



NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY  
TABLE RONDE NATIONALE SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET L'ÉCONOMIE

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# review

## Premier Kakfwi Attends NRTEE Aboriginal Workshop in Yellowknife

Over 100 participants representing Aboriginal communities, the federal and territorial governments, NGOs, academia, and the mining, oil and gas industries attended the *Aboriginal Communities and Non-renewable Resource Development Workshop* held in the spring in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (NWT).

The Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Premier, NWT, set the stage by placing the discussions in the context of the current economic and social situation in the NWT. "This workshop comes at a very opportune moment for the NWT... the issue of resource development and Aboriginal communities is critical and timely," said Mr. Kakfwi in his Workshop Address. "The development of non-renewable resources is expected to be the most important source of economic growth in the NWT for the next decade. We are poised on the brink of a new era of investment and development activity in the North."

Break-out workshop sessions allowed participants to determine both the problems and potential solutions associated with attempting to maximize the long-term benefits and minimize both the short and long-term risks to Aboriginal communities from mineral, oil and gas development in the NWT over the next 10 to 25 years.

Participants identified five priorities including: **capacity-building, economic diversification, cumulative impacts, regulatory clarity, and revenue sharing/retention of local benefits.**

The level of participation by the various sectors and the extensive dialogue generated by the participants made the meeting very productive.

*Yellowknife Workshop cont. on page 2*

### Leaders' Forum on Sustainable Development



*Left to right: David McGuinty, Executive Director & CEO, NRTEE, Alan Nymark, Deputy Minister, Environment Canada, Mel Cappe, Clerk of the Privy Council & Secretary to the Cabinet, Privy Council Office, Stuart Smith, Chair, NRTEE, and David A. Tuer, President & CEO, PanCanadian Petroleum Ltd.*

The NRTEE organized the **Leaders' Forum on Sustainable Development** held in Ottawa on April 4, 2000. Over 136 participants and observers attended the day-long event, including all federal departments, represented by the deputy minister or the assistant deputy minister, as well as industry and non-governmental organizations. The purpose of the Leaders' Forum was to generate advice for federal departments on the formulation of their Sustainable Development Strategies. Conclusions included: the need for goals and objectives to be more focused; a public outreach to Canadians at the community level; the need for leadership to be embraced at all levels; and a recognition of the global context of sustainable development.

For more information, please visit the NRTEE Web site at <http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca>

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*Yellowknife Workshop cont. from page 1*

"I am overwhelmed by the amount of participation and feedback that was generated at this workshop," said David McGuinty, Executive Director and CEO of the NRTEE.

The program's geographical focus is the Northwest Territories, with specific emphasis on the Mackenzie Valley region. An examination of diamond mining within the 'Corridor of Hope,' an unsettled (or evolving) land claim area, and oil and gas development within the Sahtu region, a settled land claim area, forms the foundation of the research being undertaken for this program.

After extensive consultation with over 200 key players and groups, the Aboriginal Communities and Non-renewable Resource Development Task Force is now focusing on the following five preliminary recommendation areas:

- **Skills Training:** To build and enhance the transition skills Aboriginal people will need to fully participate in a wage economy. These skills include both professional (i.e., specific training for the minerals and, the oil and gas industries) and life skills (including financial and community-based education and training).
- **Cumulative Effects:** To endorse the current Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management Framework, a joint initiative between DIAND and Environment Canada, while ensuring the continuation of existing initiatives (e.g., West Kitikmeot/Slave Study, WKSS) and the integration of new initiatives.
- **Economic Diversification:** To capture Crown royalties generated by non-renewable resource development in the NWT to promote long-term

economic diversification and sustainability of Aboriginal communities.

- **Northern Investment:** To strengthen non-renewable resource investment in the NWT.
- **Consultation Protocol:** To create a clear protocol for all parties involved in the consultation with Aboriginal communities (e.g., outlining key principles and best practices).

Recommendations, based on the above issues, will be fully developed by the Task Force over the course of the next few months and presented in a final report due to be released early in 2001. A

backgrounder summarizing the program's research is also being prepared.

Background studies include an investigation of the magnitude of opportunity for minerals, oil and gas in the NWT; the NWT's legal, regulatory and policy framework pertaining to non-renewable resources; a review of North American impacts and benefits agreements; cumulative effects assessment and management; potential social impacts of non-renewable resource development on Aboriginal communities in the NWT; and the NWT's fiscal and taxation regime.

The NRTEE attended the Denendeh National Assembly and the Annual General Assembly of the Assembly of First Nations in July to continue public outreach and consultations.

For more information on the Aboriginal Communities and Non-renewable Resource Development program, please contact Siobhan Arnott, *Policy Advisor* at (613) 943-0398 or by E-mail: [arnotts@nrtee-trnee.ca](mailto:arnotts@nrtee-trnee.ca)

"We are poised on the brink of a new era of investment and development activity in the North."

