - Alternatives North
Catharine Mains - NWT Teachers' Association
David Reid - NWT Teachers' Association
David Gilday - Volunteer NWT
Robert Hawkins - MLA – GNWT
Batiste Foisy - L'Aquilon
Roland Charest - La Federation Franco-Tenoise
Lydia Bardak - John Howard Society & Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition
Cate Sills - NWT Literacy Council
Aggie Brockman - Volunteer Canada Co-ordinator for the NWT
Linda Ungar – NWT Tourism
Robin Weatherspoon – NWT Tourism
Bill Erasmus - Grand Chief Dene Nation/Assembly of First Nations (NWT)
Wendy Lahey - Recreation and Parks Association

Claire Daitch - Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre/Northern Lights Museum (Fort Smith)

Shelagh Montgomery - Alternatives North

Mary Pat Short - NWT Human Rights Commission

Introduction

Mark opened the meeting by talking about how these cuts would affect a number of people and groups that he knows of right off the bat. Noted there is a Large exhibit opening here tomorrow (October 1) on Dene artifacts, which used funds that have now been cut. He then introduced Western Arctic MP, Dennis Bevington.

Opening Address: Dennis Bevington, MP

Thanks for coming

These cuts were made with no debate, no opportunity to provide consultation for effectiveness of these programs.

Can't determine how devolution cuts of \$50M will affect NWT

Government hitting hard on communities and agencies – cuts targeted towards people, NGO's, Communities, education – all these things dropped in our lap in rather rapid fashion. How do we understand how these cuts will affect our constituencies

Thus today we are meeting like this, and other NDP MPs are following suit around the country.

We will make note of how these cuts impact your organizations and determine where we need to go to help your organization.

Chuck Parker, H&SS

On elimination of funding for the First Nations and Inuit Tobacco Control Strategy, \$10.8 million

- Aboriginal anti-smoking programs cut, GNWT Minister has spoke to the issue, showing his disappointment at not being consulted
- Smoking Cessation and Prevention program – the Don't be a Butthead program, is cut
- NWT has highest rates of smoking. The Government of the Northwest Territories receives \$279,000 per year from the First Nations and Inuit Tobacco Control Strategy. The funding assisted with the territorial government's Tobacco Control Strategy. These cuts will have a significant impact on ongoing awareness campaigns about the dangers and health effects of smoking. These much-needed dollars funded the salary for the First Nations and Inuit Tobacco Control Co-ordinator, who worked directly with Aboriginal groups on smoking cessation and prevention campaigns.
- Smoking facts (Source: 2004 Northern Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey, Northwest Territories)

- Three out of five aboriginal residents smoke, compared to one in four non-aboriginal residents.

- In the age category of 25-44, the smoking rate among aboriginals is 2.5 per cent higher than non-aboriginals

- In the NWT in 2004, 63 per cent of aboriginals aged 15-24 were smokers, compared to 25 per cent of non-aboriginals. In the age 25-44 category, 66 per cent of aboriginals smoked, compared to 24 per cent of non-aboriginals. For those age 45 and over, 49 per cent of aboriginals smoked, compared to 26 per cent of non-aboriginals.

- 3,000 people have signed up for the Butthead program and there is a support group
- Minister Miltenberger has called Clement to get more information, to get some assurances and to speak to the programs that are affected
- Chuck has called the DM in Ottawa as well
- Received assurance that this year's agreement will be maintained, but none next year
- Northern Secretariat coming to find out more details
- Aboriginal youth affected, number of efficiencies are not quantified
- There are a number of other program cuts under Health Canada, but don't know which programs will be affected

Mark – another billion of dollars in cuts are coming soon. Important to have strong protest to make sure this doesn't happen

Northwest Territories Tourism- Robin Wotherspoon
On Elimination of Visitor Rebate Program - \$78.8 million
(see attachment for presenter's Speaking Notes)

