

Candidate Answers:

Hay River North

Slim Courtoreille

1. Devolution

I believe that the NWT is ready for Devolution and the AIP still needs some work to it however it is a start. Devolution needs to benefit all residents of the NWT and the greatest benefit would be that Northerners would have control over Crown Lands, resources, & water rights, Royalty payments would go to the NWT not the Federal Government, The biggest obstacle right now is getting all parties to agree to the AIP.

2. Regulation

The regulatory process seems to take too much time and it deters organizations from investing in the GNWT. I believe that in order to speed up the process we would need to reduce the number of Boards that are currently in place (17)

3. Corporate Taxes

I would not agree to a corporate tax rate for the NWT, Corporate taxes do nothing for the citizens, Canadian Companies add billions of dollars to their cash stockpile instead of reinvesting in machinery and equipment.

4. Resource Tax

I am in favor of a resource tax because it would save income from resource royalties to fund lasting infrastructure, education and do something positive for the people of the North

5. Carbon Tax

Only if the Carbon Tax is revenue neutral which means that the revenues generated from a Carbon Tax be returned to the residents.

6. We need to move on the Devolution agreement to continue investing in infrastructure. Priorities would be Schools, Hospitals, Transportation

7. Youth

The Territorial Government can develop a program similar to the Storefront School (16 – 21 yrs.) that is offered at DJSS in Hay River which offers individually paced learning. Also another idea would be a how to get a job program(resume writing, interview skills etc).

8. Energy

The GNWT needs to look at wind energy, thermal energy
Hot water heating, Micro hydro and continue with the Talston River Dam expansion.

9. Cost of Living

Work with business and other partners to identify economic opportunities

Support small business, tourism, agriculture, arts and crafts

Support Students who want to get into trades so they could enter the work force which would in turn benefit the economy

10. Infrastructure

Work with other MLA's to make the Mackenzie Valley Highway a reality, this would create employment, reduction in cost of living in smaller communities along the highway, increase tourism, reduction in future construction costs.

Fibre optic link would give communities along the Mackenzie Valley Highway System better communication service

11. I believe we need to speed up the regulatory system so that exploration companies are able to get their required permits in a timely manner, I would work with other parties to see if this was an option.

Inuvik Boot Lake

Grant Gowans

Devolution

Q) What is your position on the proposed devolution agreement? What do you see as the greatest benefits and the greatest obstacles associated with devolution?

A) I support the concept of devolution and northerners being able to have control over, and benefiting from, the use of land and natural resources in the NWT. However, I believe in order for us to find a long-term and sustainable agreement everyone needs to support whatever the final agreement may be (including a Devolution Agreement-in-Principle). I feel that one of the greatest benefits associated with Devolution is a substantial degree of financial independence, the ability for northerners to benefit from resource royalty revenue, and use this revenue as we see fit. Right now one of the greatest obstacles (but not impossible to overcome) is addressing some of the fundamental differences / issues in the existing Devolution Agreement-in-Principle between the Dene First Nations and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Regulation

Q) The NWT's regulatory regime is seen to be the deterrent to resource investment. What will you do to overhaul the regulatory regime in the NWT?

A) First, look at some of the suggestions from the McCrank Report and the Pollard Report (when it is released) to see what would help our regulatory regime. One of the issues we have to contend with in the NWT is that there are regulatory mechanisms (e.g. Land and Water Boards or Renewable Resources Management Boards) that arise from settled Land Claims with the Gwich'in First Nation, the Inuvialuit,

and the Sahtu Dene and Metis. These Land Claims are protected by Section 35 of the Constitution Act and this means they cannot be easily altered, modified or removed without the consent of all of the parties (GNWT, Government of Canada, and the Aboriginal group) that negotiated them. Often these Boards are not provided sustainable funding or consistent access to expertise (e.g. biologists or researchers who can gather, process, analyse and explain scientific data that is collected / used by industry).

Corporate Taxes

Q) Corporate Income Tax rates in the NWT were once among the lowest in the country. The rate was recently raised and now other jurisdictions look much more favourable. Do you support a Corporate Income Tax rate that positions the NWT as a favoured jurisdiction for investment? If yes, what will you do about it?

A) Yes. It would be a start to try and reduce the cost of doing business in the NWT. The cost of labour, material, freight, and short building time frames (due to short summers / long winters) mean the cost of doing business in the north is much higher than in the south. Another option could be establishing new criteria that would define a northern business and reducing the amount of payroll tax they are obligated to pay.

Resources Taxes

Q) Do you support the implementation of a Resource Tax during the life of this Assembly? Why?

A) Yes. Right now the focus of this Assembly should be how we can raise revenue. If we are encouraging business (through a lower corporate tax or payroll tax) to come to the north and utilize our resources we should ensure that we get revenue from the resources they extract. In many instances if we can reduce the front end costs to encourage business that is the greatest hurdle. Once companies start producing and extracting the resources the tax they would pay is offset by the revenue they can accumulate by extracting and selling the resources themselves.

Carbon Tax

Q) Do you support the implementation of a Carbon Tax? Why?

A) Yes. The north is seeing significant changes in its weather patterns due to climate change. These changes in our weather are affecting our wildlife and harvesting our wildlife allows residents to eat country food – helps to address the high cost of fresh meat for many northerners across the NWT. This accelerated change in our climate is due to the release of carbon, amongst other gases into the atmosphere. A Carbon Tax would have minimal impact on the north since we are not substantial carbon producers.

Debt

Q) The GNWT has hit the debt ceiling, even with the Federal Government's recently adjusted cap. How will you find the capital necessary to continue investing in infrastructure? And what will your capital priorities be: transportation, schools, or hospitals?

A) First, do a thorough review of programs and services being offered through-out the GNWT to see where we could reduce waste, duplication and inefficiency. I think if we did a thorough review and did it properly we could find additional funding to invest in infrastructure. This would not mean we would have to look at job cuts. The other thing I would do would be to lobby our MP Dennis Bevington to look at Federal programs and services for the NWT and see if we could expand the criteria, scope and application of this funding so it could cover more infrastructure investment. Capital priorities will be: hospitals, schools and transportation.

Youth

Q) What specific initiatives will you implement to aggressively engage our youth in contributing to the NWT economy either as skilled workers or professionals?

A) Try to reduce the administrative demands on the schools so teachers have more time interacting with the students and administrators would have more time interacting with students, parents, District Education Authorities, and supporting their teachers. Try to ensure that there are more options for youths in the schools besides the classroom. This could be classes in the trades, computers, business administration, art and drama, or home economics. Perhaps even music or drama. I would also encourage the parents of the youth to get involved in their child's education. If they need help to build up their skills to do this I would see what could be done for that.

Energy

Q) What are you going to do to harness our hydro potential in a meaningful way?

A) Take another serious look at the Taltston Hydro Project.

Cost of Living

Q) What are your ideas for lowering operating costs for business in the North?

A) First, I would look at supporting projects like the fibre optic cable link through the Dempster Highway to Inuvik and possibly down the Mackenzie Valley. I would also support more roads like the road from Inuvik to Tuk and down the Mackenzie Valley. Although fuel costs may be high, ground transportation is still the most reliable and economical. As well, a highway down the Mackenzie Valley could also be something that could tap into the barge system and make transportation much faster and easier. Sending things by barge and picking it up by ground transportation could save businesses money. If a deep water port or just a port would go into Tuktoyaktuk that would mean business might have access to cargo ships through ground transportation – again another means to save money.

Infrastructure

Q) What will you do to develop 'nation building' infrastructure such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway, the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link and energy projects?

A) First show the nation why these projects are important. Second, more importantly, show the Federal government and the private sector why these projects are important and how they would benefit too. Ensure that when we have Federal financial support, private sector financial support, and territorial financial support ready to go we have a large pool of NWT labour ready to start the work, sustain the work, and complete the work on time so the funding dollars stay in the North.

Exploration & Development

Q) What will you do to attract and encourage exploration and development in the NWT?

A) Encourage Dene Nations, Metis and Inuvialuit to outline an approach for companies to consult with them right off the bat. This would help them understand how to interact with the Aboriginal organizations so they would get on the same page right away. Also, keeping Corporate Tax rates low (or other factors in the cost of doing business) and improving the regulatory process so it is more efficient – help the companies avoid unnecessary red tape.

Thebacha

Michael Miltenberger

1. Devolution: this is a critical next step in our political evolution and I fully support the signing and implementation in the life of the 17th Assembly. Control of water, land and resource development are critical, decisions in the North, by Northerners, for Northerners. We have to use the processes already used in the Species at Risk Act, the Water Strategy and the Wildlife Act to get other Aboriginal Gov't's to join the negotiations.

2. Regulation: the Federal Gov't is waiting till the election is over to unveil what it plans to do in regard to regulatory reform.

Devolution is the answer. The delays in the current system clearly lie in Ottawa as the Boards meet all their timelines the vast majority of the time.

3. Corporate taxes, resource taxes, carbon taxes: the 17th Assembly will have to look at all these taxes as it plans the first budget. The 16th Assembly did not raise taxes or impose new ones due to the recession. As the world slip back into recession and the GNWT looks at the expenditure demands, the revenue projections and the economic landscape, this issue will be front and centre. The same pressures will continue to exist. Difficult face us as a gov't as we continue to manage our way through these difficult times. Increasing taxes during difficult economic times is not an approach I have favoured as Finance Minister.

