



Western Arctic/Nunavut NDP celebrate passing of Aboriginal Rights resolution

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Quebec City – This morning, Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington and seven NWT delegates celebrated as the “Rights of Aboriginal Peoples” resolution passed with overwhelming support at the 2006 NDP Policy Convention.

The new policy was drafted by the NDP’s newly-formed Aboriginal Committee, made up of First Nations, Metis and Inuit representatives from across the country. Nunavut delegate Michelle Gillis and Western Arctic delegate Eileen Marlowe participated in the Aboriginal Committee panel discussions.

The resolution sets a policy framework which clearly states how the New Democratic Party will address issues of importance to Aboriginal people across the North. It calls for the resolution of: outstanding land claims; recognition of Canada’s responsibility for residential schools abuse; providing adequate infrastructure and improving health; and emphasis on education and training for children, youth and adults.

“I am very pleased that this resolution has now been made NDP policy. The newly-formed NDP Aboriginal Commission, which will have access to its own budget and resources, will serve as the vehicle to ensure the rights of Aboriginal people across the country are not ignored,” said Bevington.

“The Liberals claimed they were the party which represented Aboriginals, but the NDP are empowering First Nations, Metis and Inuit within our party to ensure that their best interests are brought to the forefront in our policies and directions,” Bevington added.

Western Arctic delegate Eileen Marlowe was especially impressed with the NDP’s position on education and training initiatives.

“As Aboriginals, we need to emphasize the importance of education and training among us to ensure that our youth develop self-esteem. With a healthy, positive attitude and knowledge of the opportunities available to us, we can move forward into a prosperous future where we will be better equipped to deal with the challenges ahead of us,” said Marlowe.

For more information, or to schedule and interview with Dennis Bevington or the Northern delegates, please contact:

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