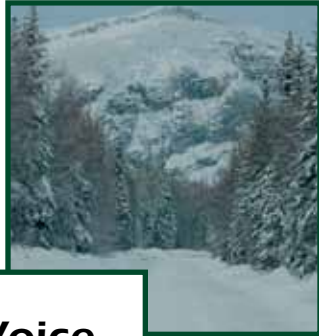




# NWT Chamber of Commerce Policy Handbook



**The Voice  
of Northern  
Business  
Since  
1973**





---

## NORTHERN CANADA'S LEADER IN LAW


---

Life in the North takes a special kind of know-how and expertise. Lawson Lundell's offices in Yellowknife, Calgary and Vancouver bring over 40 years of experience working within Northern Canada. Not to mention the lawyers at our Yellowknife office have practiced north of the 60th parallel throughout their whole careers. This local knowledge, combined with our expertise in law, allows us to lead our clients' businesses to great success.

---

 **LAWSON  
LUNDELL** LLP  
Vancouver ■ Calgary ■ Yellowknife

(P) 867.669.5500  
Toll Free - 888.465.7608  
Website - [www.lawsonlundell.com](http://www.lawsonlundell.com)





Canadian Chamber President and CEO Perrin Beatty, left, congratulates John Curran, NWT Chamber Executive Director, on a series of successful policy resolution debates during the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting in Victoria, Oct. 3-6, 2009.

# Table of contents

Message from the President  
**Page 5**

Reforming the Resource Development  
Regulatory Regime in the NWT  
**Page 6-7**

The Mackenzie Gas Project  
**Page 8-9**

Strategic Investment  
in NWT Hydro Development  
**Page 10-11**

Completion of an All-Weather  
North-South Trans Canada Highway  
**Page 12-13**



**Join the NWT Chamber**  
Page 14

North **MART**

 Northern

Supporting the

**NWTT**

Chamber of Commerce



North **MART**  
northmart.ca

 Northern  
northernstores.ca

For All Your Food & Basic Everyday Needs

# Message from the President

This policy handbook has been produced by the NWT Chamber of Commerce to help highlight the four policy resolutions we successfully presented at the 2009 Canadian Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting.

Now that they have been approved by the voting delegates from the national network of more than 300 chambers of commerce, representing 175,000 businesses of all sizes in all sectors of the economy, they are priorities for the Canadian Chamber as it lobbies the federal government over the next three years.

As Canada's most influential business association, the Canadian Chamber is the primary connection between business and Ottawa. It continually demonstrates impact on public policy which benefits businesses, communities and families across the nation.

These policies also represent more than six months of research, discussion, revision and consensus-building in our own boardroom. In association with the network of community chambers of commerce in Fort Simpson,

Inuvik, Behchoko, Norman Wells, Fort Smith, Hay River and Yellowknife as well as the Northern Aboriginal Business Association, the NWT Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of more than 865 members. For more than 35 years, it has been the only pan-territorial voice of businesses across all sectors of the Northwest Territories economy.

As a Board, we're extremely proud of the fact we've been able to get these four critical issues—which together have the potential to foster economic development and usher in a new age of prosperity across all regions of the NWT – included in the national discussion.

In particular, we would like to thank the Hay River, Norman Wells and District, and Edmonton chambers, which co-sponsored these resolutions facilitating their inclusion on the Canadian Chamber AGM agenda. Additionally, we appreciate the support of our Diamond Sponsor NT Hydro Corporation, as well as our Gold Sponsors, Lawson Lundell LLP, the Mackenzie Aboriginal Corporation and the North West Company.

Mahsi cho, thank you.



**Ann Marie Tout**  
**NWT Chamber**  
**President**  
**2008-10**

# Reforming the Resource Development Regulatory Regime in the NWT

In support of efforts to remove interprovincial/territorial trade barriers and as part of a comprehensive strategy to speed the nation's economic recovery from the recession, changes are required to the resource development regulatory regime in the NWT. This system presently remains under federal control.

In the NWT the economy is largely levered to resource exploration and development.

In 1999, mineral exploration spending in the NWT accounted for 18 per cent of the national total.

Since then that percentage has been in steady decline and in 2009 such investment in the NWT is expected to total just \$28.7 million or less than two per cent of the national total.

•

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce recommends that the federal government reform the resource development regulatory regime in the NWT to level the playing field across the country.

It must address 13 priorities identified previously by its own Indian and Northern Affairs Minister's Special

Representative including:

1. Complete land use plans in all regions
2. Clarify consultation requirements
3. Ensure board capacity on the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board; the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board; the Sahtu Land and Water Board; the Gwich'in Land and Water Board; and the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board
4. Ensure timely board appointments
5. Clarify problem policy areas for boards
6. Set performance measures related to time lines
7. Introduce water quality and effluent standards
8. Define triggers for environmental assessment
9. Clarify enforcement responsibilities
10. Commission a second NWT environmental audit
11. Introduce surface rights legislation related to land access
12. Develop a defined protocol for ministerial reviews
13. Coordinate federal responsibilities through a made-in-the-North equivalent of the Major Projects Office.





