



November 23, 2011

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Via email: eirb@jointsec.nt.ca

Re: GNWT November 18, 2011 Letter and Legislative Assembly Vision

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) provided a revised letter describing its NWT social programming to the Department of Transportation on November 21, 2011. As the version posted on the Environmental Impact Review Board's (EIRB) public registry on November 23, 2011 is the original letter, I am attaching the revised version and request the EIRB post this revised version.

I am pleased to also provide the EIRB with the vision, goals and priorities for action released by the 17th Legislative Assembly under the theme of *"Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners"* on November 17, 2011. The Vision, Goals and Priorities are:

Our Vision

Strong individuals, families and communities sharing the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustainable and prosperous Northwest Territories

Our Goals

A strong and independent north built on partnerships
An environment that will sustain present and future generations
Healthy, educated people free from poverty
A diversified economy that provides all communities and regions with opportunities and choices
Sustainable, vibrant, safe communities
Effective and efficient government

Our Priorities

Build a strong and sustainable future for our Territory by strengthening our relationships with Aboriginal and other northern governments, negotiating and implementing a devolution final agreement, achieving an increase to our borrowing limit, and working with our partners to ensure responsible stewardship through our land and resource management regime

Increase employment opportunities where they are most needed by decentralizing more GNWT positions, reducing dependency on government by encouraging people who are able to enter or remain in the workforce, and supporting child care programs to help parents become or stay employed

Strengthen and diversify our economy by making strategic infrastructure investments such as the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highway, the Mackenzie Fiberoptic Link, and hydro initiatives, supporting the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline project, developing a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable economic development and mining strategy, supporting the traditional economy, and improving our regulatory processes

Address housing needs by completing and implementing the Shelter Policy Review including fair and sustainable public housing rent scales, selling our public housing stock where this makes sense, and putting higher density housing units in small communities

Ensure a fair and sustainable health care system by investing in prevention, education and awareness and early childhood development, enhancing addictions treatment programs using existing infrastructure, and addressing our health facilities deficit

The draft strategic plan is expected for review by the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committees in March 2012.

Sincerely



Gavin More
Manager
Environmental Assessment and Monitoring
Environment and Natural Resources