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## **Regulatory Reform Has Been Too Long – Miltenberger**

**YELLOWKNIFE (October 6, 2010)** - The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources says the Government of the Northwest Territories is no longer content to be treated simply as a stakeholder while the federal government decides if changes are required in the NWT's Regulatory Regime.

Speaking as part of a panel discussion on Navigating the Northern Regulatory Environment, Minister Miltenberger said that the decade-long debate to establish a clear and effective decision making process in the North has gone on too long.

Yet, while territorial boards and the GNWT are meeting the mandated timelines and responsibilities in the regulatory process, federal delays continue to frustrate northern governments and industry and increase the price of lost economic opportunities.

“We are a mature political jurisdiction,” he noted, “yet we cannot even make appointments to regulatory boards within our Territory. If we want to control things, we have to make decisions in the North. Surely to goodness we are ready.”

Through processes such as the Regional Leaders Meetings and the Northern Leaders Forum, the GNWT is working to forge stronger relationships with Aboriginal and NWT governments.

Pivotal initiatives such as the Water Strategy, Land Use Framework, the GNWT's Approach to Regulatory Improvement and the Species at Risk Act have been advanced by the Legislative Assembly in collaboration with Aboriginal and northern governments.

“Evidence,” Minister Miltenberger says, “that the NWT is ready to take the next step.”

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