

# News Release

## DIAND Minister playing games with board appointments, says Bevington

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OTTAWA - SEPTEMBER 20, 2006** Western Arctic Member of Parliament Dennis Bevington says Jim Prentice, Conservative Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is unjustly delaying appointments to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board.

"For example, the Government of the Northwest Territories nominated Jack Van Camp months ago and now I understand Prentice has asked for more names," said Bevington. "When in opposition Prentice said in the House of Commons, 'This is an important board and it has significant responsibility in respect of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. The minister has an obligation to set the public's concerns to rest and reassure Canadians of the integrity of the appointment process,' but now he is singing a different tune," Bevington added.

Under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act the Government of the Northwest Territories nominates Northern representatives to the board for approval by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Historically the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has approved the GNWT's recommendation. The only other time the Minister has ignored the GNWT's recommendation was when Todd Burlingame was appointed as the board's chair.

"Prentice attacked then Minister Andy Scott and my Liberal predecessor for playing games with the appointments, now he's doing the same thing," Bevington said. "If the Minister is unhappy with Mr. Van Camp then he should say so and explain why a person with such experience should not be part of the board." Mr. Van Camp has already served for several years on the board.

"When Conservative Prime Minister Harper came to the NWT he said he wanted to end Ottawa's paternalism, now we see that those words were hollow," Bevington added. "If the Prime Minister says the paternalism must end then it can start by Minister Prentice heeding the nomination of Mr. Van Camp."

"As Prentice said when in opposition, the Minister must reassure Canadians of the integrity of the appointment process, the best way he can do that is to follow the intent of the law when it comes to making appointments to this board," said Bevington.

For more information contact:

Doug Johnson, Legislative Assistant, Dennis Bevington MP  
613-992-2131