

Restructuring of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Moves Ahead on Time

YELLOWKNIFE (January 18, 2005) - The restructuring of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) into two new departments is on target, with an expected implementation date of April 1, 2005.

“The restructuring of RWED is timely as we are experiencing unparalleled economic growth and at the same time preparing for the devolution of responsibilities currently held by the federal government,” said RWED Minister Brendan Bell.

The proposed names of the new departments are the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. “These names clearly represent the distinct functions of the two new departments and will assist in dealing with the perceived conflict of environmental responsibilities being housed in the same department responsible for economic development,” said Minister Bell.

Responsibilities for environmental stewardship will fall to the new Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR). ENR will promote and support the sustainable use of our natural resources for the social and economic benefit of all NWT residents along with protecting and conserving the NWT environment.

The new Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) will be responsible for the economic development of the NWT. The department will promote tourism, territorial parks, traditional economy, business, mineral development, oil and natural gas. ITI will promote and support the development of a prosperous, diverse and sustainable economy for the benefit of all NWT residents.

Minister Bell added, “The restructuring plan will result in an increased capacity for the two new departments in all NWT regions. This increase will ultimately improve the ability to meet client needs and provide more focused services.”

Questions regarding the RWED restructuring can be forwarded to restructure@gov.nt.ca

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