

03-095

GNWT Welcomes \$80 Million Federal Funding

YELLOWKNIFE (October 4) - The Government of the Northwest Territories is welcoming today's federal funding announcement by Minister of Industry and Minister Responsible for Infrastructure Allan Rock.

The federal Minister announced that the Northwest Territories will receive a total of \$65 million from the federal government's Canadian Strategic Infrastructure Fund (CSIF) for various transportation projects and another \$15 million under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund to address community infrastructure needs.

Besides enabling the Northwest Territories to upgrade transportation and community infrastructure, Premier Stephen Kakfwi says the new funding will translate into jobs, contracts and other business opportunities for all residents of the Northwest Territories.

"It has been a priority of this government to address the immediate and pressing challenge of sustaining infrastructure in the face of unprecedented economic growth," Premier Kakfwi said.

CSIF money will help to improve the Slave Geological Province corridor, including Highway 3 and the Ingraham Trail; the Mackenzie Valley corridor, including the Dempster Highway, as well as the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road through the construction of permanent bridges.

GNWT Minister of Finance Joe Handley says the additional money represents a strategic investment in the future of the Northwest Territories.

He says he's grateful for the overwhelming support that *Corridors for Canada*, the GNWT proposal under the CSIF fund, received from Minister Rock, industry, other levels of government, Western Arctic MP Ethel Blondin-Andrew and organizations such as the Northern Business Coalition."

"This announcement demonstrates again that positive results can be achieved through co-operative efforts and partnerships," he said.

.../page 2

Meanwhile, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs Vince Steen says the GNWT will use the \$15 million committed under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund for projects that directly benefit residents of communities throughout the NWT.

“Addressing community infrastructure needs is vital to sustaining economic growth and improving the quality of life for our residents,” he said.

For more information, contact:

Bob Kelly

Manager, Public Affairs and Communications
Transportation
Tel: (867) 873-7712

Brad Heath

Communications and Policy Advisor
Municipal and Community Affairs
Tel: (867) 920-3092

Drew Williams

Communications
Office of the Premier
Tel: (867) 669-2304