

NWT Energy Plan and Revised NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy Unveiled

YELLOWKNIFE (March 14, 2007) –Two key documents related to energy and climate change that will help ensure a lasting legacy of clean, affordable energy for future generations in the Northwest Territories (NWT), were released today by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT.)

The new *NWT Energy Plan* will guide and support decisions regarding the future development, generation and use of energy in the NWT while the revised *NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy* describes actions, measures and targets to support government, industry and individual efforts to control greenhouse gas emissions.

“The NWT has a tremendous supply of energy resources, yet the high cost of energy in communities remains. Sound planning is needed to determine the path of future energy use in the territory,” the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Honourable Brendan Bell said. “This plan focuses on actions and investments.”

“The environmental impacts of energy use and in particular climate change are already being evidenced across the circumpolar north,” Environment and Natural Resources Minister Michael McLeod said. “Together, these documents recognize that our energy future must begin with efforts to increase conservation and efficiency while maintaining the integrity of our environment.”

“I am very proud of the contribution made by the people of the Sahtu to the Doi T’oh Territorial Park and CANOL Heritage Trail Park Management Plan and look forward to the development of this new world-class territorial park,” Sahtu MLA Norman Yakeleya added.

The announcement today represents a total investment of \$6 million to be spent on a number of projects throughout the Northwest Territories, including the development of:

- hydro resources including the potential development of mini-hydro-electric plants to service small isolated communities;
- energy conservation programs to reduce household energy use;
- an Energy Efficiency Financing Program to support energy-saving investments made by residents in their homes, appliances and vehicles;
- alternative energy projects using wind and geothermal heat pumps; and,
- projects using residual heating systems and surplus hydro capacity to heat public buildings.

Many of these initiatives share common priorities with the Federal Government’s recently announced series of EcoEnergy programs, including the recently announced \$5 million EcoTrust funding for the Northwest Territories.

The Greenhouse Gas Strategy can be found online at: www.enr.gov.nt.ca. The NWT Energy Plan can be found online at: www.nwtenergyplanning.ca.

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