

Conservative DIAND Minister's comments prove the Harper Government does not have the best interests of Northerners at heart.

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OTTAWA - Recent comments by DIAND Minister Jim Prentice have created confusion as to the future of the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline. On Wednesday June 13, 2007, Dennis Bevington MP (Western Arctic) called on the Minister to for once and for all to eliminate this confusion by stating what the Conservative Government's plans are for the project.

"Instead of clarifying his remarks the Minister instead chose to give empty rhetoric and make cheap shots at the NDP," said Bevington. "His lack of response clearly shows that this minister is not interested in helping the people of the North."

In a speech to the natural gas industry on June 7, 2007, Prentice said the Mackenzie Valley Gas Project will have to be reinvented. Imperial Oil responded on June 11, 2007 the they are confused by Prentice's comments.

"If done correctly this project could have enormous benefits to Northerners" said Bevington. "We need a government which will clearly state what its intentions are not only with this project but the energy sector across Canada. The Minister's piecemeal approach to this project illustrates why we need a Canadian Energy Security Strategy, just like every other industrialized country. This one-off, uncoordinated approach to the development and use of energy in Canada is not in the best interests of Canadian working families."

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