

## Press Release

R(15)020807456

### **Income Security Reform Begins with Improvements to Income Assistance**

**YELLOWKNIFE (August 2, 2007)** – A new model of Income Security for the Government of the Northwest Territories and improvements to the Income Assistance programme were announced today. The Honourable Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment released details of the Government’s plans for Income Security.

The reform involves changes to the philosophy, process and structure of Income Security programmes. The Government of the Northwest Territories has budgeted an annual increase of \$5.9 million for implementing the changes to the Income Assistance programme. The changes will be effective September 1, 2007.

“Our Government is committed to helping Northerners move from poverty towards self-reliance,” said Minister Dent. “ We see the model I have described today as essential to achieving this vision. It is important to recognize that our model is not only about providing financial assistance, it is also about recognizing the varying needs of individuals and providing them with a combination of programme supports and services to become and remain self-reliant. ”

In addition to providing details of the reform, Minister Dent released ‘Income Security – Breaking Down the Barriers of Poverty, Promoting Self Reliance’, a paper summarizing the GNWT vision and perspective on dealing with poverty.

For further detail on the changes, please refer to the attached materials.

For more information, contact:

Shawn McCann  
Manager, Public Affairs  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Tel: (867) 920-6222