# The Mackenzie Gas Project

In support of efforts to speed Canada's economic recovery and affirm our sovereignty in the North, the Mackenzie Gas Project urgently needs to proceed.

Since the 1970s, the future of Canada's North has been uncertain as development of a north-south natural gas pipeline linking Arctic reserves to southern markets has been stalled by lengthy regulatory and environmental review processes.

Currently proponents of the Mackenzie Gas Project propose to build a 1,220-km basin-opening pipeline capable of transporting 1.2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day. The anticipated capital cost of this mega project is estimated at \$16.2 billion with all but \$2.4 billion of that expected to go to businesses and workers located in jurisdictions other than the Northwest Territories.

The project is one-third aboriginal-owned and would provide long-term revenue streams to four directly impacted First Nation and Inuvialuit groups and several others not directly located on the proposed pipeline route.

It's expected the increase in oil and gas exploration and the development of three anchor fields associated with the project would result in hundreds, if not thousands

of long-term career opportunities in the North.

The Mackenzie gas project will provide direct and indirect economic and social benefits to the people of the Northwest Territories, in addition to enhancing local services, transportation and other industries in Canada's North. Construction of this critical piece of infrastructure would also strengthen Canada's Arctic sovereignty.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce recommends that the federal government should:

1. Ensure that the Mackenzie Gas Project is not placed at a competitive disadvantage to other large scale North American energy projects. This may include federal government direct investment, tax breaks and loan guarantees.

2. Commit economic stimulus dollars to fund adjacent infrastructure projects to lower the cost of pipeline construction and operations.

3. Ensure sufficient workforce development and training opportunities occur to maximize First Nation and Inuvialuit involvement in the project.

4. Use these recommendations to develop a framework to assist all other large scale pipeline projects.

# Strategic Investments in NWT Hydro Development

In support of reducing factors contributing to climate change and speeding the nation's economic recovery, there is a need for the federal government to strategically invest in developing hydroelectric energy resources in the Northwest Territories.

In the NWT the dependence on fossil fuels for power generation is the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in this region of the country more sensitive than most to the effects of climate change.

Today three diamond mines and 23 communities in the NWT are completely dependent on diesel generated power. In the communities using hydroelectricity, the average cost of power is 20 cents/kWh. In diesel communities the average cost is 65 cents/kWh.

The high cost of electricity has long been a barrier to economic development in the NWT. Canada as a nation – and the NWT in particular – has significant hydroelectric potential. While it wouldn't be practical to develop all of these resources, there are several key projects that if targeted for strategic investment in the near-term would benefit the country.

