

Four such groups have already been formed. The first was established in response to the Slave River hydro project, the second due to Mackenzie Delta-Beaufort development, the third in the Great Bear region in response to the Norman Wells project and the fourth in the High Arctic in response to the Bent Horn Project.

Resource Development Policy action plan activities to date have been ineffective and not fully implemented. A key issue underlying GNWT credibility in these activities is the lack of legislation and the assumption that the GNWT has limited jurisdiction to enact legislation. Recent studies have supported the GNWT's mandate concerning the development of legislation on socio-economic and certain environmental matters. As a result, it is concluded that the GNWT has the legislative mandate to enact an ordinance dealing with these matters pursuant to Section 13 of the Northwest Territories Act. It is to be noted that GNWT legislation would not duplicate or conflict with any existing federal act used to control resource activities.

2. Resource Management and Revenue Sharing

A Resource Management and Revenue Sharing Agreement with the Government of Canada would secure for the Territorial Government a wide range of provincial type authorities and responsibilities over resource development activities.

The GNWT began its resource management and revenue sharing preparations in 1982 at a time when Provincial governments were negotiating agreements of a similar nature. The initial Federal response was cool but the GNWT remains confident that intergovernmental discussions will begin in 1985.

Most recently the Honourable David Crombie, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, in a speech to the 10th Legislative Assembly of the NWT, stated that he intended "to seek the support of Cabinet colleagues to start discussions in this regard with territorial governments. These discussions could lead to joint Federal/Territorial natural resource management and the sharing of revenues derived from development." As well, the Honourable David Crombie made a commitment that the GNWT will share resource revenues from the recently announced Bent Horn project.

A Resource Management and Revenue Sharing Agreement will provide a basis from which government can effectively manage northern resources. It is the GNWT's hope that such an agreement, in concert with other GNWT initiatives, will go a long way to reducing the complexity which is perceived to surround the current development approvals process. A number of issues such as native claims and division have been dealt with in relation to GNWT revenue sharing aspirations.

Native claim negotiations and settlements are not jeopardized or compromised by GNWT resource revenue sharing negotiations because where aboriginal organizations have ownership of subsurface rights the GNWT recognizes their right to royalties from resource extraction.