





forefront of northerners minds – it is time for the GNWT to step-up and invest in the social, economic mental and physical well-being of every northerner.

## Privatization

No going back. Once privatized, the quality of services will decline while costs increase, workers laid off, while corporate greed takes over – time and time again we've seen the effect of P3s on public services around the world. Why the GNWT refuses to learn from the mistakes of others will only result in northerners paying for the mistakes of the proponents for P3s. Who really benefits from P3s and privatization? The public, No, Corporations, Yes.

P3s will only contribute the growing eventuality of boom-bust economy in the near future if the GNWT's short-term gains fail to produce the expected results of MLAs – long-term community investments are what northerners want in their communities. Time and time again we've watch our Government spend taxpayer dollars to correct the mistakes of corporations, rather than investing in workers, individuals, families, and their communities.

## Revenue and Expenditures

The GNWT is accountable to all northerners. Failure to implement new and collect new revenues is a disservice to northerners especially when cuts are announced. There are several tax regimes that have not been increased in several years, whereas other taxes directly benefiting corporations and top wage earners in the north have seen tax cuts – but average and low-wage earners continue to be affected by the never-ending cost of living increases.

A detailed analysis of internal spending on all expenses should be made public – as well a detailed review and report on spending at all levels, the cost of redundant processes and procedures, outdated technologies and practices, and benefits of continuous improvement to reduce expenditures due to archaic operations and systems.

## Transparency and Accountability

The tactics of the GNWT during the current budget period is similar to those taken in 2008, when public service cuts were also announced. However, the picture painted by the GNWT eight years ago never materialized and the NWT economy faired better than those of our southern counterparts, and despite various reports from public and private organizations suggesting the NWT's economy will be one of the strongest in future years.

The GNWT has continued its message of 'Doom and Gloom' with no indication of the potential public service cuts. Currently it is unclear whether \$150M will be cut over 2, 3, 4 or 5 years. Numerous conflicting statements from MLAs has made addressing this budget difficult as there has been no clear statement over how many years the proposed cuts will be in effect.

May 17, 2016

GNWT Budget Dialogue Submission 2016