

Yukon Legislative Assembly (A-10) Box 2703, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6  
Phone: 393-7050 Toll-free: 1-800-661-0408, ext. 7050 Fax: 393-6499



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CAUSES CHAMPIONED BY THE YUKON NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

Despite its relatively small size, the New Democratic Party caucus has championed many issues and causes over the last nine years. Sometimes it persuaded the government to bring forward legislation, such as the *Smoke-Free Places Act*. At other times, it nudged the government in the right direction. Here are some of our proudest victories and campaigns:

#### **Health**

- Smoke Free Places Act
- Substance Abuse Action Plan
- Called on government to add special provisions for presumptive illness for current and former firefighters
- Proposed greater emphasis on collaborative health care as opposed to acute care
- Called for a medical detox centre for acutely intoxicated people at risk; a permanent homeless shelter, expanded treatment programs for those with addictions, including land-based healing

#### **Justice**

- Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act
- Opposed proposed changes (Bill C-4) to Youth Criminal Justice Act
- Called for more humane and compassionate treatment by police and others of acutely intoxicated people at risk
- Called for independent body to investigate public complaints against police
- Sought a public inquiry into the in-custody death of Raymond Silverfox
- Forced the government to withdraw the Civil Forfeiture Act, which would have allowed the courts to seize assets without criminal charge or conviction

#### **Workers**

- Proposed Young Worker Protection Act
- Tabled a minority report calling for legislation to protect whistleblowers
- Called for better protection for the rights of temporary foreign workers

#### **Housing**

- Called for a permanent emergency youth shelter in Whitehorse
- Supported housing-first model for hard to house; supported more transitional housing and affordable housing

- Supported Yukon retrofit program to make residential and commercial buildings more energy efficient
- Urged greater political support for Habitat for Humanity projects
- Proposed modernized Landlord and Tenant Act

### **Political Process**

- Advocated for legislative renewal; electoral reform
- Called for changes to Municipal Act to allow for greater citizen participation in democratic processes, via referenda, and proposed dispute-resolution roles for Ombudsman and Municipal Board
- Called for an arm's-length system for making appointments to major government boards and committees
- Called for a registry for paid lobbyists; a code of conduct for paid lobbyists

### **Energy**

- Opposed privatization of Yukon Energy Corporation
- Called for an independent power production policy that ensures public ownership of energy assets
- Called for a moratorium on uranium exploration/mining; Yukon as a nuclear-free zone; opposed nuclear power to generate electricity
- Supported greater emphasis on renewable energy options, geothermal, wind, biomass, etc.

### **Environment**

- Proposed a modern approach to free-entry mineral staking; one that respects the rights of municipalities and private property owners
- Supported the recommendations of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission
- Proposed protection for McIntyre Creek wildlife corridor

### **Economy**

- Proposed a fair deal for Yukoners for their mineral wealth

### **Education**

- Proposed a feasibility study for a mining school of excellence in conjunction with Yukon College, First Nations and the resource sector

**For more information, contact Peter Lesniak at 393-7051**