

Ministre des Affaires indiennes et
du Nord canadien et interlocuteur fédéral
auprès des Métis et des Indiens non inscrits



Minister of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor
for Métis and Non-Status Indians

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

MAY 13 2009



Ms. Ann Marie Tout
President
NWT Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 13, YK Centre
4910 50th Avenue
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 3L5

Dear Ms. Tout:

Thank you for your letter of March 13, 2009, regarding the Government of Canada's investments in the North, and for sharing your views on the location of the northern economic development agency.

Based on my participation in the NWT Chamber of Commerce's annual general meeting, I know we share a common purpose, recognizing that northern economic development is a priority for Canada. As you know, Canada's Economic Action Plan established the resource base to launch the new agency, and also contributed \$90 million over five years for the renewal of the Strategic Investments in the Northern Economic Development (SINED) program. This agency will also play a role delivering the Community Adjustment Fund and Recreational Infrastructure Canada funding in the North. Canada's Economic Action Plan also provided \$37.6 million to support the Mackenzie Gas Project and \$200 million over two years for northern housing.

In the coming months, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada will be commencing engagement sessions for the SINED program and the creation of the new agency. These sessions will provide another opportunity to receive valuable feedback from Northern stakeholders on the agency's development. The result will be economic development programming that responds to the unique developmental needs of the North, while reflecting the different circumstances in each territory.

With respect to the location of the agency's head office, the agency will be based in the North and will have a strong presence in all three territories. The decision regarding the exact location of the agency's headquarters will be made in the near future.

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Canada

It was a pleasure hearing from you after meeting in Yellowknife. Again, thank you for sharing your views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Strahl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "C".

Chuck Strahl