

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**BEVINGTON CONTINUES FIGHT TO RAISE NORTHERN  
RESIDENTS TAX DEDUCTION**

**OTTAWA** - Two more petitions, with more than 550 signatures, calling for an increase to the Northern Residents Tax Deduction were tabled in House of Commons today by NDP MP Dennis Bevington (Western Arctic). On December 12, 2007 Bevington tabled in the House of Commons two petitions with over 600 signatures.

“The more than 1,100 Northerners from all three territories who signed these petitions are saying loud and clear that it is time Ottawa took this simple step to lower the high cost of living in the North,” said Bevington. “It has been more than 20 years since this deduction was introduced and it has not gone up even though inflation has risen by 65 per cent.”

In the official response to the December 12, 2007 petitions Conservative Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said the government did not see the need to increase the deduction because by their thinking the cost of living in the North has gone down, saying, “...since the introduction of the new system of Northern Benefits in 1991, the gap in the cost of living between Northern communities such as Whitehorse and Yellowknife and Canada as a whole has narrowed.”

“It is clear the Conservatives are out to lunch on the North,” said Bevington. “Anyone who believes living in the North costs the same as living in the South obviously doesn’t have a clue about what they are talking about. First Northerners suffered from years of Liberal neglect and now we have Stephen Harper’s Conservatives who think announcing a fleet of slushbreakers makes them experts on the North.”

The petition calls on Conservative Finance Minister Jim Flaherty to increase the residence portion of the deduction by 50 per cent and that this portion of the tax deduction be indexed in order to keep pace with inflation based upon a Northern inflation measurement.

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**N.B.** The deduction was created in 1988. In 1991 it was expanded to include the “B” zone in Southern Canada.

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