

Dennis Bevington

Member of Parliament Western Arctic

Community Newsletter Winter 2009



Dear friends,

The new federal budget has now become a reality for the country. The complete change from an attitude of no deficit to one where we will be taking on 64 billion dollars of government debt has many politicians in Ottawa rapidly reversing their financial wisdom. This new debt amounts to almost 2000 dollars for every person in Canada. Not anyone in the election in the fall mentioned the words, "budget deficit", but we are all supporting that concept right now. The differences between the political parties is on how we invest and utilize the stimulus dollars in the budget, to continue with the energy and material consuming economy that led us into this situation or to go forward with new ideas and directions.

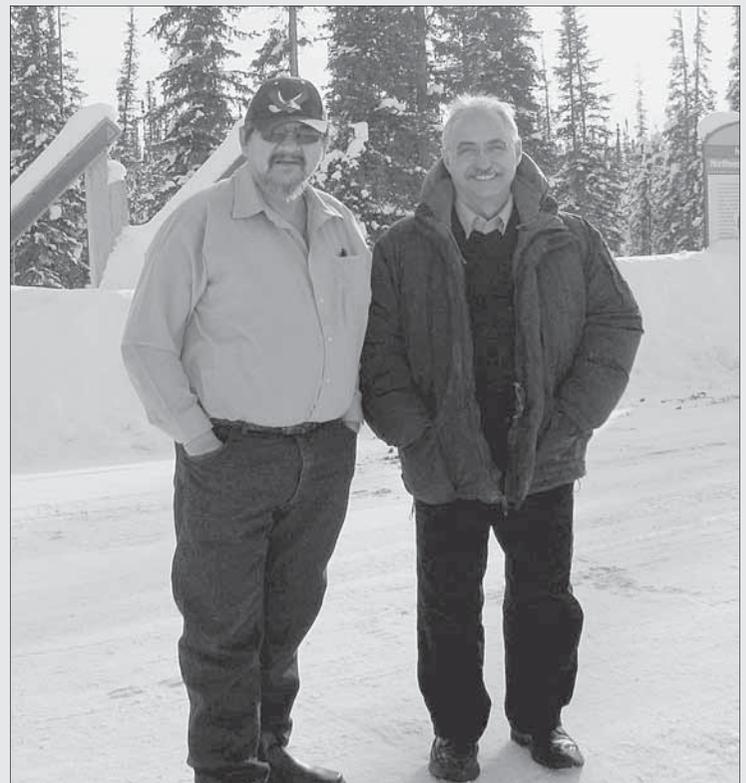
In the NWT, we are not immune from the impacts of the recession; already we are seeing the shutdown of mineral exploration, the loss of jobs in aviation and a slowing down in oil and gas activity. As we move more into the recession, we need to focus on those things that can lead us to a better future, planning infrastructure like highways and transmission lines, improvements to communities all can help us grow. Building retrofits, home energy improvements, small green energy projects can help keep our costs down. When the recovery comes, fuel costs will go back up and northerners need to be prepared.

We need to find ways to ensure the viability of NWT based businesses as they will be impacted most in this downturn. Small business is vital to a dynamic life in our communities. Without the hard work and personal commitment of business people our lives would be more difficult and less

enjoyable. In these tough times give your northern businesses the support they need.

Let's take this time of economic uncertainty to come together as northerners. Let's talk about our future, taking over control of our resources, land and our future. Let's make sure that our public government and our aboriginal governments get moving on our common future. Let's make sure that when we come out of this recession, we are moving in the right direction.

My parliamentary duties have stepped up this year with my critic's role on the Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities committee. The issues on this committee are very important to northerners and I look forward to representing you all in the future.



Gabe Hardisty and Dennis with an impromptu meeting on the highway leading to Fort Providence.

In February, the Dene Nation hosted a Leadership meeting in Yellowknife, all five regions of the NWT were represented by their Chiefs and Elders. Numerous presentations were made on the issue of education for Aboriginal northerners including how to improve it in the future.

Dennis who was invited to speak at the meeting, focused mainly on issues around water and the environment and the need for northerners to come together to protect their common future.

Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus told delegates, "It's time for the NWT to have its own constitution and move forward" saying it was time for both the Territorial and Federal governments to resume talks on the constitution and include the Assembly of First Nations.



Elder Charlie Snowshoe, Dennis, Bill Erasmus and Rene Fumoleau

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Dennis travelled to Fort Providence for community meetings in February.

Middle photo:

Prescilla Canadien-band councilor, Chief Berna Landry, Dennis and Xavier Canadian-band counselor.

Right:

Dennis with Mayor Pashchalina Thurber and councilor Edith Squirrel.



Opportunities for Northerners to Save on Energy

The Government of the Northwest Territories and Arctic Energy Alliance are leading the *Green Charge* North of 60. Buy an eligible energy efficient home appliance, heating appliance, or 2008 hybrid vehicle and pocket the rewards!

