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Changes to Employment Standards Effective April 1, 2008

YELLOWKNIFE (January 11, 2008) – Changes to Employment standards including a new *Employment Standards Act*, that was legislated in August of 2007, will become effective April 1, 2008.

“These changes are the result of many years of consultation and input by employees and employers,” said Minister Jackson Lafferty. “Employment in the Northwest Territories is growing and changing, and this new system of Employment Standards will better suit modern Northern employees and workplaces.”

In addition to the new *Employment Standards Act*, which combines the *Labour Standards Act*, *Wages Recoveries Act* and *Employment Agencies Act* into one modern and effective legislative framework, corresponding changes to regulations are currently in development, based on input gathered from a consultation paper that was also released today.

There have been previous public consultations on Employment Standards in the NWT, with the last initiated in 2004. During the same time period, the responsibility for Employment Standards has moved within the Government of the Northwest Territories from the Department of Justice, to Education, Culture and Employment.

For more detailed information on the changes to Employment standards, please refer to the attached backgrounder.

For more information, contact:

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