

# Framework for Action

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*Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger*

*June 2, 2005*

*Statement to the Legislative Assembly*

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to address this House in my new role as the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

As Minister, I want to ensure our children inherit a secure future built upon a healthy environment that is capable of supporting traditional lifestyles within a modern economy. This goal is echoed in the Department's mandate and principles and is shared by the staff. We intend to achieve this goal by building on the strengths of our people, both within the Department and in the Northwest Territories, and through the wise use and protection of our natural resources.

Together we have developed a Framework for Action for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The Framework identifies the strategic actions required over the next three years to promote and support the sustainable use and development of natural resources and to protect, conserve and enhance our environment for the social and economic benefit of all residents.

Mr. Speaker, a clear vision and unified approach along with efficient and effective plans for action are needed to deal with the opportunities and challenges facing our Territory. This Framework for Action provides the vision, approaches and actions the Department of Environment and Natural Resources needs to move forward on its strategic initiatives. By working closely with residents and involving them in key decision-making roles, the Department can tackle these strategic initiatives and actions to meet our shared responsibility for maintaining a healthy and prosperous northern environment.

At the appropriate time today, I will be tabling the Framework for Action. It will also be available on the ENR website so residents can make themselves aware of the Department's priorities and actions for the next three years. I encourage all residents to review the Framework for Action and gauge our results in meeting these priorities. I will provide regular updates to this House and the public on the status of the actions taken. My first report will cover the period between June and December 2005.

Many of the actions identified in the Framework are already underway, however, as circumstances arise, new initiatives and actions may be identified. Success in completing these actions will require support and input from this House and residents.

Only by working together, sharing our knowledge, experience, and passion for our lands and waters, can we hope to be true stewards of our environment and pass its riches on to our children and those who will follow. Thank you Mr. Speaker.