

Waste Recovery and Reduction Act Introduced

YELLOWKNIFE (June 12, 2003) – New legislation, introduced this week by Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development Jim Antoine, will pave the way for the recovery, reuse and recycling of materials throughout the Northwest Territories.

The proposed Waste Reduction and Recovery Act, developed in consultation with industry, environmental organizations and the public will, through the development of regulations, allow the Government of the Northwest Territories to establish programs to recover, recycle and reuse waste materials in NWT communities. When passed, it will also allow the GNWT to designate materials for recovery, collect deposits and provide refunds on materials such as beverage containers.

“This Bill reflects our commitment to the environment and the wise use of our resources,” Mr. Antoine said. “Our goal is to reduce the impact of these wastes on the northern environment, greenhouse gas emissions and the costs of handling garbage while increasing the lifespan of community landfill sites.”

The new legislation will allow for the establishment of an Environment Fund to finance recovery, reuse and recycling programs in NWT communities and for the enforcement of recovery programs.

“This legislation is designed to be flexible enough to allow recovery of different kinds of materials over time,” Mr. Antoine noted. “Research and experience in other parts of Canada show more jobs can be associated with recovery programs than with putting garbage in landfills.”

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