- Heads up on visitors program – Visitor GST rebates program
- Tourism contributes \$100 million a year to the NWT economy
- There are 208 licensed tourism operators in the NWT (Regional breakdown: Dehcho – 27; Inuvik – 32; North Slave – 67; Sahtu – 26; and South Slave – 56)
- There are 71 licensed accommodation providers, 71 fishing outfitters, 68 hunting outfitters and 33 outdoor adventure operators.
- The NWT is also home to 31 territorial parks and four national parks
- Over 60,000 visitors travel for business or pleasure to the NWT every year
- Certain tour packages, convention related services, visitors are eligible to get GST back if they buy certain goods or take short term accommodation.
- All other countries provide rebate programs and this cut will affect foreign markets significantly
- Non-residents will no longer have rebate option
- Non-resident businesses will still be able to avail themselves of non-commercial goods
- Contracts made under relief program will be exempt

- Aurora Borealis visitors coming this year will be able to apply, but the companies are already selling for the next season and this will not apply
- Tour packages considered an export – selling to people who are going to bring their clients into the NWT
- Tourism is the NWT's Largest renewable resource and is the third largest export behind mining and petroleum products
- In 2004/2005, 65.9% of visitors come from North America (25,489); 7.6% (2,957) were overseas or international visitors; 26.5% were Japanese visitors (10,245)
- 27,167 summer visitors spent over \$20 million in the NWT
- Hunters are only 3% (1,279) of leisure visitors, but contribute 35% of total spending (\$17 million)
- Tourism in the winter is huge in the NWT (usually off season for most of Canada), and provides a significant contribution to the NWT – Almost entirely due to Japanese interest in the Aurora Borealis. In 2004/2005, 10,245 visitors came to view the Northern Lights and spent \$12.5 million
- Tourism is the only export being targeted
- Visitor rebate program is an incentive to bring visitors in – other countries are enhancing their program rather than cutting it
- Ottawa claims the measure is justified because the Visitor Rebate program has a low take-up rate of 3%, which does not take into consideration the 100% take-up by foreign visitors purchasing tour packages in foreign markets, and by organizations planning conventions in Canada.
- The program has not been vigorously promoted and needs greater substance and better management. It should be enhanced for greater participation and appreciation rather than eliminated
- Industry is already facing challenges with increases in costs,
- Museums will also be cut, and they are a big attraction for our industry
- Museums are important culturally and for tourism

Dennis asked if they were consulted – answer was No

**La Federation Franco-Tenoise – Roland Charest
On Elimination of Court Challenges Program - \$5.6 million**

NOTE: text is translated

The Fédération Franco-TéNOise has denounced the federal government for putting official linguistic minorities at risk by reducing their access to justice in Canada. According to Richard Létourneau, Vice-President of the Fédération Franco-TéNOise of Inuvik and the Northwest Territories, the elimination of the Court Challenges Program has left minority French-speaking communities across Canada vulnerable because they will never have the demographic weight necessary to influence government decisions.

We would not have a francophone school in the capital of the Northwest Territories if it had not been for this program, since we did not have the financial resources required to demand one. We would not have school governance, and the Allain St-Cyr School would not have been expanded. The Supreme Court of the NWT would not have made the landmark decision last April that confirmed the blatant lack of respect for the linguistic and constitutional rights of our French-speaking citizens.

According to Mr. Létourneau, the accusations that the Court Challenges Program is inefficient are laughable, since it has helped correct many injustices suffered by the Franco-TéNOis. What will happen to our democratic values if we no longer have the means to ensure that our constitutional rights are respected? This breach of contract with our community supports the principle that 'might makes right' and goes against our democratic Canadian values. It is like taking away David's only weapon against Goliath. Our community must be able to make sure the laws protect the fundamental rights. The need to protect our citizens, our families, our children and our institutions has been demonstrated time and time again over the last decades.

These drastic cuts mean that many programs that serve official language minorities are in limbo. They also threaten hundreds of teams of volunteers whose efficiency in delivering services has been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt. Our community infrastructure does excellent work for economic development, school governance, literacy, early childhood and daycare, youth, health services in French, arts and culture, and much more. They provide our communities with efficient and accessible service. Their merit has been proven, and is recognized by program administrator and government administrators.

Our community organizations are in the perfect position to choose an advocate for the Franco-TéNOis community, who will make an efficient contribution to the development of official language minority communities. Federal departments consult with our teams extensively, in order to find the best ways to respect their legal commitment to help us in this Herculean task: to make sure that the Official Languages Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms are respected.

Along with a vast network of community organizations in Canada, our community is asking the Harper government to think twice.