4. Debt: the GNWT has not hit the debt ceiling. We are in active negotiations with Federal Finance on our borrowing limit, with a plan to conclude the process by the end of this fiscal year. Health centres, schools and housing are traditional capital priorities, but we have to try to address the whole range of capital needs. To do this the \$75 million currently targeted for capital for 2012-2013, will not be sufficient.

5. Youth: my question to the Chamber is what are you going to do to work with the GNWT and help us make sure the over \$300 million we now spend on education is wisely spent and what resources will your organization and members put on the table to make sure we have a highly trained northern work force, working together?

6. Energy: we are harnessing our hydro potential if you look at Snare, Blue Fish and Taltson. The Taltson has significant uncapped capacity.

The GNWT and its partners has spent millions getting ready and we now have all the approvals necessary for a project. The question for the 17th Assembly is where will the hydro be used in the north or ship it south. We need a partner with the technical and financial capacity to make this project a reality, as the next major step in our hydro strategy.

7. Cost of Living: the major initiative for lowering the operating costs for businesses has ben the rate restructuring, which has brought major savings to business in the diesel communities. Our goal is to see some of those saving also passed on to the consumers.

8. Infrastructure: planning for the Fibre Optic Link is well along and will benefit everyone up and down the Valley. The Tuk- Inuvik Highway is also a priority. Both these and other projects are dependent on the GNWT having the fiscal flexibility to invest in such critical projects and others, which is why our negotiations on our borrowing limit with Finance Canada ae so important.

9. Exploration and Development: devolution, signed and implemented in the life of the 17th Assembly.

Frame Lake

Duff Spence

Devolution:

The GNWT and the people of the NWT need to have increased control over our resources and resource development. This agreement in principle is only the first step in gaining control the revenues that will be generated by increased resource development that will be required for the NWT to prosper.

Regulation:

The regulatory regime will need to be rationalized to become a more predictable and an inclusive process. The regulatory regime should protect the environment and people but should not be a deterrent to resource development in the NWT.

Corporate Taxes:

Low corporate tax rate in the NWT allows registered companies to minimize tax liabilities not to increase investment. The GNWT will need to increase investment through other means, such as a rationalized regulator regime.

Resource Tax:

In future the GNWT will require increased revenue because of increase spending. A tax on resource development should not be the source of this revenue, but through increased funds through the Federal Government.

Carbon Tax:

I do not support a carbon tax at this time.

Debt:

Increase resource development in the key to increased wealth in the NWT and therefore increased available capital funds. Capital should be spent on the transportation infrastructure across the NWT to reduce the overall cost of living to the residents of the Territories.

Youth:

The education system should be supported to increase the number of graduates coming from Territorial High Schools to then have the required foundation skills to be successful in further training or education. Also, students should be exposed to a variety of opportunities available to them once they leave high school through job fairs, work experience, and presentation.

Energy:

While I support the development of new hydroelectric power sites because it is seen as a support for reducing the cost of living in the NWT and to increase business activity. The GNWT needs to understand that cost will need to be controlled to provide a service that is cost effective to the customers of this service. As well as a high level of reliability will also be a key factor for the success of this industry.

Cost of living:

Over the last 40 years the cost of living in Yellowknife has been reduced due to increased economic activity in the North. With increased activity more people are attracted to the North to work and live. With increased numbers of people causes increased competition that reduces cost. Therefore, to decrease the cost of living in Yellowknife the GNWT will need to increase resource development through a more predictable and inclusive regulatory regime.

Infrastructure:

The GNWT will need to focus on these types of project to increase accessibility to remote areas of the NWT thereby reducing the cost of living and growing our economy. I will support these projects understanding the GNWT does not have to be the only investor and will need to share the cost and risk for these large projects.

Exploration and Development:

I will work with the GNWT to develop a regulatory regime that is predictable and inclusive that protects the environment and people of the NWT but also development that is required to grow our economy.

Bernard LeBlanc

Question 1: I am pleased with this progress, I believe that negotiation between government and the native nations will be rendered a lot more productive by eliminating the third party. Obviously land claims will be on the agenda, realizing what is and what is not part of the land claims entitlement will probably be a point on contention between the negotiating parties.

Question 2: Well my personal campaign is based on this issue. I think that forcing corporation local or international to abide to policies that defy our Canadian Charter of Rights and our own NWT Labour Standards Act does nothing to promote confidence in the way we want to do business. I believe that any agreement between the Aboriginal gov or corporation and a corporation wishing to exploit the resources on the lands claim in legitimacy, should be on royalties to be agreed on between the two parties. The only way for the government to be involved should be to insure that our Charter of Rights and Freedom as well as this government Labour Standard Act are respected.

Question 3: Since we are mostly a resource economy at this point, I think corporate taxes should consider the difficulties of accessing these resources here in the NWT, The nonexistent infrastructure and power supplies in almost of the NWT slated for exploration and development, require substantial investments just to reach these resources. Any corporate tax should take into account the impact on these possibilities.

Question 6: I think that my answer to question three would also help in the solution to the debt load of our government. Promoting our resources and making them more accessible would also guarantee more revenues to the Gov, and more accountability, would also help us balance a budget. How did a 70 million dollars bridge end up costing 180 million and counting?

Question 7: I believe in solving problems by remediating the situation that potentially cause them. Here in the north we have a curriculum that originates from the south, we have also adopted the schedule from the southern school boards. Right here in Yellowknife for five months out of the year we have very limited daylight time. For five months we only have three to five hours of daylight. Any living being needs daylight to function to the best of its abilities.

I think even more so for our younger citizens where daylight in my view is essential to growth. I think that the class schedules in our school system should be rearranged to accommodate the needs of our youth. In this way minimizing the effects of the winter blues, cabin fever and even the more serious cases of depression. And depression is a serious concern among our youth. And learning anything while in such a state of mind is a real challenge.

Question 8: This again brings me to the Geothermal I address in my campaign. I seriously think that the city of YK proposal of a so called geothermal falls very short of the real potential of this energy source. It is known that power can be extracted from geothermal source as well as heat. I would submit some proposals to the government to favour a more in depth feasibility study of the potential of con mine. My research and some consultations with engineers lead me to believe that it could benefit all of Yellowknife residents and environment.

Question 11: See answer three.

Wendy Bisaro

DEVOLUTION

What is your position on the proposed devolution agreement? What do you see as the greatest benefits and greatest obstacles associated with devolution?

I support the devolution of decision making to Northerners. The greatest benefit will be the control that we will have over our land management, over appointments to NWT boards, and the resource revenue dollars that will be diverted to the NWT instead of Ottawa. Any final agreement must ensure that the NWT can keep those revenues or will allow us to raise additional revenues.

The greatest obstacle to a final agreement is the deep divide which now exists between the GNWT and aboriginal governments as a result of the signing of the Agreement-in-Principle this past February. The 17th Assembly has to find a way to bring all parties to the table to negotiate the Final Agreement. And all parties have to be willing to make compromises during those negotiations. If we work together we can get an agreement that everyone can accept.

REGULATION

The NWT's regulatory regime is seen to be a deterrent to resource investment. What will you do to overhaul the regulatory regime in the NWT?

The NWT's resource management system is based on the constitutionally entrenched land claims agreements. This cannot be changed easily. The real problem lies with the failure of the federal government to properly educate developers and the general public. There has also been a failure to fully fund and to fully implement this system. The real solutions lie with full funding and implementation which requires a devolution deal that allows GNWT to take over these responsibilities with adequate funding. We need land use planning and better coordination to provide the certainty that developers want.

CORPORATE TAXES

Corporate Income Tax rates in the NWT were once among the lowest in the country. The rate was recently raised and now other jurisdictions look much more favourable. Do you support a Corporate Income Tax rate that positions the NWT as a favoured jurisdiction for investment? If yes, what will you do about it?

I support consideration of a decrease to the NWT Corporate Income Tax. But any decrease has to be considered in light of ALL the implications that will result.

Tax rates are not the primary consideration for businesses to flourish in any given jurisdiction. A reduction in our corporate tax rate will not attract more business as it will be offset by reduced territorial formula funding. Corporate taxes cannot be counted on to build fiscal sustainability. When GNWT cut the corporate tax rate for big business, we actually lost money because the funding from the federal government was cut because of our lower than average tax effort compared to other jurisdictions. It is difficult at best for the GNWT to compete with Alberta corporate tax rates.

RESOURCE TAXES

Do you support the implementation of a Resource Tax during the life of this Assembly? Why?

Yes. Until we are receiving resource revenues directly, we must consider a resource tax as a potential source of much-needed revenue. The combined tax and royalty regime for resource extraction in the

NWT is comparatively low in relation to Canada and the rest of the world. The NWT now has a Heritage Fund, but no funds to put into it. A resource tax will provide dollars which can go into the Heritage Fund, and can provide dollars for our never-ending list of capital projects.

CARBON TAX

Do you support the implementation of a Carbon Tax? Why?

Yes. Like a resource tax a carbon tax must be considered as a potential source of much-needed revenue. The NWT has to get away from our sustained use of fossil fuels. Little has happened to date; we all need an incentive to do the right thing it seems. Any carbon tax has to be designed to ensure that we protect the low income and remote communities.

