

FACT SHEET

Proposed Changes for the 2008 Camping Season: What you need to know

The GNWT is facing a number of challenges heading into the 2008 Camping Season:

1. The increased numbers of non-resident road travelers, which we have invested heavily in attracting to the NWT, have nowhere to stay when they arrive in the North Slave Region.
2. The demand for Extended Stay Camping among local residents is now more than double the number of available sites.
3. While the costs of operating our Parks and Campgrounds are rising, our seasonal lots were grossly under priced.
4. NWT Parks and Campground services must be provided in a fair and equitable manner.

- **Rising Tourism Demand**

To fully meet tourist and resident demand for camping facilities during peak periods, seasonal sites have been eliminated from Prelude Lake from June 24 - Aug 7. This would allow local campers and tourists access to all sites while the northern summer is at its best and demand is at a peak.

On either side of this peak season, longer term “Extended Stay Camping” could be provided at a discount to the regular nightly rate.

- **Increased Demand from Residents**

The GNWT cannot satisfy the overwhelming demand for seasonal campsites. Rather than continuing to provide a fortunate few lottery winners with a discount on a full season, we propose to provide twice as many individuals or families with the opportunity to save on half a season.

This would create 74 opportunities (an increase from 40 in 2007) for families or groups of campers to enjoy the convenience and discounted pricing of Extended Stay Campsites at either Prelude Lake or Reid Lake Campgrounds.

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- **Rising Costs and Unreasonable Discounts**

In an effort to meet the rising cost of operating NWT Parks, the GNWT has instituted a NWT-wide \$5.00/night fee increase for camping at serviced and unserviced sites.

If existing rates are continued, seasonal lot holders would camp for \$4 a night with all the benefits of a lock-and-go-weekend cabin while others pay \$20/night and must haul their campers back and forth along the Ingraham Trail every time they camp.

This disparity exceeds an acceptable level of fairness and grossly under represents the value of the product being provided. It is proposed that the price of Extended Stay Campsites be reassessed and rented at half of the regular rate at Reid Lake (\$600) and at a 60% discount at Prelude Lake (\$300).

- **Government Responsibility for Fairness and Equality**

NWT Parks are public facilities. They are for the equal enjoyment of everybody and it is the Government's responsibility to ensure that they are operated in a fair and equitable manner at all times.

The GNWT is taking steps to ensure that all residents have an equal opportunity to benefit from discounted Extended Stay Campsites and that an appropriate balance is maintained in our public facilities between Extended Stay Camping and recreational or casual daily camping.