For example, the NWT Pow-

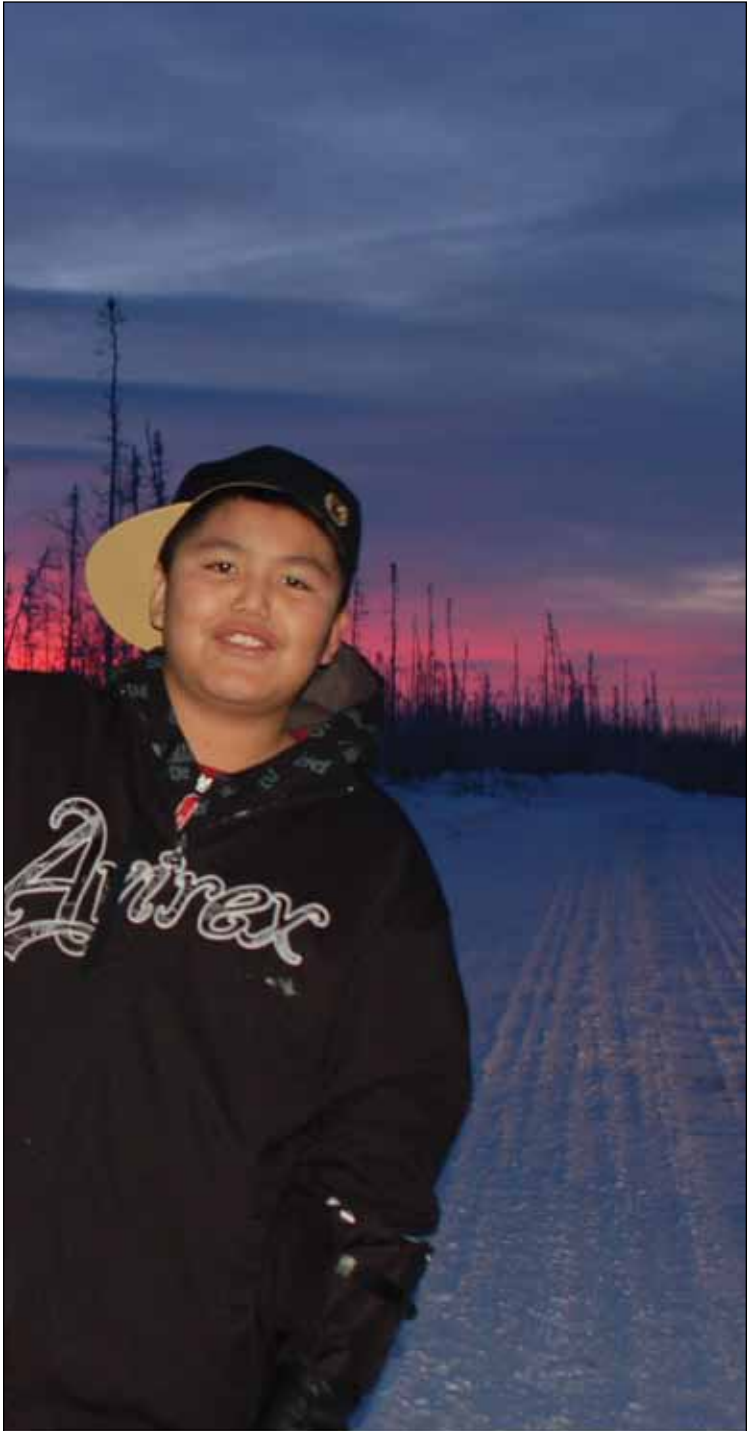
er Corporation proposal to expand its Taltson hydro facility and add a 700-km transmission line to the Slave Geologic Province where the diamond mines are located would result in: Capacity of 74 megawatts up from the current 18 MW; Extended mine life through reduced operating costs; Increased mine construction through lower development costs; Additional exploration due to greater infrastructure availability and enhanced development potential; About 1,000 person years of construction-related employment, and; A 320-kilotonne reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce recommends that the federal government should:

1. As part of future stimulus and clean energy initiatives, invest in strategic hydro developments in the NWT such as: The Taltson expansion and transmission line, and; Mini-hydro pilot projects in Lutsel K'e and Whati.

2. Just as an east-west power grid is a national priority, fund a north-south grid connection that would facilitate the export of clean Northern hydroelectric power to southern markets.





# Completion of an All-Weather North-South Trans Canada Highway

In support of infrastructure to spur economic development and speed Canada's economic recovery, the nation needs an all-weather north-south Trans Canada Highway through the Mackenzie Valley to the Arctic coast.

This country's development was driven by creating overland east-west transportation linkages – both rail and road – but work remains if we are to truly connect Canada from sea to sea to sea. It was Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker who first proposed an all-weather highway connection to Canada's Arctic coast and more than 50 years later, his vision has yet to be fully realized between Wrigley and Tuktoyaktuk.

There are many benefits related to the construction of this much needed infrastructure project. It would ensure Canada's sovereignty in the North and encourage economic development.

Based on the GNWT research, an all-weather highway through the Mackenzie Valley would spur development in the petroleum industry generating the following results:

- A boost of up to \$58.9 billion to national GDP;
- More than 86,000 person years of employment, with more than 71,118 of these based outside the NWT; related to exploration and development, and;
- Up to \$15 billion in government revenue with most of this flowing to Ottawa.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce recommends that the federal government should:

1. Fund the completion of an all-weather north-south Trans Canada Highway through the Mackenzie Valley from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk in the NWT to achieve several priorities: speed Canada's recovery from the recession, fuel economic development across Canada, and enhance Arctic sovereignty as climate change makes the North and its resources much more accessible.

2. Move ahead with this project immediately as a means of improving the economics of the Mackenzie Gas Project by reducing logistical challenges related to construction of the proposed pipeline.

Credibility

Advocacy

Information

Networking

Influence

Benefits



# Join the NWT Chamber

Complete and fax back to  
 867-873-4174 or join online at  
[www.nwtchamber.com/joinform.php](http://www.nwtchamber.com/joinform.php)

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Contact (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you also a member of a community chamber?

Yes

No



Gwich'in Tribal Council



**A NORTHERN ABORIGINAL  
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY  
FOCUSSED ON INFRASTRUCTURE**



Over the next 5–10 years NT Hydro aims to reduce the NWT's dependency on fossil fuel and increase the portfolio of renewable energy.

We're advancing the expansion of Taltson Hydro with our partner, Dezé Energy. We're working with communities to identify new hydro-electric sites. And we're reaching into our schools to teach tomorrow's consumers about the merits of hydro and other renewable sources of energy.

***An energy self-sufficient NWT.  
Reductions in green house gas emissions.  
Expansion of renewable energy.***

