

## Minister Clarifies Statement in Washington Post

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*YELLOWKNIFE (December 12, 2005)* - The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, has clarified a statement attributed to him in a recent Washington Post article.

Michael Miltenberger discussed resource development in the Northwest Territories including mineral exploration and the potential construction of the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline during a lengthy interview with the reporter.

"The Northwest Territories has a wealth of development opportunities given our vast mineral and petroleum resources and businesses continue to express interest in exploring potential opportunities," said Minister Miltenberger. "But any exploration or development in the Northwest Territories must comply with the strong regulatory regime that governs such activity. This regime requires compliance with land claims agreements and federal and territorial legislation including environmental assessment."

"The Government of the Northwest Territories has a long history of working with our other partners, including Aboriginal organizations, to ensure development occurs in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive manner. The Protected Areas Strategy is one such example," concluded Minister Miltenberger.

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