

## GNWT Steps Toward Waste Recovery Programs

---

*YELLOWKNIFE (October 24)* - The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will move ahead with developing territory-wide waste recovery programs thanks to the passage of the new Waste Reduction and Recovery Act October 10, 2003.

The new legislation allows the government to establish programs to recover, recycle and reuse waste materials. Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) Jim Antoine says it is a significant step towards reducing the impact of waste on the environment, the amount of litter and the costs of handling garbage in communities and increasing the lifespan of community landfills.

The new legislation also allows the GNWT to ban the distribution or sale of some items that could harm the environment.

The first program to be developed under the new legislation is a beverage container recovery program. Other programs, such as recovery programs for cardboard, plastics, computers and tires, may be added in the future.

“Residents will be consulted before any recovery programs are established,” the Minister noted. “The success of recovery programs depends on wide-spread public participation and support.”

The costs of establishing, operating and evaluating recovery and recycling programs will be covered by the Environment Fund - a special purpose fund established by the Waste Reduction and Recovery Act. All deposits and non-refundable fees collected through recovery programs will be paid into the Environment Fund.

For more information, contact:

Emery Paquin  
Director, Environment Division  
Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development  
Tel: (867) 873-7654