*Stephen Kakfwi, Premier Northwest Territories*

## Sustainable Development Indicators (SDI) Initiative

The NRTEE will be launching its Sustainable Development Indicators (SDI) Initiative in August. The goal of this program is to generate a national set of sustainable development indicators that can be used universally in Canada. These indicators will:

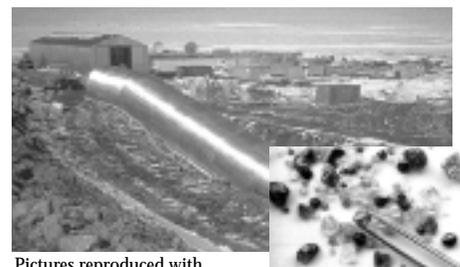
- a) Integrate environmental and social considerations into economic decision making by governments, business, and civil society; and
- b) Track progress towards sustainability.

This initiative originates from the NRTEE's Greening the Budget 2000 recommendations, and came to fruition through funding in the 2000 Federal Budget.

A considerable amount of preliminary work has already been done by a variety of groups to chart Canada's progress towards sustainable development. All of this work will be taken into account in the SDI Initiative.

With the help of a steering committee, the NRTEE will use existing sustainable development indicator research, support further research that contributes to the SDI objectives, and engage a broad range of experts, stakeholders and the general public.

*SDI Initiative cont. on page 4*



Pictures reproduced with permission from Diavik Diamond Mine Inc.

An underground access, built in 1995, to mine a 6,000-tonne sample from two pipes, A-418 and A-154South. The large-diameter steel pipe is used near the surface and transforms to a rock tunnel below the surface. Diavik Diamond Mine Inc. is a northern Canadian mining company with headquarters in Yellowknife, NWT. (Inset) Raw diamonds.

## Liveable Cities for All – Toward Sustainable Communities Forum

The NRTEE co-hosted the *Liveable Cities for All – Toward Sustainable Communities Forum* in Montreal, Quebec on May 3 in conjunction with its fourth and final plenary in the millennium series.

The forum was co-hosted with *Vivre en Ville* (a Quebec non-governmental organization that promotes sustainable urban, rural and communal development), the City of Montreal and the federal and provincial governments. It included a variety of international experts such as Maria Do Rocio Quandt, Director, Information Bureau, Curitiba Institute of Urban Planning and Research (Curitiba, Brazil), Francis Ampe, Advisor on sustainable urban development, DATAE – Délégation à l'aménagement du territoire et à l'action régionale (Paris, France), Mike Burton, Regional Executive Officer of the elected metropolitan government, Portland (Oregon, USA), and Mike Harcourt, NRTEE member and Senior Associate, Sustainable Development, Sustainable

Development Research Institute, University of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC).

The previous three millennium events focused on the following themes: Health, the Environment and the Economy; Jobs, the Environment and the Economy; and the Preservation of Nature. A statement that will highlight emerging sustainable development issues of topmost importance to Canada for the first decade of the new millennium is under preparation and will be released at *Canada in a Global Society*, a conference organized by the Policy Research Initiative, in Ottawa on November 30 - December 1, 2000.

The objective of the Policy Research Initiative is to build a solid foundation of horizontal research upon which future public policy decisions can be based.

For more information, please contact Lisa Woodward, *Program Manager* at (613) 943-0399 or by E-mail at [woodwardl@nrtee-trnee.ca](mailto:woodwardl@nrtee-trnee.ca)



*Health,  
Environment  
and the  
Economy*

The NRTEE is examining how decisions are made to protect human health from harmful substances found in the environment. The program's goal is to create recommendations that will improve the quality of decision making in this area.

Four case studies were used as a starting point to illustrate a range of different decision-making processes, and to ground the discussion in actual experiences. The case studies examined: Lindane; low-sulphur fuel regulations; MMT (Methylcyclopentadienyl Manganese Tricarbonyl) - a fuel additive; and bovine hormone Revalor h.

To download a free copy of the case studies please visit the NRTEE's Web site at [http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca/eng/programs/health/health\\_e.htm](http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca/eng/programs/health/health_e.htm).

After extensive consultation with over 70 participants at a multistakeholder workshop, three key areas of concern were highlighted:

- Integration of health and environment issues;
- Transparency of process and information; and
- Capacity for creating and managing scientific information.

Most of the participants expressed their commitment to developing new decision-making processes to include the three issues.

Recommendations, using the above three areas as a basis, and including additional stakeholder input, will be in a final report due to be released later this summer.

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*SDI Initiative cont. from page 2*

The Steering Committee will include approximately 20-25 representatives from groups currently working on or having an interest in sustainable development indicators (business, labour, federal and provincial governments, community groups, not-for-profit organizations, and academic or research institutions). Environment Canada, Statistics Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Health Canada, and Finance Canada will be invited to participate as *ex-officio* members of the Steering Committee. The

Steering Committee will be co-chaired by Dr. Stuart Smith, Chair of the NRTEE, and by one other person to be chosen shortly.

The program has a three-year time-frame for the production of results and recommendations for further action.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Cahill, *Policy Advisor* at (613) 996-4501 or by E-mail at: [cahillc@nrtee-trnee.ca](mailto:cahillc@nrtee-trnee.ca)

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Find out more about the NRTEE's programs, publications and upcoming events by visiting our Web site at:

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