DEBT

The GNWT has hit the debt ceiling, even with the Federal Government's recently adjusted cap. How will you find the capital necessary to continue investing in infrastructure? And what will your capital priorities be: transportation, schools, or hospitals?

It is important to note that our debt is comparatively low in relation to most other countries around the world. We will be at the ceiling for only a few years, and if the cards are played right, will soon have room within the debt limit to increase our investment in infrastructure. There are other possibilities, one of which is to consider P3 projects – but extreme caution is warranted if we do that. Many P3s in Canada have not had positive outcomes. Should Canada reinstate the Stimulus Funding Programs that will be a great opportunity to access capital dollars for infrastructure.

The next few GNWT capital budgets will not be very large. Which projects make it to the list will have to be determined by several factors. All projects will have to be carefully scrutinized and accepted on the basis of need, safety factors, age of the asset, etc.

My priorities for capital spending are:

- 1) Stanton Territorial Hospital renovations
- 2) Highways – Mackenzie Valley, Slave Geologic Province, fibre optic link
- 3) Yellowknife schools – JH Sissons retrofit, complete the renovation to Mildred Hall School, and schedule expansion for Ecole Alain St-Cyr.
- 4) Stand-alone Campus for Aurora College in Yellowknife

YOUTH

What specific initiatives will you implement to aggressively engage our youth in contributing to the NWT economy either as skilled workers or professionals?

There needs to be an evaluation of the 'Come Make Your Mark' campaign. If it proved successful continuation of that initiative can be one avenue. We need to evaluate the programs offered in both our high schools and at Aurora College, to determine if expansion of trades and business administration program are warranted. I believe it is and that is another opportunity to get NWT youth engaged. We need programs which have relevance to the employment realities of today. A stand-alone Yellowknife campus for the College will help with that, and it must be a high priority for the next Assembly.

The previous government made some inroads in expanding apprenticeship programs; that progress should be continued. The Department of ECE must also make it easier for NWT students to get into and attend trades / apprenticeship programs.

ENERGY

What are you going to do to harness our hydro potential in a meaningful way?

I support the revised approach to the Taltson Expansion Project by NTPC and NT Hydro; that they will not push ahead with the project regardless of power purchase agreements with the mines; that they will consider selling the power that will result from the expansion outside the NWT. We must seek the support of the Government of Canada for serious dollars to invest in hydro development; Yukon got \$71M from the Federal government two years ago for the Mayo hydro dam upgrade and expansion.

COST OF LIVING

What are your ideas for lowering operating costs for businesses in the North?

We need to concentrate on costs that we control such as energy. GNWT should be promoting energy conservation and renewable energy.

We need to complete the housing analysis currently underway, and make changes to how NWT Housing Corporation and local Housing Authorities operate, to reduce the cost of housing for everyone.

INFRASTRUCTURE

What will you do to develop "nation building" infrastructure such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway, the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link and energy projects?

I support a Mackenzie Valley Highway and a fibre optic link. It is highly unlikely that the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline will proceed given low natural gas prices and abundant supply in other, less expensive deposits in North America. GNWT should turn its attention to supporting local and regional business development through economic diversification and import substitution.

EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

What will you do to attract and encourage exploration and development in the NWT?

We have to reduce the regulatory stumbling blocks which seem to stand in the way of companies right now.

The GNWT has little if any control over commodity prices which are the largest drivers for mineral and hydrocarbon development. Our government and the federal government could certainly do a much better job promoting the NWT as a place to do business, and could better explain our regulatory system to potential developers. The larger resource companies are able and willing to do business in the NWT. We should learn from their successful approach and promote it.

Great Slave

Patrick Scott

DEVOLUTION

What is your position on the proposed devolution agreement? What do you see as the greatest benefits and greatest obstacles associated with devolution?

I believe the nature and pace of development in this jurisdiction should be controlled by northerners and we should be the primary beneficiaries of resource development. Devolution will only be achieved and implemented if the GNWT, Aboriginal governments and Canada collaborate. Devolution will only be of long term benefit to NWT if it is accompanied by a resource revenue sharing agreement that is favourable to the GNWT and the Aboriginal Governments.

Michael Miltenberger says: *"The current federal cap proposal would amount to about \$60 million per year. The GNWT has committed to sharing 25 per cent of this amount with Aboriginal governments. This would leave the GNWT with a maximum \$45 million per year in non-renewable resource royalty revenues, equivalent to less than 3 per cent of GNWT 2009-10 operating and infrastructure expenditures...Even with resource revenue sharing, the GNWT will depend on the federal government for the majority of its revenues for the foreseeable future."* Why are we prepared to accept so little from our resources?

REGULATION

The NWT's regulatory regime is seen to be a deterrent to resource investment. What will you do to overhaul the regulatory regime in the NWT?

Revisions to the regulatory regime would be acceptable to the extent that they result in a more effective regime, and that they ensure long term sustainable development, while respecting the constitutionally protected existing land claim agreements. It is difficult to say more until the results of Canada's review process is made public.

CORPORATE TAXES

Corporate Income Tax rates in the NWT were once among the lowest in the country. The rate was recently raised and now other jurisdictions look much more favourable. Do you support a Corporate Income Tax rate that positions the NWT as a favored jurisdiction for investment? If yes, what will you do about it?

Lowering corporate rates by themselves won't necessarily attract new industries or businesses. There are other factors such as market, basic costs of doing business and regulations, which also have an impact on corporate decisions.

RESOURCE TAXES

Do you support the implementation of a Resource Tax during the life of this Assembly?

I have not made up my mind to either be for a resource tax or against it. I need to learn more about the implications of taking that step.

CARBON TAX

Do you support the implementation of a Carbon Tax? Why?

I have not made my mind up on whether a carbon tax is the most effective tool to reduce the carbon footprint of the NWT. However I could not support a carbon tax proposal that has disproportionate impact on the lower income residents of the NWT. Before we make a decision on a carbon tax I would like to see an analysis on the effectiveness of carbon taxes other jurisdictions in Canada, such as British Columbia. How effective, in particular, have these carbon taxes been in reducing green house gas emissions.

DEBT

The GNWT has hit the debt ceiling, even with the Federal Government's recently adjusted cap. How will you find the capital necessary to continue investing in infrastructure? And what will your capital priorities be: transportation, schools, or hospitals?

I can't respond authoritatively to these questions until, as a new MLA, I have the opportunity to more detailed information on the financial situation of the GNWT. I do believe, however, that part of the answer lies in generating new revenues through economic diversification and effective means to reverse revenues losses from high numbers of workers who reside outside of the NWT. My capital priorities as an MLA will be to support the education of our youth and the health care needs of our residents.

YOUTH

What specific initiatives will you implement to aggressively engage our youth in contributing to the NWT economy either as skilled workers or professionals? As an individual MLA, I won't be able to unilaterally implement any youth initiative. Since we do not have extensive post secondary educational opportunities in the North our young people move south. There are limited training opportunities for youth in relation to the trades. I will support the earmarking of additional funds for Aurora College to develop apprenticeship programs modeled on those provided by NAIT and SAIT. I will also support the development of a University in Yellowknife, so we can train our youth as professionals here in the North and provide new opportunities for them.

ENERGY

What are you going to do to harness our hydro potential in a meaningful way? Hydro power, if it is to be developed requires a grid, which is costly. According to the recent Government review, we do not have the client base to recoup the costs of building a NWT grid. The existing model is based on private corporation(s) developing an energy grid and operating it on a profit/loss basis. I would instead prefer to see energy grids developed and operated in the NWT as public infrastructure, the same way as roads currently are.

COST OF LIVING

What are your ideas for lowering operating costs for businesses in the North? As an MLA I will consider a range of proposals designed to lower fuel, power and transportation costs in the NWT. Any lasting solution will require cooperation between business governments and also reduces living costs.

INFRASTRUCTURE

What will you do to develop “nation building” infrastructure such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway, the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link and energy projects? I will support major infrastructure proposals that require GNWT funding only if it is clear that they will ensure the long term sustainability of NWT communities and priority is given in their construction and operation to NWT workers and NWT based businesses.

EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

What will you do to attract and encourage exploration and development in the NWT? As MLA I will urge the GNWT to complete outstanding land claim and self-government agreements as well as land use planning processes as soon as possible. Once these are completed it will be clear to industry what the rules are for development, and this will put them in stronger positions to make investment decisions.



Julie Coad
NWT Chamber Of Commerce

September 20, 2011

Dear Julie,

Thank you for the e-mail and list of questions that you and the NWT Chamber Of Commerce have prepared for candidates in the upcoming Territorial election.

I appreciate the opportunity to address these questions and help you understand my view on arts and culture in the Northwest Territories (NWT). I apologize for not getting this response to you by Monday, September 19th as requested. I did not receive these questions until late in the day Friday, September 16th.

As I have continually said over the last four years, I believe that the test of any policy developed or initiative undertaken by the Government of the NWT is that it should be for the benefit of the people. Further, the goal of government should be to provide services that ensure that people are healthy, educated and live in safe communities where they are able to contribute and live life to its fullest potential.

The following are responses to your questions:

DEVOLUTION

What is your position on the proposed devolution agreement? What do you see as the greatest benefits and greatest obstacles associated with devolution?