Canadian Cancer Society – Louise Riordan On cuts to anti-smoking programs

The Cancer Society is opposed to the \$10.8 million cut to the First Nations/Inuit Tobacco control Strategy. Given that the smoking rates amongst these populations is very high and that this is a principal cause leading to higher cancer and heart disease rates amongst the First Nation and Inuit population, we believe the tobacco control strategy should be strengthened instead.

The Federal Government has stated that it intends to announce a replacement aboriginal tobacco strategy; we support this.

The First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada provided the following statistics;

- 60% of on-reserve First Nations people between the ages of 18 and 34 currently smoke.
- 70% of Inuit in the north between the ages of 18 and 45 currently smoke.
- Almost half of Inuit (46%) who smoke started smoking at age 14 or younger
- The majority of on-reserve First Nations people who smoke (52%) started smoking between the ages of 13 and 16.

(Source: the 2004 Baseline Study Among First Nations On-reserve and Inuit in the North, Environics Research Group)

Dennis talks about how Imperial Tobacco sent out a glossy marketing campaign package to him last week.

Alternatives North – Ben McDonald On all program cuts

- Providing support for member organizations
- Dennis and other members of parliament can carry one arm of the fight, but the big fight is the extra-parliamentary fight; the activists to get involved
- important to point out mistakes of this government
- Alternatives North involved in social justice activities. The overall politics of these cuts are mean-spirited. The distribution of social programs is key to democracy. These are ideological cuts
- Conservatives hired a Chicago consulting firm (paid them \$24 million) to identify these cuts. Liberals hired them first then the conservatives chose to continue the work .

Dennis says the NDP will look into how that money (\$24 million) was spent

NWT Literacy Council, Cate Sills, executive director On HRDC's so-called "Improved Targeting of Adult Learning and Literacy Skills Program - \$17.7 million (See attachment for presenter's Speaking Notes)

- We lost all federal funding - \$350,000 or one third of budget
- Adult learning essential skills program, a community-based program, has been cut
- Here in the north the impacts are severe.
- ***We have lost our capacity to operate as an organization***
- Lost ability to manage or operate organization, do consultations, etc.
- Not sure how long we can stay alive with minimal funding
- Can survive until the end of fiscal year, but after that, we don't know

- Time lost in writing proposals because funding source is gone
- They were told by HRDC that they will re-align their funding to support private organizations
- She does not understand how literacy is not valued
- Believes the feds have an assumption that local governments will pick up the slack
- Started an advocacy campaign – sent out electronic protest to reinstate the funding
- It is shocking, the depth of the cuts – no warning – countless hours lost doing evaluations, proposals etc., so not sure how they came up with the decision that there is no-value for the money

Dennis: Literacy Statistics here are very high

Cate: 69% of aboriginal adults have literacy problems

Dennis: Where do you go now?

Cate: going to the GNWT to see if they can help out. We have some project funding that will carry us – some fundraising reserves. ***Unless we have guarantees by March 2007 we are done.*** Hope there will be enough pressure to re-instate the funds.

Dennis: says the Conservatives may not back down on these cuts, but if we protest now perhaps we can prevent this from happening again. There is an Election coming sooner rather than later, If they (Conservatives) get back into power, that won't look promising for the future of social programming. Said he doesn't know why they are picking on organizations like literacy councils.

Follow-up information from Cate Sills:

This is the funding that supports literacy programs at the provincial / territorial level and have a very significant effect on literacy in the NWT. This is the funding stream that supports our work in family and community literacy development and includes activities such as the delivery of training workshops for NWT literacy providers, the development of teaching and learning resources for use in NWT literacy programs and our information clearing house, which includes our web site, newsletters, our literacy lending library and other services to the field.

It also affects Aurora College's literacy services including two literacy outreach centers in Yellowknife and Inuvik that provide much needed one-on-one tutoring for adults with serious literacy challenges.

Ironically, HRSDC just completed a call for proposals for this funding stream less than two weeks ago. Many organizations in the NWT, including ours, spent weeks preparing very detailed funding proposals. At no point was anyone told that this funding might be in jeopardy.

