

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 7, 2008

NORTH NEEDS OTTAWA'S HELP TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

YELLOWKNIFE – Canada's North needs federal assistance to develop sources of alternative energy rather than a carbon tax, said Dennis Bevington the NDP Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic.

"I agree with the three Northern premiers that rather than a carbon tax investment is needed in alternative energy sources such as hydro electricity, wind power and biomass," said Bevington. "We need a federal government which will provide the funds for investment in alternative energy rather than a tax which will make the cost of living in the North go even higher."

On July 2, 2008 the three Northern Premiers rejected any proposal for a national carbon tax saying investing in alternative energy is a much more sensible solution to combating the impact of climate change.

"Recently the Premier of British Columbia suggested an investment of \$25 million would be sufficient to develop alternative energy sources in the North," said Bevington. "That figure wouldn't even be a start, particularly if a carbon tax was in place as such a tax would make capital development of alternative energy even more costly."

"The North needs both a long term commitment from the federal government and for the borrowing limit imposed by Ottawa on the territories to be increased. However, making this investment now will pay off several times over in the future," said Bevington.

Possible sources of alternative energy in the Northwest Territories include, expanding the Talston Hydro-electric facility, converting public buildings to biomass and using wind energy to replace diesel generators.

-30-

For more information contact:

Doug Johnson, Office of Dennis Bevington MP, 613-992-2131