I support devolution. In addition to moving up to 150 positions to the NWT with an additional \$65.3 million added to our economy to fund these new NWT roles and responsibilities I believe that the greatest benefit of devolution is that we, the people of the NWT, will finally be the ones making decisions on how public lands, water and resources get used and developed in the NWT.

Currently these decisions are made by people in Ottawa. Many of these current decision makers have never been to the NWT or understand the realities of living and working in our Territory.

The biggest obstacle is ensuring that all people of the NWT feel that they are part of this agreement. Currently the Dene, who represent 31% of the NWT population, do not feel that they have been adequately involved in the development of the AIP or any of the on-going negotiations. I have talked with a number of Dene who indicate that they don't disagree with Devolution but rather that they feel they have been disrespected by the Premier and the GNWT in the process to date. The Dene are an critical part of our Territory. One of the first priorities of the 17th Assembly should be to re-establish a respectful working relationship with the Dene on this file.

REGULATION

The NWT's regulatory regime is seen to be a deterrent to resource investment. What will you do to overhaul the regulatory regime in the NWT?

Protecting, managing and developing resources in the NWT requires strong partnership between Northerners, Aboriginal governments, the Federal government and the GNWT. In the NWT, this process is referred to as the Regulatory Regime.

The Regulatory Regime is perceived as too long and cumbersome. I believe that with devolution the GNWT, Aboriginal governments and people of the NWT will be able to re-design the regulator regime with the best interest of Northerners in mind. Unfortunately, although in negotiations, the devolution process is going to take time.

As a result, the GNWT needs to take some immediate action. Currently many delays in the regulator process take place due to limited membership on some of the different regulatory boards. The Federal Government has been slow in appointing members which has caused unnecessary and costly delays to current and future projects. I believe the GNWT must put pressure on the Federal Government to make sure all positions on the different regulatory related boards are filled and that they meet on a regular basis. In addition, the GNWT must put continued pressure on the Federal Government to work with the GNWT, Aboriginal Governments as well as other partners and industry to eliminate any duplication of services and redundant functions supported by the Regulatory Regime.

CORPORATE TAXES

Corporate Income Tax rates in the NWT were once among the lowest in the country. The rate was recently raised and now other jurisdictions look much more favourable. Do you support a Corporate Income Tax rate that positions the NWT as a favoured jurisdiction for investment? If yes, what will you do about it?

Yes, I support a Corporate Tax rate that positions the NWT as a favoured jurisdiction for investment.

Currently, according to "Canadian Revenue Agency" the NWT actually has one of the lowest Corporate tax rates in the country at 11.5%. Only New Brunswick (10%) and British Columbia (10%) are lower.

These rates are in effect on January 1, 2011, and may change during 2011.

Province or Territory	Lower Rate	Higher Rate
NFLD & Labrador	4%	14%
Nova Scotia	4.5%	16%
P.E.I.	1%	16%
New Brunswick	5%	11%*
Ontario	4.5%	12%**
Manitoba	nil	12%
Saskatchewan	4.5%***	12%
B.C.	2.5%	10%
Yukon	4%	15%
NWT	4%	11.5%
Nunavut	4%	12%

* 10% effective July 1, 2011

** 11.5% effective July 1, 2011

*** 2% effective July 1, 2011

As an MLA in the 17th Assembly I will work with all of the Members and have the GNWT consult with industry and other stakeholders to determine what an appropriate corporate tax rate for the NWT should be. This should be done with careful consideration of potential costs to the GNWT and impact on programs and services offered to all residents of the NWT that these potential tax changes may cause.

RESOURCE TAXES

Do you support the implementation of a Resource Tax during the life of this Assembly? Why?

Currently the GNWT does not receive royalties from the extraction of non-renewable resources in the NWT. Once the Devolution Negotiations are concluded and the responsibility for administering public land, water and resources is transferred to the NWT the need for resource tax is redundant.

However, as indicated previously, the final transfer or responsibility for public land, water and resource administration is still a ways off. Until the transfer of responsibility is a reality the GNWT can act on its authority to levy an income tax on the income earned from the extraction of resources from within the NWT. A mining tax can be levied. If it is brought forward it could be eliminated once resource royalties begin flowing to the people of the NWT.

There are some concerns. It has been suggested that implementing this type of tax could adversely affect the GNWT's Federal Transfer Payments. This could mean that tax of this type could provide no net benefit but increase costs and reduce profitability for industry (resulting in decreased corporate taxes).

Ultimately, although it is possible, more research and consideration is required before a Resource Tax should be implemented. If it is determined that there is no net benefit I suggest that no resource taxes should be added.

CARBON TAX

Do you support the implementation of a Carbon Tax? Why?

I support further analysis and consideration of a Carbon Tax in the NWT. The GNWT's Revenue Options paper suggests that an NWT Carbon Tax can be "cost neutral". If this is true, a Carbon Tax makes sense. However, there have been significant comments that a Carbon Tax will not and cannot be "cost neutral". More research, consideration and public consultation needs to be done to clarify these contradictions before a Carbon Tax can be moved forward.

As a note, the Obama Administration and Congress are being called upon to implement a carbon tax or some other similar alternative. If they do, and there is a real possibility that they might, the Canadian government will follow suit.

As such a Carbon Tax may be a reality for us in the NWT whether it is supported or not. I suggest that a Carbon Tax designed by Northerners for Northerners would be more responsive and appropriate for all of our residents as opposed to one designed and implemented by people who have never lived or even visited the NWT.

DEBT

The GNWT has hit the debt ceiling, even with the Federal Government's recently adjusted cap. How will you find the capital necessary to continue investing in infrastructure? And what will your capital priorities be: transportation, schools, or hospitals?

To address this problem there has been some discussion about increasing the GNWT Debt limit. We don't need to raise the debt limit. Instead we need to work with the Federal Government to have them recognize that self financing or self liquidating debt should not count against the GNWT's debt limit.

Currently the NWT Housing Corp and the NWT Power Corporations debt counts against the GNWT's debt limit. The debt of both of these organizations is self liquidating and no payments are made by the GNWT. Also, the majority of the Deh Cho Bridge debt will be self financing (based on tolls). Recently the Federal Government also decided that things like the Opportunities Fund (which they gave to the NWT to help raise money) should also count against the borrowing limit. If these four items were not counted against the GNWT's debt

limit the GNWT would be a long way away from its current limit. This would free the GNWT to borrow for required and essential projects such as Stanton Territorial Hospital.

Finding room within the debt limit is not a license to blindly increase spending. In fact, I believe that the GNWT should have a self imposed limit to our debt limit. Specifically, I think the GNWT should maintain a 20% cushion on our debt limit which would ensure that there is always a \$100,000,000 cushion in case of emergencies.

This will help us maintain our Aa1 credit rating.

Infrastructure priorities need to be determined based on immediate need (crumbling health centres and highways) and what provides the most significant economic opportunities and government cost savings (operational and program).

YOUTH

What specific initiatives will you implement to aggressively engage our youth in contributing to the NWT economy either as skilled workers or professionals?

There are a number of initiatives started, or supported, during the 16th Legislative Assembly that I would like to expand upon. For example, the mobile trades facilities supported by Aurora College are very effective. This type of service and the partnerships with industry and Aboriginal governments that make them a reality must be continued and enhanced. All regions could benefit from the expansion of these programs.

In addition, organizations like the Mine Training Society (with all of their partner organizations) have helped address these types of concerns. I would like to see an enhance partnership with the GNWT in these areas with increased focus on the promotion of the programs to youth both in larger centres and smaller remote communities.

I would also like to work with Aurora College, ITI and other partners to encourage youth to consider becoming entrepreneurs. We need young people to take some risks and pursue small business opportunities throughout the NWT. Specific money should be identified within the Support to Entrepreneurs and Economic Development Program (SEED) for youth businesses and additional technical support for first time youth business endeavours should be provided.

ENERGY

What are you going to do to harness our hydro potential in a meaningful way?

I want to see the expansion of Taltson. To make this a reality the NWT Hydro Corporation must explore alternate partners and end users. The NWT based

diamond mines are not the solution. We must consider southern customers like Alberta, Avalon Rare Earths and some of our Territorial communities as potential customers.

I believe the potential of Taltson is huge.

In addition, we need to keep working with the Sahtu to explore the option of hydro on the Bear River. Clean energy from the Bear River could be used as an alternate energy source for a future pipeline or other opportunities in the Sahtu Region. Progress is being made on this file and needs to be raised in profile and importance in the 17th Assembly.

Also, within the NWT we have the opportunity for other smaller hydro projects that could be used to support industry throughout the NWT. The Tli Cho have opportunities with the Nailii project. Power from this project can be used to both provide clean energy to the residents of the region but also for mining projects currently being considered in the region. I would like the GNWT to support the Tli Cho in this endeavour.

COST OF LIVING

What are your ideas for lowering operating costs for businesses in the North?

The GNWT, through Arctic Energy Alliance, should increase subsidies for small business interested in incorporating modern technologies (like pellet boilers, solar panels, wind generators, and led lighting) that will help them control their increasing operational costs. The cost of implementing these technologies can be high but the long term savings and cost control can be significant. If the GNWT helps with implementation costs (by way of simple rebates) more businesses would be in a position to take this important step.

In addition, the GNWT should direct the NT Power Corporation to allow progressive businesses, who produce more power than they need, to sell that power back to the Power Corporation (or at least allow them to bank it for periods of the year where their power consumption is higher).