**NWT Teachers Association – Catharine Mains and David Reid
On cuts to literacy and anti-smoking programs**

- Cuts impact our partners like literacy council. Anything that effects schools will impact our clientele in the NWT.
- Aboriginal youth are affected through various campaigns in the schools, so we are here to support our partners.
- These cuts are ridiculous.
- Women educators are convening to address Status of Women cuts
- Direct cuts to social programs affect our cuts
- NWTTA will help in applying pressure to the government to change their minds.
- NWTTA will get the students involved in a letter writing campaign to protest cuts like the “Don’t be a Butthead” program that effect them

Volunteer NWT/Canada Volunteerism Initiative– Aggie Brockman
On Elimination of Support to Canada Volunteerism Initiative - \$9.7 million
(See attachment for presenter’s Speaking Notes)

- The NWT Volunteer group is part of the national volunteer strategy dating back to 1999. The initiative shows how volunteers are a big part of the democratic process. A volunteer accord was struck.
- These cuts affect all of our volunteer groups.
- Volunteer Initiative got cut by over 9 M and NWT will have funds until the next fiscal year.
- Volunteer NWT has been cut for the past three years
- Volunteer Initiative funded many projects by community groups, including Sport North, and this funding is cut.
- They had no consultation about how these cuts would impact them.
- Cut out from non-core programs.

Dennis: What is the value of volunteers to the economy?

Aggie: More than the oil and gas, retail sector combined.

Dennis: No other source of funding to promote volunteerism?

Aggie: No there is none.

Dennis: Is there a requirement for the promotion of volunteers?

Aggie: Yes, we have no support for co-ordination, training, provision and so there is a need to support it.

Follow-up information sent by Aggie Brockman on October 2:

- **12 million Canadians volunteer providing two billion hours. However burnout of existing volunteers is a huge issue**
- Only 11% of Canadians do 77% of the volunteer work
- In the NWT, 53% of residents 15 years of age and older volunteer with a group (second to Sask.), and 86% help out informally on their own (second to Nunavut).
Source: 2004 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating. Statistics Canada 2006

- The voluntary sector contributes \$57.5 billion to the Gross Domestic Product. This compares to \$42.2 billion for the retail sector, \$33.9 billion for oil and gas and mining.
- The economic value of the voluntary sector increases by 25% when volunteer work is included. *Source: Satellite Account of Nonprofit Institutions and Volunteering. Statistics Canada. 2005*

Most Canadians think charities understand community needs better than government and do a better job of meeting those needs.

Source: Muttart Foundation sponsored Ipsos Reid poll. 2004

84% of Canadians say volunteer groups contribute more to the Quality of Life in Canadian Communities than individuals, families, schools, businesses, local government, religious organizations, local business associations, artists, entertainers, writers, ethnic and cultural organizations, provincial, territorial and federal governments.

Source: National Overview of Findings from a National Survey on the Quality of Life in Canadian Communities, prepared for Infrastructure Canada by The Strategic Counsel. December 2005.

Support through the Canada Volunteerism Initiative is needed to:

- provide information, training and resources to help volunteers do their work and help organizations support volunteers. Topics include: recruiting and supporting volunteers; risk management; buying insurance; diversifying volunteers; screening volunteers
- connect networks across the country to share information, avoid duplication and form partnerships.

You might be interested to note that the latest GNWT population health report includes volunteering as a health indicator. Healthy communities have lots of volunteers; volunteers create healthy communities, as well as volunteers benefitting directly from the act of helping out.

I found out this morning that the \$9.7 million cut is out of next year's spending and that this year's budget is not affected. The cut includes savings to the bureaucracy and Canadian Heritage administration of the program, as well as approximately \$8 million to Volunteer Canada and Imagine Canada. Volunteer NWT funding of \$161,000 annually comes through Volunteer Canada with an additional \$250,000 over the past three years coming from a combination of those two organizations..

