

Air Tanker Services Contracts Awarded

YELLOWKNIFE (June 18, 2007) – Buffalo Airways Ltd. has been awarded the contracts to provide air tanker services in support of the forest fire management program in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The announcement was made today by Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Minister Michael McLeod.

“The public process to award these substantial contracts for specialized services was open to aviation companies from across Canada and I am very pleased the successful proponent was a northern company,” said McLeod. “This demonstrates the competitiveness of the NWT aviation industry and its ability to provide specialized services in support of forest fire preparedness and operations.”

One contract is to provide CL-215 air tankers services and the other is for land-based tanker services. Both contracts are for a 10-year period covering the 2007/2008 to 2015/2016 forest fire seasons. The CL-215 contract is estimated at \$23.5 million over ten years while the land-based air tanker contract is about \$24.4 million for the same period.

Buffalo Airways was one of three companies that submitted proposals for the two contracts. A technical evaluation team and a financial evaluation team, in the presence of a Fairness Commissioner, reviewed all proposals. The proposals were evaluated on technical requirements, pricing and the NWT Business Incentive Policy.

Air tanker services are an essential component of the Government of the Northwest Territories forest fire suppression program.

For more information, contact:

Judy McLinton
Public Affairs and Communications
Environment and Natural Resources
Tel: (867) 873-7379
Email: judy_mclinton@gov.nt.ca
Website: www.enr.gov.nt.ca