

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MP BEVINGTON PROTESTS “LEGALIZED ROBBERY”
OF NORMAN WELLS OIL ROYALTIES**

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YELLOWKNIFE – As a result of the previous Liberal government’s refusal to include the Norman Wells oil field in resource revenue negotiations with the territorial government, Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington has asked Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl to cease the “legalized robbery” of NWT resources.

Bevington asked the Minister: “Will the Conservative government continue this blatant legalized robbery of NWT resources? Or is it going to return to the table on this issue with the Government of the NWT and proceed honourably on the matter?”

In a letter to Strahl this week, the Northern MP indicated that the Norman Wells oil field yielded \$125 million to the federal treasury last year, based on production of six million barrels of oil at an average price of \$70 per barrel. With oil prices this year projected at more than \$100 per barrel, the federal government will yield a considerable windfall profit from resource royalties this year.

“I would like you to consider targeting this windfall profit into a special infrastructure fund for use for much-needed expansion and improvements to the NWT transportation system.

“Our roads are not in any shape to handle the increased pressures that mining and oil and gas development are bringing to the NWT. Improving the transportation system of the NWT will help support the economic development of the territory and improve Canada’s position vis-a-vis Arctic Sovereignty,” said Bevington.

The Western Arctic MP says the Conservative government must act now if the NWT is to realize any of these benefits.

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A copy of the letter to Minister Strahl is available upon request.

For more information, please contact:

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