Status of Women Council of the NWT - Lorraine Phaneuf & Lynn Brooks

On recent cuts to Status of Women Canada - \$10 million cut over past two weeks

(See attachment for presenter's Speaking Notes)

Lorraine

- Status of Women Canada – \$10 million in cuts.
- Provides resource materials to women's programs in the north, funding projects and programs.
- Program funding will force that area to close their doors.
- Court challenges program will particularly hurt the promotion of women's rights and gender equality.
- It's very possible that cutbacks will result in the demise of the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action
- A major cutback

Lynn

- Funding cut to NAWL (National Association of Women in Law) which helps for constitutional change NAWL has worked to help aboriginal women and the local council has received free legal advise.
- Local council will miss this group if they need to fold.
- Literacy program cuts affects the council because they have partnered with them in the past to the benefit of northern families.
- Child care application is onerous, small business owners are women and this too will affect them,
- initiatives around family violence are cut,
- Harper has done nothing for women.

Dennis asks what dollar numbers the NWT Council will lose?

Lynn/Lorraine: We're waiting for feds to answer to funding request for a large proposal and are nervous because they keep putting us off. Minister Oda has not shown her face nor said anything.

Barbara commented that Status of Women Canada underwent an evaluation just over a year ago and concluded that the department needed more funds; the Equality Task Force recommended an increase of \$25 million and the Parliamentary Committee on the Status of Women also recommended increases in funding; the United Nations reprimanded the Canadian Government for not taking stronger measures to combat inequalities and recommended more resources to do so.

Grand Chief Bill Erasmus, Dene Nation/Assembly of First Nations (NWT)

Pleased that Dennis, as member of parliament, has held this meeting – thanks.

Very concerned. My concern is, being in political office for all my adult life, that there is a huge fight going on across the country. I ask why would we want the Conservative party to get elected? Here in the NWT we don't follow the party system. Dennis got elected because he is the best person here for the job right now.

We have to understand that the country is at war and the implication of what that means needs to be discussed. Look at the budget as a big pie. We have never been asked if we want to send out people (soldiers) overseas, and now they are coming back in boxes. We

need to question what is happening. Canada's position in the world is changing and we are in the military war mode. Politically, we have to question whether a minority government can spend money on the military without asking the people. They debated without information about the war in Afghanistan. Canada is making a decision on behalf of the Canadian public. Do they have the authority? Where does it derive from? Dene do not have to go to war – they can volunteer to go into the military, but not to fight necessarily.

Aboriginal governments see the feds as hostile and they use the party system to work against us. If they are not going to honour our agreements, or the Accord established in BC, then they are not going to listen to these groups. Federal government is creating confusion and chaos – why are they doing that? Because for the next cuts they will cut where we would agree, and then gain new favour.

If Bill was in that position of federal parliament, he would bring everyone together to get their views before making decisions.

- Wants to encourage Dennis to continue this discussion and more of them.
- The direction that we have to take in the north is different than those in the south and we should work with the other Northern territories and consider treaties, self-government etc. We need to work together and approach this from a Northern perspective.
- Why is health Canada allowing toxins to be sold – ie cigarettes.
- Inviting Dennis to leaders meeting in Fort Good Hope to see how they will participate in the next election.
- Letter writing campaign is important – wants Dennis to go back to Ottawa with 10,000 letters and signatures.
- If we don't speak out, no one will speak for us.
- People are afraid to speak for fear their funding will be cut – we are moving towards being a military state.

Dennis: Additional expenditures in the Afghanistan war – 15 billion dollars. Single artillery shells worth a couple of thousand alone. We are making enemies of other countries. We are throwing away our peace-keeping attitudes and our reputation as a nation. Cuts going on now are important right now and we see how they are linked to the larger issues.

Bill talks about a big ministers meeting coming in October, invited from Miltenberger and perhaps we should talk about not allowing them to come, or protesting their presence. Environment minister coming to reveal new environment strategy and Bill doesn't want them here. We need to get control of our own situation, he says.

Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition, & John Howard Society - Lydia Bardak General statement on program cuts

- If cuts can be made during a surplus year, then we should be prepared for what comes next.
- It may be a hidden agenda.

- No federal funding for homelessness initiatives after 2006. The only homeless solution Harper has is to build jails by cutting out conditional sentences.
- When they change these laws it will affect us in the north since they will not provide money to build jails.
- Program cuts means firing staff

**Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre/Northern Lights Museum in Fort Smith
– Claire Daitch**

On Reduction to Museum Assistance Program - \$4.6 million

Potential Impact on NWT Museums & Heritage Projects

- \$5M cuts from project money for museums that education and provide cultural knowledge.