INFRASTRUCTURE

What will you do to develop "nation building" infrastructure such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway, the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link and energy projects?

I have been very supportive of both the Mackenzie Valley Highway and the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link. Both are significant reality changers for the people of the NWT.

As an MLA I will continue to lobby the Federal Government to move forward with the Mackenzie Valley Highway. All members of the Legislature need to be supportive and work with all stakeholders to make this a reality.

With respect to the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link the GNWT is currently awaiting a business case study. Once this is received the GNWT will be in a better position to seek out potential partners to make this link a reality. As an MLA I will continue to work with the GNWT and potential partners (including the Federal Government) to make this a reality.

EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

What will you do to attract and encourage exploration and development in the NWT?

Everything that I have said above (i.e. finalize devolution, corporate tax review, improve the regulatory regime, etc..) will help to attract and encourage responsible exploration and development in the NWT. In addition, further progress can be made with the successful resolution of outstanding Land Claim and Aboriginal Self Government negotiations in the NWT.

The GNWT must work with Aboriginal partners and governments in the NWT to bring these negotiations to a successful resolution.

If you have any additional questions please let me know.

Sincerely,



Glen Abernethy
Candidate for MLA
Great Slave Riding

Kam Lake

Dave Ramsay

- 1) I have been very vocal in my support of the AIP on devolution and will continue to support it. The greatest benefits to the territory will be more financial resources to help pay for programs and services, and we will finally get a part of the resource royalties. Going forward it is imperative that we negotiate the best possible deal for all residents. There will be some growing pains with taking on the added responsibility.
- 2) Timely appointments to boards is the first step. Work needs to continue with the federal government on finding the best way forward. We need investment back and cannot afford to wait.
- 3) Yes I support a CIT rate that is competitive, and gives us the best chance at attracting and retaining businesses. Over the past 8 years i have been a staunch supporter of a competitive CIT.
- 4) No, I don't a resource tax, we should be concentrating on a minerals strategy and getting investment back not continues scarring it away.
- 5) No I am not convinced it is what we need. The cost of living is already too high here.
- 6) We need to continue to negotiate with Ottawa on how our borrowing is accounted for. Over half of the debt can be described as self liquidating, such as the NWTPC and NWTHC. If this was adjusted it would certainly free us up to pursue other projects. We have many things to be looking at but for me finding the 250 million for Stanton is a top priority.
- 7) I support the review of the Student Financial assistance program, and have been vocal about expanding financial resources to those entering the trades.
- 8) I have supported the development of the NWT Hydro strategy. Our attention should now focus on actually doing something, instead of merely talking about it.
- 9) The recent change in how power rates are charged has finally given businesses in small and remote communities a fair and fighting chance at survival.
- 10) I have given my support to projects like the MGP and the Mackenzie Valley Highway, if elected I will continue to champion development of our Territory.
- 11) Investment is not just going to come back to us. We have to have the attitude of let's go and get it back! We need a mineral strategy, we need to focus our attention on growing our economy. There has been too much of an imbalance over the past 4 years, with more of a focus on the environment, which is important yes, but it has hurt our economy.

Range Lake

Daryl Dolyunny

DEVOLUTION

What is your position on the proposed devolution agreement? What do you see as the greatest benefits and greatest obstacles associated with devolution?

I agree with the need to proceed immediately with negotiation of a devolution agreement that brings home the decision-making on land, water and resources to the Northwest Territories. As importantly, it needs to include a fair revenue sharing agreement so we can reinvest in our health and education systems and other programs critical to our communities. I believe one of the important jobs of the next Assembly is to work with our Aboriginal Government partners to address the concerns they have raised with the current process.

REGULATION

The NWT's regulatory regime is seen to be a deterrent to resource investment. What will you do to overhaul the regulatory regime in the NWT?

While the primary responsibility for the regulatory regime in the Northwest Territories still rests with the federal government, I strongly believe there is a role for the GNWT in ensuring that we explore all options to simplify and streamline the system to ensure there is greater investment in the exploration for and development of our non-renewable resources.

I believe there are ways the current regime can be improved to make it more efficient while, at the same time, ensuring that development proceeds in a manner that minimizes the impact on our land, water and wildlife. I am supportive of the current federal initiative to review the NWT regulatory regime and will push the next Legislative Assembly and Cabinet to support initiatives that make the current regime work in a more effective and efficient manner.

CORPORATE TAXES

Corporate Income Tax rates in the NWT were once among the lowest in the country. The rate was recently raised and now other jurisdictions look much more favourable. Do you support a Corporate Income Tax rate that positions the NWT as a favoured jurisdiction for investment? If yes, what will you do about it?

In general, I believe the private sector creates jobs and it is the government's role to create an environment that will allow them to do that. If elected, I would work with my colleagues from other parts of the territory to ensure we have created favourable conditions for the private sector to grow and prosper and provide greater opportunities in all our communities.

RESOURCE TAXES

Do you support the implementation of a Resource Tax during the life of this Assembly? Why?

No.

CARBON TAX

Do you support the implementation of a Carbon Tax? Why?

I believe it is important that we, as a territory, develop strategies to reduce our carbon footprint (see my answer on energy). However, in a territory where many of our communities remain dependent on fossil fuels for electricity, I do not believe a Carbon Tax is an effective tool to realize this end goal.

DEBT

The GNWT has hit the debt ceiling, even with the Federal Government's recently adjusted cap. How will you find the capital necessary to continue investing in infrastructure? And what will your capital priorities be: transportation, schools, or hospitals?

While in the short-term, we need to address the artificial debt ceiling imposed by Ottawa, the long-term solution needs to be increasing revenues to fund our capital priorities. This includes creating an environment that encourages the private sector to invest in our territory and negotiating a fair resource revenue sharing agreement with the federal government.

There are many critical infrastructure needs in our territory but, as a priority, we need to ensure we have quality health and education facilities in every region.

YOUTH

What specific initiatives will you implement to aggressively engage our youth in contributing to the NWT economy either as skilled workers or professionals?

I believe we need to put a greater emphasis on education and training opportunities for our youth. This includes reviewing the Student Financial Assistance Program to ensure it is meeting the needs of our post-secondary students. Providing more support for early childhood development programs that encourage educational excellence and help young working families with heavy child care costs.

Finally, I have advocated for a review of the current Aurora College facilities in Yellowknife to look at their effectiveness in attracting and keeping students in post-secondary programs that will give them the skills to enter the workforce.

ENERGY

What are you going to do to harness our hydro potential in a meaningful way?

The development of our significant hydro potential represents an important economic and environmental opportunity for our territory. The development of greater hydro capacity will provide important economic opportunities for northern businesses increase the reliability of our electricity system and may provide opportunities for cheaper electricity over the longer-term. As importantly, it will allow us to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels for the generation of electricity.

COST OF LIVING

What are your ideas for lowering operating costs for businesses in the North?

As a businessperson, I am all too familiar with dealing with the high cost of doing business in the North. Unfortunately, there is no easy answer to this issue but one thing the next Assembly can do is ensure that we create a good climate for businesses to operate in the North.

INFRASTRUCTURE

What will you do to develop "nation building" infrastructure such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway, the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link and energy projects?

I am generally supportive of projects such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway, a fibre optic link through the valley and energy projects such as the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline or the Taltson Hydro Project. At the same time, we must look at these projects realistically. Each of these projects, on their own, will require significant investment from the federal government and the private sector.

One of the first jobs of the next Legislative Assembly will be to review each of these projects and develop a strategic approach to moving these forward. This will mean that we will need to establish priority projects and work with the federal government on how we can fund specific projects.

EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

What will you do to attract and encourage exploration and development in the NWT?

The NWT has seen a significant reduction in exploration and development investment over the past few years and this reduction has put a great strain on many businesses in Yellowknife and other parts of the territory.

As I noted above, it is government's job to create a climate that encourages investment by the private sector. This means working with the federal government and other levels of government to make the regulatory regime more efficient, avoiding disincentives to investment such as new taxes.

Beaton Mackenzie

1) Devolution: I support the agreement in principle. This is an important step in giving the NWT a greater voice in controlling their resources and direction of its economy.

2) Regulation: An article in the local newspaper stated that the federal government has pointed out some of the problems associated with the present regulatory system. To overcome these areas of complexity, I would suggest setting up a committee to review the federal report and consult the affected parties to make changes in the post devolution management.

3) Corporate taxes: I do support that motion for corporations. For they place revenue back into their investment for maximize benefits of the corporation.

4) Resources Taxes: We have to be competitive with other provinces. Taxes on resources should be handled with consideration of the post devolution agreement.

5) Carbon Tax: I believe that we should have one, BC has one that they use their revenue to invest in energy projects. We could use that revenue for hydro projects or a new hospital.

6) Debt: I strongly believe that it is important to be more careful in the future in our designs of public projects. I would give priority to capital projects like a hospital, trades programs and state of the art fibre links.

7) Youth: Increase training enrollment in trades and technology. We need to place more emphasis into the education curriculum, and focus for the shortage of trade's people in the future.

8) Energy: I would encourage industry to invest in clean energy planning of a industrial project. We need to work with industry in streamlining regulatory systems to advance hydro projects.

9) Cost of Living: Energy conversation, multi-use facilities within communities will lower cost of construction and maintenance in remote communities.

