

GNWT Launches Energy Discussion

YELLOWKNIFE (June 7, 2006) -- A discussion paper on the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) future approach to energy development, management and use was introduced in the Legislative Assembly today by the Minister of Industry Tourism and Investment, Brendan Bell and the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Michael Miltenberger.

Entitled "Energy for the Future", the discussion paper proposes a policy framework and suggested strategic actions in support of this framework. It is intended to provide a reference point for discussions with Aboriginal organizations, municipal governments, businesses and Northwest Territories (NWT) residents towards the creation of a comprehensive Energy Plan for the Territory to be completed this fall.

"In the coming months we will talk with NWT residents and work to develop a plan that incorporates their input," Minister Bell said. "Our discussions are timely as we face the realities of high energy prices driven by global demand, and position ourselves to take advantage of pending resource development."

"Striking a balance between maximizing the benefits of resource development and providing sound management of our northern environment is a fundamental part of the energy discussion," Mr. Miltenberger said. "These issues are critical in our work to ensure a sustainable energy future for the NWT, while continuing to protect our natural environment".

The Government's discussion paper, and a plain language summary can be viewed at www.nwtenergyplanning.ca.

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