

GNWT Supports Incremental Increase of the Minimum Wage

YELLOWKNIFE (Friday, January 29, 2010) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is increasing the minimum wage over the next two years to \$10.00 an hour.

The minimum wage increase falls under the GNWT's goal of sustainable, vibrant and safe communities. The increase better reflects the rising cost of living in the North and puts the NWT more in line with the rest of Canada. The additional wages will help empower northerners to lead fulfilled lives and contribute to a strong and prosperous society.

“It is important that people are able to earn sufficient wages to be independent while contributing to the economic activity of the NWT,” said Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) Minister Jackson Lafferty in the Legislative Assembly today.

To ease the potential financial burden employers might experience because of the higher rate, the wage increase occurs in two phases. Effective April 1, 2010, the rate increases to \$9.00 an hour and effective April 1, 2011, the rate increases to \$10.00 an hour.

To inform employers and employees on the minimum wage increase, ECE is launching a public awareness campaign across the NWT in the coming weeks.

For more information, contact:

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