

News Release

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Minister Confirms Next Steps in Board Reform Initiative

YELLOWKNIFE (February 17, 2009) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has outlined the steps it will take before deciding in April how it will proceed with its Board Reform initiative. Lead Minister for Refocusing Government the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger confirmed that the GNWT will be considering a phased-in approach for regions where more complex board relationships may require further study and consideration.

“We are in the early stages of consulting on the general approach the GNWT could take to Board Reform,” said Minister Miltenberger. “Our focus at this stage is on getting initial feedback and information on the overall approach to Board Reform. At the same time, we will be doing further research in a number of areas that will have to be considered before we can make any decisions about how we will proceed with this initiative.”

A consultation package describing the general approach to Board Reform was released on January 29, 2009. The package has been distributed to over 100 stakeholders, including boards and community governments, and is available to the public, along with the attached work plan, on the Department of Executive website at www.executive.gov.nt.ca. Thirteen meetings have already been held with interested stakeholders and more are being scheduled, including meetings with board members and board staff in all regions. Approximately 25 letters and e-mails have already been received on particular elements of the proposed approach.

Initial consultation on the general approach to Board Reform is expected to be completed by April 2009. The results of that consultation and additional research being conducted by the GNWT are expected to provide the basis for a review of progress to-date that will help the GNWT determine how it will proceed with the Board Reform initiative in coming months.

“I am looking forward to seeing where we are when the results of our consultation and research are ready for us in April,” said Minister Miltenberger. “At that point, we will begin to have a clearer understanding of the additional things we need to do to move forward, but we will still be a long way away from making any final decisions. Board reform is a complex issue and we intend to take the time we need to get it right.”

Further planning work based on the results of the initial round of consultation and study is expected to take place during the spring, including work on identifying specific regional implementation issues. “We understand that there are differences between regions and communities,” said Minister Miltenberger, “and we will be sensitive to those, while staying true to our goal of providing integrated and coordinated services to Northwest Territories residents. Because of the complex arrangements and issues involved in some areas, such as the North Slave region, it is likely that the GNWT will take a phased approach to better prepare for and manage change.”

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