10) Infrastructure: We have to make it inviting for investment to show that we are looking in the future for resources and technology.

11) Exploration & Development: Show that the government and Aboriginal groups are interested in promoting development in their natural resources.

Weledeh

Re-elect

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Following is my response to your questionnaire. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.

DEVOLUTION

What is your position on the proposed devolution agreement? What do you see as the greatest benefits and greatest obstacles associated with devolution?

Response:

The Agreement in Principle (AIP) for devolution of land and resource responsibilities from the Government of Canada to GNWT is a start, but the friction and uncooperative result that I predicted without meaningful involvement of Aboriginal governments is becoming a reality, and must be resolved. As well, there are many costs either not addressed or underestimated in the AIP that must be in the Final Agreement, for example the burgeoning management legacy of squatters on federal lands due to the absolute lack of federal regulation; and the anticipated costs of information technology needs incorporate these new responsibilities into the GNWT lexicon. The major benefit of devolution is the gaining of new authority, the ability to have our own say over how our land and resources are sustainably managed. Obstacles include 1) our failure to initiate a timely and comprehensive public discussion to establish what a unique northern sustainable management regime for land and resources really is – currently the intent is to simply adopt mirror legislation to that of the federal government; and 2) the inability to effectively implement any final agreement without at least a majority of Aboriginal governments participating as willing and collaborative partners.

REGULATION

The NWT's regulatory regime is seen to be a deterrent to resource investment. What will you do to overhaul the regulatory regime in the NWT?

Response: The NWT's regulatory regime consists of boards such as the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and its sister boards in each of the settlement areas throughout the NWT. These boards regulate and licence resource development projects. A similar regulatory structure exists in the Inuvialuit settlement area.

The NWT's regulatory regime is entrenched in the land claim and self-government agreements that were signed between the government of Canada and the respective claimant

A leader you can trust

Authorized by Louise Dundas Matthews,
official agent for Bob Bromley, 867 446-3180

groups. This limits what the GNWT can do because to change the regulatory regime all existing agreements with Aboriginal groups would have to be amended. That said, the regulatory regime will improve incrementally and, in my opinion, swiftly once we appreciate that regulatory success can best be achieved when the respective claimant groups and the people they represent succeed.

In practical terms this means that resource developers that enhance the human, economic and environmental well-being of our First Nations settlement groups, and all residents through the GNWT, will find their time in the regulatory process less arduous.

Unlike provinces, we are a partnership of people scattered throughout the NWT in a dynamic and rapidly changing political environment. So, in many respects our regulatory regime reflects our political regime in that decision making power is distributed between federal and territorial governments with the rights and interests of Aboriginal people legally enshrined in our regulatory process. That forms part of land claim and self-government agreements. The process was uniquely designed to give people some control over the scale and pace of development of their resources.

Until current efforts underway in the GNWT's devolution negotiations come to fruition, we need an effective regulatory management system. Problems are well recognized and have been repeatedly stated. The current regime is challenged because of the lack of federal support to fully implement it. It suffers from ongoing failure of the federal government to make timely appointments of people to board vacancies to such an extreme degree that Boards can not meet quorum to meet, and / or they lack the capacity to do their work. The system must be fully funded, and never has been. The absence of land use plans, especially in unsettled claim areas, prevents sound advance planning that would avoid many of the issues that are coming up and causing delays. These issues have been clearly identified in several prior reviews, yet remain ignored so far.

I have demanded GNWT keep its appointed Board members up to date. I will push to get the federal government to do the same, and to recognize and fulfill their commitments to appropriately fund the northern boards. I will push to get Land Use Plans in place, or at least a Land Use Framework for unsettled claim areas.

Capacity issues require a training response, and I would seek to address that directly.

CORPORATE TAXES

Corporate Income Tax rates in the NWT were once among the lowest in the country. The rate was recently raised and now other jurisdictions look much more favourable. Do you support a Corporate Income Tax rate that positions the NWT as a favored jurisdiction for investment? If yes, what will you do about it?

Response: The 16th Assembly did not raise corporate rates, however the previous Assembly did recognize that in the attempt to corporate tax rates, the government overdid it, and thus the rates were returned to a more acceptable level. According to the Canada Revenue Agency the NWT's corporate tax rate is still one of the lowest in Canada. At the low end corporations pay 4% which is on par with the Yukon and Nunavut. Only Manitoba has a lower rate at 0%; and, at the high end 11.5%. Alberta, our richest province, also has a lower rate but despite its riches, recently found itself in a deficit budget position.

These rates are in effect on January 1, 2011, and may change during 2011.

Province or territory	Lower rate	Higher rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	4%	14%
Nova Scotia	4.5%	16%
Prince Edward Island	1%	16%
New Brunswick	5%	11%*
Ontario	4.5%	12%**
Manitoba	nil	12%
Saskatchewan	4.5%***	12%
British Columbia	2.5%	10%
Yukon	4%	15%
Northwest Territories	4%	11.5%
Nunavut	4%	12%

The above information provided by Canada Revenue Agency. <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tv/bsnss/tpcs/crprtns/rts-eng.html>

Given that the NWT is on par with our northern neighbours and amongst the lowest in Canada, the NWT is well positioned from a corporate rate standpoint.

I suggest that attracting investment is best achieved by having a skilled, capable and reliable workforce, a high quality of life in an engaging community, an efficient transportation system, an abundance of information pertinent and valued by those seeking to invest, and a predictable regulatory regime for those in resource development. In other words, it's not so much the corporate tax rate as it is the public infrastructure and capable human resources needed to support corporate investments that is lacking. Public investments tailored to investor's needs are more effective at attracting investment.

Local businesses need special tax consideration, especially those that use local resources to meet basic needs of communities.

RESOURCE TAXES

Do you support the implementation of a Resource Tax during the life of this Assembly? Why?

Response: I support a taxation system for resource extraction companies that is transparent, competitive, and reflective of the economic stability offered by stable public government. In a democratic society such as ours we appreciate that it is a collection of partnerships and relationships created through social and economic ventures that enable industry to thrive. If those relationships become unstable or lopsided then the very fabric that enables wealth creation is strained.

I understand that the current economic rent collections (taxation, federal royalties) from resource extraction in the NWT represents some of the lowest rates in Canada. I commit to seeking a comprehensive review of economic rents to determine whether GNWT and industry are each garnering a fair share as our richest mineral resources are exported from the NWT. Based upon an informed assessment, I will decide whether a resource tax or equivalent form of revenue is appropriate, and at what scale.

I do support retained earnings reflecting the risk taken; I also recognize the need to assure legacy benefits for future generations as finite resources are exploited, and I recognize the

need to finance our ability to sustainably manage resource development.

CARBON TAX

Do you support the implementation of a Carbon Tax? Why?

Response: Putting a price on carbon is a tool that recognizes that climate change is having devastating impacts on our land and society, and that these impacts are being felt to a greater degree and faster in the North than elsewhere. Pricing carbon is a proven way of making gains in reducing greenhouse gas emissions which are the cause of climate change. In the absence of the federal government accepting their responsibilities, GNWT needs to act, in a responsible and effective way.

Carbon pricing enables us to diversify our energy sources, and stabilize our energy prices at a time when fossil fuels are becoming more scarce and prices are highly volatile and rising. Wherever it has been applied, it has been successfully accepted. The Economist, a global magazine, endorsed British Columbia's carbon tax last month, and it was soundly endorsed by the the public.

If GNWT chooses a carbon tax, it needs to be revenue neutral to start, with revenues returned through reduced income and corporate taxes. Special provisions are required to protect people in small and isolated communities that do not have access to immediate alternatives, where costs are much higher, and where incomes are low. We are fortunate that a carbon tax application could be applied using the present system, with little to no additional administrative costs.

During the 16th Assembly, a fund was identified to assist individuals, families and businesses to reduce their use of carbon (fossil fuels), and increase their efficiency and use of renewable energy. A similar program must accompany any form of carbon pricing.

Another system worthy of consideration is a carbon intensity charge that rewards low carbon users using the forfeits of high carbon users. No taxes. Its application to diamond mines or precious metal mines is straight forward using existing tax information. On a litre per carat basis for example, the mines extracting diamonds most efficiently would receive a cash transfer from the less efficient mines. It's simple and uses a free enterprise model of competitiveness to achieve positive change. This is not a tax. It is free enterprise at work.

DEBT

The GNWT has hit the debt ceiling, even with the Federal Government's recently adjusted cap. How will you find the capital necessary to continue investing in infrastructure? And what will your capital priorities be: transportation, schools, or hospitals?

Response: Leveraging debt to enable growth for growth's sake is not sustainable. Sustainable growth requires investments in assets that continue giving well after they are paid for. Like a good education, a health facility, or hydro-electric infrastructure.

While I would support a raised debt limit to the degree that it still enables the GNWT to retain a top credit rating and live within our means, I would first ensure capital priorities that are focused on high quality infrastructure and maintenance of existing facilities.

I support investments in capital assets that generate economic and social returns that best compensate for the environmental and financial resources directed towards construction of those assets. My priority would be for local and regional infrastructure that could prove a

strong social, long term environmental and financial business case; and, whose local and regional governments were partners.

YOUTH

What specific initiatives will you implement to aggressively engage our youth in contributing to the NWT economy either as skilled workers or professionals?

