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## **PAN-TERRITORIAL WOMEN'S STUDY SHOWS IMPACTS OF HARPER'S WRONG-HEADED APPROACH**

*Mini-budget missed the mark on investing in people and communities*

**YELLOWKNIFE** – The pan-territorial study on women's homelessness released last week in Ottawa shows the devastating impacts of the Conservative Government's misguided spending of the federal surplus, says NDP Northern Development Critic Dennis Bevington (Western Arctic).

The study *"You Just Blink and It Can Happen: A study of Women's Homelessness North of 60,"* showed that most women in the three Northern territories are on the verge of homelessness for reasons associated with violence, high cost of living, inadequate government support, and the lack of affordable housing, among others.

"This report reinforces the reasons why the NDP had no choice but to vote against Stephen Harper's mini budget. It pushed an irresponsible package of corporate tax cuts that will hobble Canada's capacity to build a better future.

"This \$190-billion tax cut plan to be phased in over the next six years will not create one child care space, build one affordable home, or reduce the cost of living for Northerners. These cuts will widen, not narrow, the prosperity gap between the rich and the rest, and especially for those of us who live in Northern Canada," says Bevington. "It's shameful that Stéphane Dion ordered his Liberal MPs to abstain from voting on this mini-budget in Parliament, a decision that directly resulted in sending our country in the wrong direction."

The Western Arctic MP says without an immediate 50 per cent increase to the Northern Residents Tax Deduction, and a multi-million dollar investment in affordable housing in the North, our communities will continue to suffer from this crisis.

Bevington vows to continue pressuring Parliament to address the critical need for investment in our Northern communities.

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