Introduction/Explanation of the MAP Program

As part of the drastic budget cuts on September 25th, the Conservative government announced a \$4.6 million cut to the *Museum Assistance Program (MAP)*, out of a total \$11.8 million dollar annual budget. MAP is the only federal fund dedicated solely to assisting regional and smaller museums, as well as Aboriginal organizations with exhibitions, conservation, heritage projects, and organizational development. The MAP program was instituted in 1972 with a \$9 million dollar annual budget, an amount that remains essentially stagnant to this date. Even without the recent budget cuts, current MAP funding levels are inadequate: small museums across Canada, including in the Northwest Territories, have trouble preserving their collections, maintaining their buildings and paying staff to keep their doors open. The previous Liberal government had recommended a new museums policy that would provide \$75 million annually in stable funding to the sector. Even the current government's standing committee of Canadian heritage recently released a report to the House of Commons recommending increased and stable funding to museums.

Impact on the Museums and Heritage Organizations in the NWT:

As MAP funding is project-based, it is impossible to provide a \$ impact of how the cuts will affect NWT museums and Aboriginal organizations, but it will certainly have an impact as the funding cuts will mean that organizations will be left competing for a much small pool of money. Currently there are 3 museums in the Northwest Territories eligible to apply for MAP funding: The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife, the Northern Life Museum in Fort Smith, and the Norman Wells Historical Centre. Additionally, there are numerous NWT *Aboriginal Governing Bodies* eligible to apply for MAP funding to record, manage, and promote their Aboriginal cultural heritage. For instance, in 2003-2004 the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute received a \$60 325 grant to develop their trilingual educational website: <http://www.gwichin.ca/>. Moreover, there a number of NWT organizations planning museums or cultural centres that may soon be eligible for MAP program funding, including the Fort Simpson

Historical society, the Hay River Museum Society and the NWT Mining Heritage Society.

Additional Impacts of Budget Cuts on NWT Museums:

In addition to the direct impact from cuts to MAP, NWT cultural organizations will be impacted by the \$55 million cut to youth employment programs. NWT museums, such as the Northern Life Museum in Fort Smith, rely on these programs to hire virtually all of their summer staff, providing a valuable employment and training opportunity in the cultural sector for local youth and a much-needed workforce during the tourist season.

Conclusion:

Heritage Minister Bev Oda announced cuts to museum funding because they did not provide "value for money." It is impossible to put a dollar sign on the value provided by promoting regional access to arts and culture and the knowledge of local history. Museums in the Northwest Territories collect artifacts and mount exhibitions related to our diverse and complex history, environment, and cultures. Moreover, in small northern towns, museums play an essential role in contributing to the cultural life of the community and promoting pride in our heritage. It is important that funding remains available for local NWT museums and heritage projects, including those initiated by local Aboriginal organizations.

Questions:

Will a report be put together on what was said here and will it be available to everyone? Tourism industry is meeting, provinces and territories would like the highlights of what was said here and who was here.

Action:

- Rally support against the cuts
- Speak up about how cuts affect your organization
- Letter-writing campaign
- Get kids involved where the programs affect them
- Postcard campaign

- Notes to include which program and how much money will be lost
- Where do letters go?
- Write letters to Harper?

Question: Will the NDP research the provinces and territories to determine the impacts of the cuts?

Dennis: Through this meeting we will send report and it will give us a good idea of what we are losing here in the NWT.

Cate: Suggesting that NDP office go through the cuts and talk to organizations and government as to how these cuts will affect them and the GNWT.

Dennis: Thank you for coming

Adjournment

Following this meeting, participants gathered at the Dene Nation office in Yellowknife on October 2 to organize public protests over these cuts.

Rally #1

Date	TIME	LOCATION
Thursday, October 5, 2006	NOON	Red Apple Restaurant

This rally will begin at the Red Apple Restaurant on Franklin Avenue and end at the Greenstone Federal Government Building.

Rally #2

Date	TIME	LOCATION
Thursday, October 12, 2006	NOON	Red Apple Restaurant

This rally will be organized in conjunction with the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministerial visit to Yellowknife. This rally will also begin at the Red Apple Restaurant on Franklin Avenue and end at the Greenstone Federal Government Building. Municipal Enforcement will block off Franklin Avenue for the protest.