The GNWT has a pretty strong offering of programs and services for young people. It's unlikely that there's more than educational opportunity, ongoing support for recreational programs and various healthy living initiatives that are going to make any further inroads. What has become clear is that we need to now focus on early childhood development, where the lifelong potential of our young people in all the areas of health, education, language and achievement is so powerfully laid down. Science shows its particularly during prenatal to age 3 that much of this happens, so we need specifically to work with young parents in their communities. The foundation for lifelong learning is established before children enter school. Programs that provide the support necessary for optimum early childhood development will prevent children being "left behind" when they enter kindergarten. It's time to start some direct and positive messaging for parents that it is their responsibility to step up and make sure that their responsibility to raise strong, engaged youth is taken seriously.

As a society, north and south, we're letting our kids down miserably thinking that money, not time, is the key to engaging with kids. For young people who should now be participants in the labour market we offer remedial education and more training than imaginable. We need to find the way to tell them straight up to get involved, make their own lives better by doing so and making their families lives better as well.

I support the four priorities in the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative but with the caveats that developmental work take place with DEC's and DEAs. We must focus on educating Northerners rather than training NWT industrial workers. Schools are to educate citizens who form a creative and motivated work force.

ENERGY

What are you going to do to harness our hydro potential in a meaningful way?

We need to harness all kinds of energy, including hydro, biomass, geothermal, solar and wind in ways and at scales that will contribute to local economies and with reduced environmental impacts. With respect to hydro, I recognize that the NWT does not have the terrain gradient and precipitation levels that regions such as Quebec and Manitoba have for big hydro, but that we have considerable small to medium scale potential. Community and Aboriginal governments are important partners, and I would work to engage them in projects that serve public needs, including economic development. To date, we have missed real opportunities to fund the high up-front development costs of hydro with federal green infrastructure and municipal infrastructure dollars – we cannot continue to allow these funds to go untapped. As a project waiting to happen, I would pursue the Taltson River project in a way that would see the total production of power used in the South Slave, providing a variety of benefits there; also the Lutselk'e project and the Whati project beg completion. I support Deline people in their path towards a run-of-river project, which needs to continue through feasibility studies, and I would continue assessments of other potential opportunities for hydro development that

are environmentally and socially sound.

COST OF LIVING

What are your ideas for lowering operating costs for businesses in the North?

Response: It's for good reason the transportation sector is one of the NWT's most significant economic drivers. We have a vast territory, we import most of what we consume and our economy consists of wage bubbles focused on high value exports like diamonds and petroleum.

In this environment we create wage inflation for some and poverty for others. The wage inflation drives imports, and with those imports the cost of their transport. The other side of the coin is that those not in the wage bubble increasingly find themselves unable to meet their living needs. I'm sure everyone saw last week's Conference Board of Canada report that notes the increasing serious divide in incomes of people, and the increasing rate that this divide is growing.

To reduce our costs of living I believe we as a territory need reduce our imports, diversify our local, regional and territorial economies; and, diminish our reliance on transfer payments whether they are social assistance or federal government transfers. We have the natural and human resources needed to lower our living costs and produce basic needs locally; what we need is people willing to take risks and action to make a difference, and appropriate government supports for them. It requires work, lots of it; but there is no other way; otherwise we won't change our circumstances and our cost of living.

INFRASTRUCTURE

What will you do to develop "nation building" infrastructure such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway, the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link and energy projects?

Response: Nation building is exactly what you say it is; projects so large, so important and so expensive that only nations can afford them.

That said, we as a territory have much to contribute to the success of the referenced nation building projects - after all, we live here and have a stake in both the success of these projects, and their outcomes.

Therefore, GNWT should stand ready to partner with the federal government, focusing on projects of priority and those which are within our means. An early focus of the 17th Assembly will be to examine these means to assess what is possible. I see a strong role for GNWT in establishing a Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic corridor, recognizing the tremendous benefits this will bring both to our people and businesses, and to GNWT services. Other projects demand our input and regulatory involvement, but are beyond a realistic capital role for GNWT.

EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

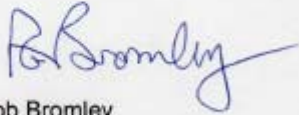
What will you do to attract and encourage exploration and development in the NWT

The NWT is very resource rich, and this alone has an established record of attracting considerable interest for exploration and development. We have several operating mines now, and currently are well along in environmental review and feasibility work for several mines, including Avalon (Nachalacho), deBeers expansion, Gacho Que, Nicco, Tyhee, and

Tamerlane.

Most recent oil and gas lease sales in the Beaufort and Sahtu area have each attracted prices of nearly or greater than a half billion dollars. Land Use Plans must be established for all areas, so that prospecting and development opportunities are clear and effectively directed. I fought for retaining the prospectors fund, and will fight to get that re-established.

Best wishes,



Bob Bromley
Candidate
Weledeh

Yellowknife Centre

Robert Hawkins

DEVOLUTION

What is your position on the proposed devolution agreement? What do you see as the greatest benefits and greatest obstacles associated with devolution?

- I support the timely resolution and implementation of devolution.
- I believe the major benefits are we can direct control our own development and attract industry under a sound resource system.
- The greatest obstacle to date is still the partnership with Aboriginal Governments which needs to be worked out.

REGULATION

The NWT's regulatory regime is seen to be a deterrent to resource investment. What will you do to overhaul the regulatory regime in the NWT?

- Support the Federal Governments work in simplifying it and coordination of our regulatory systems.

CORPORATE TAXES

Corporate Income Tax rates in the NWT were once among the lowest in the country. The rate was recently raised and now other jurisdictions look much more favourable. Do you support a Corporate

Income Tax rate that positions the NWT as a favored jurisdiction for investment? If yes, what will you do about it?

- ☐ I believe that a fair and marketable tax rate must be maintained in order to attract investment and future in the north.

RESOURCE TAXES

Do you support the implementation of a Resource Tax during the life of this Assembly? Why?

- ☐ I believe we need to have two things. Fair taxation and an attractive investment environment. I'm confident we can have both which will encourage industry investment.

CARBON TAX

Do you support the implementation of a Carbon Tax? Why?

- ☐ No, the cost of living is far too high here in the north.

DEBT

The GNWT has hit the debt ceiling, even with the Federal Government's recently adjusted cap. How will you find the capital necessary to continue investing in infrastructure? And what will your capital priorities be: transportation, schools, or hospitals?

- ☐ The government presently forecasts 75 million in annual capital investment. If we want to go above and beyond that, we will need to make the case of Federal investment or partnership that gets us to where we need to be. As well, we need to start looking at strategic reviews as to how government spends its money and ask ourselves is this the best way we can do business.
- ☐ My priorities are Hospitals, Schools, and then Infrastructure.

YOUTH

What specific initiatives will you implement to aggressively engage our youth in contributing to the NWT economy either as skilled workers or professionals?

- ☐ The north must be sold on its benefits. And at the same time, wages must be competitive, cost of living must be balanced and opportunities must be created that can be attractive.

ENERGY

What are you going to do to harness our hydro potential in a meaningful way?

- ☐ The GNWT needs to get Federal investment in order to develop our hydro potential. This will substantially lower the cost of doing business here in the north.

COST OF LIVING

What are your ideas for lowering operating costs for businesses in the North?

- ☐ I have been a strong advocate for reducing red tape for business and again, an attractive taxation system along with a clear resource regime will go a long way.

INFRASTRUCTURE

What will you do to develop “nation building” infrastructure such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway, the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link and energy projects?

- ☐ I agree with those projects as well as hydro development and future mining development. I will continue to advocate for this type of development here in the north.

EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT

What will you do to attract and encourage exploration and development in the NWT?

- ☐ The best thing we can do for exploration development is what they keep asking for which is a clear, timely and stable regulatory process and environment.

Yellowknife South

Bob McLeod

DEVOLUTION

What is your position on the proposed devolution agreement? What do you see as the greatest benefits and greatest obstacles associated with devolution?

Response: It's not Devolution...It's "Evolution". If we're to evolve into an independent member of Confederation, we have to work together to secure full decision-making authority over the NWT's future. There are differing positions on our evolution and I'll work to bridge the gaps and bring about a new era of independence for people across the NWT.

The Agreement in Principle (AIP) offers many benefits:

- \$85 million annually for 350 jobs transferred from the Federal to the Territorial Government in perpetuity;
- Grandfathered environmental liabilities that will be borne by the Federal Government;

- \$50 to \$60 million annually in additional financial transfers to the NWT Government in perpetuity.

These transfers represent new employment opportunities in the NWT and will relieve pressure on the debt cap that may limit our ability to forge ahead with new capital projects.

The AIP is a first, but important step in the “evolution” towards provincial styled authorities in the NWT. Over the past several years, economic activity associated with the development of the NWT non-renewable resources has represented more than 60% of the NWT’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Yet, policies and legislation concerning these resources rests with the federal government. I see the AIP as “nation building” moving the NWT towards a period when northerners share the same rights and benefits of other Canadians in shaping policies and legislation that affect our lives.

Devolution, changing the way the government is financed, and reducing borrowing constraints are intertwined as they represent essential components in our quest to build northern solutions in managing natural resources by and for northerners.

I support the Devolution AIP, but before the Final Agreement is signed we need to collaborate with “First Nations”, industry and the public in building a shared vision of the future. As I said, the AIP is the first step. We need to work together and make it work for the future of the NWT.