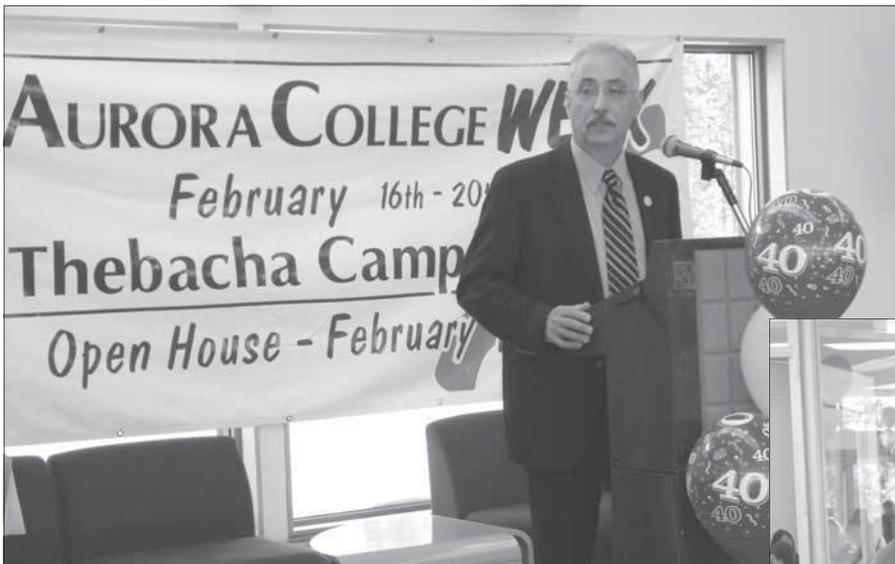
For example, if you buy an energy efficient refrigerator, identified by an energy star label, you can get a \$100 dollar rebate, or \$200 dollar rebate if you live in a non-hydro community.

Fight the cold winters and upgrade your household heating. Homeowners can get up to \$900 dollars back for a 92% efficient oil furnace, and up to a \$1000 dollar rebate for installing a wood pellet system.

The Federal Government is offering a home retrofit program that will allow a 15% tax credit this year and next on up to 10,000 of home fix-ups including energy efficiency. The Federal Eco-Initiative for Homes Program is still available but you must conduct an energy audit. For more details, contact the Arctic Energy Alliance of Canada Toll-free 1-877-755-5855

Please call, write or visit our constituency office in Yellowknife. We're here to help you with:

- ⇒ Issues related to Federal government services such as Passports, Citizenship and Immigration, Employment Insurance, Revenue Canada, and Old Age Security
- ⇒ Personalized certificates for high school and college graduates
- ⇒ Providing referrals to other services in the community



Aurora College celebrates 40 years of growth in Education.

Dennis was a guest speaker at the Aurora College Week open house on February 16 held at the Thebacha campus in Fort Smith.

The event celebrates the 40th Anniversary since it's beginning and achievements in educating Northerners over the years.



Right: Mayor Peter Martselos, Dennis, Samantha Scheper, Josie Weninger South Slave representative on the Aurora College Board of Directors and Campus Director Jeff O'Keefe.



Left to right: Jon Jaque President Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce; Gordon Van Tighem Mayor of Yellowknife; Chris Pederson Thor Lake Project Geologist Avalon Adventures; Dennis ; Hilary Jones General Manager NWT Mine Training Society; Bill Mercer Vice-Pres Exploration Avalon Ventures; Bill Erasmus Dene National Chief; David Connelly Northern Advisor Avalon Ventures; Roy Erasmus Jr. CEO Deton'Cho Corporation (photo credit: David Connelly)

The Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce hosted a luncheon featuring Avalon Ventures Inc. The Toronto based company is the only one drilling for rare earths and metals such as; indium, tantalum and lithium outside of China. Avalon began test drilling for rare earth minerals at their Thor Lake site in 2007, which is located between Yellowknife and Lutsel k'e on the northern shores of Great Slave Lake. MP Dennis Bevington called the project "an answer for the new economy". A recent resource estimate shows a higher than expected tonnage and grade for certain heavy rare earth samples.

International Women's Day/Week 2009

- ⇒ **In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on member states to proclaim a day for women's rights and international peace. Following the United Nations' lead, Canada chose March 8 as International Women's Day.**
- ⇒ **This year the theme is Strong Leadership, Strong Women, Strong World=Equality, reflecting the Government's firm belief that increasing women's participation and access to leadership roles and responsibilities will help women and girls reach their full potential and help a more prosperous Canada.**
- ⇒ **Canadian women have made enormous strides. The House of Commons currently has 69 women—the highest number ever elected.**
- ⇒ **More women are also now part of the work-force—58% of all women aged 15 and over currently are part of the paid work force, up from 42% in 1976. 47% of self employed Canadians are women, and 1 in 10 Canadian women are self –employed.**
- ⇒ **Women are also increasing their participation in other aspects of Canadian life. Currently, women make up the majority of full-time students in most university departments.**

Have your say, send us your feedback.

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