



Alternatives North

Citizens who believe reasonable and responsible increases in revenue are a way to pay for essential services need to give their message to the NWT Finance Minister.

The GNWT's Finance Department is holding public meetings to ask citizens how it should set budgets to spend our money. A discussion paper, "*Living Within Our Means*" has been released. It describes the GNWT plan to limit program spending, delay spending on infrastructure, and spend less than it takes in so it can pay off debt.

What the GNWT does NOT include in the discussion is the opportunity to increase revenue for public services through progressive taxes.

Research commissioned by Alternatives North since 2008 shows there are wise opportunities to raise more money. Research says we could:

- Raise corporate and personal income tax rates to be more in line with provincial rates, and get a greater share of taxes from high income earners
- Raise consumption taxes, which are as low as half of national rates
- Get a fairer return on the one-time sale of non-renewable resources, through increased resource rents

You can attend public meetings October 23 at the Tree of Peace in Yellowknife, or October 24 in Behchoko at the Cultural Centre, at 6:30 PM.

Or, send input to Budget Dialogue, Dept. of Finance, PO Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2L9, budgetdialogue@gov.nt.ca

A copy of the GNWT discussion paper is available at

<http://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/documents/press-releases/BudgetDialogue-2012/2012%20Budget%20Dialogue%20Summary.pdf>

Summaries of Alternatives North recommendations for increased revenue are in the *Submission to the GNWT on the 2009 Revenue Options Paper*.

<http://www.alternativesnorth.ca/Portals/0/Documents/GNWT%20Finances/2009%2011%2002%20%20Submission%20GNWT%20Revenue%20Options%20Consultation.pdf>

the *2008 Report on Public Service Cuts in the NWT*

<http://www.alternativesnorth.ca/Portals/0/Documents/GNWT%20Finances/2008%2005%2001%20Parkland%20Report%20On%20NWT%20Public%20Service%20Cuts.pdf>

and the 2009 Review of the 2010-11 GNWT budget.

<http://aged.alternativesnorth.ca/pdf/NWTBudgetReport2009.pdf>