REGULATION

The NWT’s regulatory regime is seen to be a deterrent to resource investment. What will you do to overhaul the regulatory regime in the NWT?

Response: The regulatory environment is complicated by the multi-layered jurisdiction that exists between federal-territorial governments. Devolution - “evolution” – will enable us to simplify regulation to ensure resources are developed in accordance with the wishes of northerners.

We all want to know that prosperity, jobs and property values are secure for the long-term. I want that too.

Our diamond mines have been the engines of prosperity for a decade. They will begin to wind down over the next 8-10 years. We must work together to enable other environmentally sustainable resource projects to fill the void. The Conference Board of Canada has identified eight new mine projects that it forecasts will come on stream over the next 10 years.

To make them a reality and secure our own prosperity those projects and other investments must find a way to proceed. Of course, one of the biggest challenges for new investment is our regulatory regime. If our neighbours to the east and west were able to streamline regulatory processes without giving up control, then we can too. “*Evolution*” will put more of that oversight in our hands and enable us to move regulatory reform forward.

One of the criticisms of the current process is the lack of transparency. Project proponents are required to invest millions of dollars with little certainty of outcomes. The regulatory system needs to recognize two streams of decisions: an economic and environmental stream. We need to create balance in the decision making process between the need to build an economy and the need to protect our

environment. Capital goes where it can grow. Uncertainty drives investment, job and tax revenues away. We have to change the regulatory landscape or risk future prosperity.

We need to collaborate with industry at the early stages of major industrial projects to identify critical infrastructure – hydro, transportation, value added processing, etc. to create optimal scenarios that will build critical industrial infrastructure as well as build “legacy” infrastructure that will lower costs for both residents and improve our competitiveness.

CORPORATE TAXES

Corporate Income Tax rates in the NWT were once among the lowest in the country. The rate was recently raised and now other jurisdictions look much more favourable. Do you support a Corporate Income Tax rate that positions the NWT as a favoured jurisdiction for investment? If yes, what will you do about it?

Response: The NWT still has one of the lowest blended corporate income tax rates in Canada. Corporate taxes and tax credits (tax expenditures) are important tools for raising money and directing capital investment to maximize benefits for northern residents. Most of the corporate revenues come from multi-national corporations involved in resource extraction. I’m committed to maintaining competitive rates. Together with regulatory reform we have tremendous potential for attracting investment in the NWT.

RESOURCE TAXES

Do you support the implementation of a Resource Tax during the life of this Assembly? Why?

Response: Depending on the definition, resource taxes or resource rents are most often referred to as royalties or profits generated from the exploitation of public resources. Other jurisdictions have levied a “super tax” to be applied to extractive industries including gold, nickel and uranium mining. At this time, I believe more research needs to be done, partly in the context of post devolution consultations on the style and extent of taxes related to the use of NWT resources. We need to take a long-term view of tax policies and get them right, because we have to live with our decisions for a long time.

CARBON TAX

Do you support the implementation of a Carbon Tax? Why?

Response: Carbon taxes have limited application in Canada at the moment. I believe an across-the-board carbon tax levied on residents and commercial users who have little options would hurt the NWT’s competitive position in retaining and attracting new residents. That being said, I believe that where “large emitters” have a choice in terms of the source of energy, a carbon tax may be used to equalize costs between petroleum based energy and other forms of energy. For example, it could be argued that the diamond mines or pipeline producers have a choice when carbon free hydro power is available. In consultation with industry I would consider proposing a carbon tax only where the imposition of carbon taxes could be offset by carbon credits achieved from using energy generated from renewable resources.

DEBT

The GNWT has hit the debt ceiling, even with the Federal Government's recently adjusted cap. How will you find the capital necessary to continue investing in infrastructure? And what will your capital priorities be: transportation, schools, or hospitals?

Response: I believe we need to distinguish between public financed infrastructure used to extend public services and services where costs can be recovered through user fees such as bridges, transmission lines, etc. In terms of capital priorities for public infrastructure I would give priority to capital projects that provide the largest net benefit. All decisions on capital projects should be subject to two tests: a "public interest" test and the preservation of public assets test.

I think there's another option that needs to be explored and that's Public-Private Partnerships. The GNWT needs to be able to partner with industry in building industrial infrastructure such as roads, hydro generation and transmission, and telecommunications in order to build a stable and diversified economy without having to appeal to Ottawa to raise our debt cap.

And now I'm back to our "evolution". Transfers available through the Devolution AIP represent new employment opportunities and will relieve pressure on the debt cap that limits our ability to forge ahead with new capital projects. The Federal Government will still have responsibilities for large nation building projects such as new highway construction and there is provision in the Devolution AIP to establish a process to address these types of projects on a go forward basis.

YOUTH

What specific initiatives will you implement to aggressively engage our youth in contributing to the NWT economy either as skilled workers or professionals?

Response: We've come a long over the past decade. We're graduating more students than at any time in our history. Over the past five years we've invested hundreds of millions of dollars in new schools and school-based community infrastructure, like gymnasiums that double as community facilities and we've expanded Aurora College access and student accommodations across the NWT.

We've made these investments to ensure that all youth have the opportunity to get an education close to home. Through strategic alliances with southern universities we're able to ensure a larger number of our students are able to spend the first few years of their post-secondary education at Aurora College. It's a source of pride for everyone.

We can be proud of our student financial assistance program that aids NWT students attending post-secondary education and government programs to provide interns with important experience in building careers.

The next step is jobs. There's no shortage. The NWT Mine Training Society has successfully trained and placed more than 800 northerners in our mining sector. Over the next five years NWT's mining industry will need 1,400 more skilled workers.

Once "**evolution**" occurs many professional positions will be transferred from the Federal Government (along with payroll). And there are never enough trained health care workers to meet the growing demands on our health care system.

We need to do much more at the technical level to create pathways to careers in trades and technologies. I commit to work with my legislative colleagues, industry, and NGO's to increase trades and technology preparatory courses within schools. At the same time I will commit to work with industry to increase the number of apprenticeships and internships to broaden choices for graduating students.

The future has never looked better for young job seekers in the Northwest Territories.

ENERGY

What are you going to do to harness our hydro potential in a meaningful way?

Response: What comes first: supply or demand? We're a small market with a small demand for electricity. As a matter of our total installed capacity it is almost double our current demand so it's difficult to assume that "if we build it they will come". We already have more than we can use.

The answer is to put a stake in the ground and determine if we are going to make a major capital investment in transmission infrastructure to export hydro power to open market in Alberta and Saskatchewan. It's risky. But we should explore options outside of crown ownership and see if there are combinations of public and private ownership that can help us shape a feasible mega-investment; because hydro development is capital intensive. It's legacy infrastructure for future generations, but the upfront cost presents risk for any government.

I think the more immediate question is how do we reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. In the North, because of the long distances between communities, electricity is largely fuelled by diesel fuel. Even in Yellowknife, which is powered by hydro, the back up system is diesel. All of this means we're exposed to global price volatility and we're exposing our environment to greenhouse gas emissions.

Our energy and our environmental strategies over the past few years have been aimed at reducing exposure on both fronts.

We've made progress on energy alternatives over the past four years: a hydro-kinetic pilot project in Fort Simpson, bio-fuel systems in large commercial applications in Yellowknife and other northern communities, district heating systems in small communities and analysis of the NWT's geo-thermal potential.

In reality, when it comes to the challenges of renewable energy in the North there's no single answer, no silver bullet. It will take a diverse portfolio of technologies to create an overall solution.

COST OF LIVING

What are your ideas for lowering operating costs?

Response: Greater infrastructure will be key to reducing our cost of living. We started down that path in the last Assembly. By interconnecting communities through highways and better airports we can help reduce transportation costs applied to essentials like food and drugs. We have momentum. We need to keep moving forward. Financial transfers through "*evolution*" will help pay for infrastructure improvements.

Through electricity rate reform earlier this year the cost of electricity in 22 communities were reduced and legacy rate and fuel rider costs for electricity customers in Yellowknife were eliminated. That's a good start.

We can each reduce our own cost of living by reducing demand. You can replace lights in your home with compact fluorescents or LED's. Or you could look at funding available from ENR for alternative energy projects at your home or business. These funds were implemented in the last Assembly and we're seeing some very good outcomes.

Property values have increased significantly over the past decade. We've seen a commensurate improvement in services and lifestyle and family amenities.

It may be time step back and take a look at the impact of property taxes. I'm not saying we stop essential infrastructure improvements. But I am saying there's only one taxpayer and there's a ceiling we have to recognize.

All tax-based governments should agree that we need a high level discussion about the impact on property taxes on the cost of living.

In the longer term the continued expansion of hydro infrastructure towards creating a NWT hydro grid will lower costs and create greater economies of scale in the future. Our success in reducing energy costs will make it easier to attract new people to the NWT.

We will also have to lobby the Federal Government to increase the Northern Resident Income Tax Allowance. Northern residents should not bear the entire cost for living in a "pioneering" region of Canada. It's in the nation's interest to make the North an attractive place to work and raise a family.

Increasing housing density, improving and expanding infrastructure, introducing of energy efficiency technologies, upgrading construction standards, increasing the Northern Resident Income Tax Allowance, and reviewing property taxes will all contribute to the complex task of reducing the cost of living in the NWT.