

July 8, 2004

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER

The Right Honourable Paul Martin, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister
Government of Canada
Langevin Block
80 WELLINGTON STREET
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Martin:

We are writing to inform you that at our recent meeting in Inuvik, Western Premiers discussed a number of issues of importance, not only to the West, but to Canada.

Premiers agreed the North has the potential to become economically self-sustaining. But this potential cannot be realized without a federal commitment to concluding an agreement for the transfer of authority over lands and resources from Canada (Devolution.)

Premiers agreed all jurisdictions should manage and control their resources and the scope and pace of development. They also agreed that they should benefit from that development. For the North, this means completing a fair and equitable Devolution and revenue sharing agreement.

Devolution will ensure Canadians are ready to seize economic opportunities brought about by the development of Northern resources.

As Western Premiers we call on you to make a strong political commitment to conclude meaningful negotiations and a fair Devolution deal without delay.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Joseph L. Handley
Premier of the Northwest Territories

The Honourable Gary Doer
Premier of Manitoba

The Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia

The Honourable Lorne Calvert
Premier of Saskatchewan

The Honourable Ralph Klein
Premier of Alberta

The Honourable Dennis Fentie
Premier of Yukon

The Honourable Paul Okalik
Premier of Nunavut

c.c. Mr. Stephen Harper, M.P., Leader, Conservative Party of Canada
Mr. Gilles Duceppe, M.P., Leader, Parti Bloc Quebecois
Mr. Jack Layton, M.P., Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada