

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bevington Lays Out Plans for Spring Session
MP Updates Western Arctic Constituents

YELLOWKNIFE NWT— A lot has happened since the October 2008 election. The Conservative government was forced to admit the Canadian recession is a reality. And while the NDP Liberal coalition has faded into a chapter of political history, the coalition was successful in changing the direction of federal budgeting.

7 pm Tonight at Northern United Place, Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington will share his recent work and the success of the NDP so far in the second session of the 40th Parliament. He will also discuss the issues which await him on the horizon of the spring session.

Bevington is preparing to introduce into the House of Commons a bill to amend the *Northwest Territories Act* giving the NWT complete and clear jurisdiction over the construction of new highways. “By having jurisdiction the NWT will not have to wait for Ottawa’s permission to begin planning the Mackenzie Valley Highway including beginning the environmental review process. This is a practical way to focus on the neglected area of devolution,” said Bevington.

Also as the Northern Development Critic, Dennis convinced the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development to begin a study of Federal plans for Northern Economic Development.

As the NDP’s Transport Critic, Dennis continues to echo Northern voices to the committee review of *Bill C-3 an Act to Amend the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act*. “Too often decisions are made about the North without Northerners being consulted, this needs to change,” said Bevington.

Dennis continues to stand up for Northerners and fight to protect Canadians privacy rights, like he has recently done at the Transport Committee table with *Bill C-9 an Amendment to the Dangerous Goods Act*. “It became clear that the intent of *Bill C-9* was to bring in a National security clearance process which goes way beyond what Canadians want or need, unfortunately the Conservatives and Liberals failed to support my amendments which means Canadians now have weaker rights to privacy,” said Bevington.

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