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Air Quality in the NWT Remains Excellent

YELLOWKNIFE (June 3, 2010) – The Northwest Territories' (NWT) air quality remained at high levels last year, according to the newly-released 2009 Air Quality Report.

Highlights from the report include:

- Overall air quality in Yellowknife remains excellent with the effects of springtime dust and smoke from forest fires noticeable on occasion.
- Fort Liard air quality remains excellent with only some small effects of forest fire smoke measured in the summer. Natural gas developments in the area do not appear to be affecting the air quality in the community.
- Norman Wells air quality remains excellent with only small effects of forest fire smoke measured in the summer. The local oil and gas industry does not appear to be affecting the air quality in the community.
- Air quality in Inuvik remains excellent for the most part, although the effects of dust were noticeable throughout the summer. Small effects of forest fire smoke were measured in the summer.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) monitors air quality in the Northwest Territories through stations located in Yellowknife, Fort Liard, Norman Wells, and Inuvik. The stations include monitoring equipment capable of continuously sampling and analyzing a variety of air pollutants and meteorological conditions. The GNWT continues to explore opportunities to upgrade and expand the existing air quality monitoring program.

The 2009 Air Quality Report is available online at:
www.enr.gov.nt.ca/live/pages/wpPages/Air_Quality.aspx

Real time air quality information can be accessed online at:
www.air.enr.gov.nt.ca/NWTAQ/NetworkSummary.aspx

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Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

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