



Alternatives North

ALTERNATIVES NORTH 2012 YEAR IN REVIEW

Anti-Poverty

There were continuing contributions to this major focus of the year, and heavy involvement in Anti-Poverty Strategy work.

- Communications leadership for No Place For Poverty coalition, including numerous meetings, updates, reviews, feedback
- Attended June (Hay River) and October (Inuvik) round tables to draft Anti-Poverty Strategy
- Participated in validation exercise (December)

The Anti-Poverty Strategy is expected to be completed, including action plan, in 2013.

Giant Mine

Alternatives North has been about the only “independent oversight” on this project.

- Organized and participated in an Oversight Workshop on March 6-7, 2012 including guest presenters from the US and southern Canada
- Participated in 12 meetings of the Oversight Working Group, reviewed 6 drafts of a discussion paper and 8 drafts of an Environmental Agreement
- Negotiated a contribution agreement with AANDC for 2012-13 participant funding for the ongoing Environmental Assessment, and another agreement for AN participation in the Giant Mine Environmental Management Working Group
- Attended Giant Mine Environmental Management Working Group meetings held on March 5, April 25, May 15, June 20 and December
- Reviewed draft application and background documents for the demolition of the roaster complex and underground stabilization
- Submitted a Technical Report to the Review Board on June 11, participated in a pre-hearing conference on July 26
- Participated in the September 2012 Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board public hearing, arranged three expert presenters, six thematic presentations, questions for other parties and submission of closing remarks
- Conducted numerous media interviews, submitted commentary and articles to media, filed a petition with the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development

Municipal Election

Yellowknife All-Candidates Forum

- AN organized the only forum of all Council and Mayoralty candidates, with mock council format.

Governance Conference

Involvement in the October Northern Governance and Economy Conference development:

- Hosted a panel entitled "*Social & Economic Impacts of Non-Renewable Resource Extraction: Experiences from Alberta and Northern Ontario*" at the Northern Governance and Economy Conference: Pathways to Prosperity conference held in Yellowknife. Diana Gibson and Dr David Leadbeater presented an overview of social and economic impacts of non-renewable resource extraction using the experiences of Alberta and Northern Ontario as case studies.
- Also hosted a public noon-hour talk entitled *Social & Economic Impacts of Non-Renewable Resource Extraction in Alberta*. Diana Gibson, former Research Director of the Parkland Institute presented an overview of social and economic impacts of non-renewable resource extraction.

Government Budgets

Activities included:

- Media interviews in response to Federal Government Budget February
- Responded to GNWT Budget May
- Post-Budget Luncheon: promoted AN perspectives to GNWT Finance Minister
- Participated in GNWT Dept. Finance public consultation (Yk) on spending allocation October

Federal Legislative and Regulatory Affairs

- Free Trade- wrote letter(s) to GNWT Assembly re: implications
- CPP changes – commented as part of omnibus bills presentations
- CBC cuts – promoted petition
- Bill C-38 – sent a letter to GNWT recommending action re: changes to environmental and land claims legislation – impact on GNWT.
- Assisted (with Raging Boomers, Unions, Idle No More) public demonstrations around both omnibus (ominous) Bills C-38 and C-45
- Bill C-47 Surface Rights preliminary work (continuing in 2013)

Early Childhood Development

Further work this year included:

- AN participation in ECE round table consultation on Family Resource Centres

- Collaborated with NWT Literacy Council to write Early Childhood and Poverty, Summary and Research June 2012. This document was submitted as part of the background research for drafting the Anti-Poverty Strategy.

Health Care

- AN continued to work with partners in the Canadian Health Coalition promoting improvements in public health care. An AN rep participated in monthly national planning teleconference calls and travelled to Ottawa to participate in a national strategy meeting in the spring and again in November to help with a lobby day during National Medicare Week. Public education through local media contacts also happened.
- AN attended the annual general meeting meeting of the Canadian Medical Association held in Yellowknife in the summer encouraging them to address the social determinants of health in their deliberations, and formally endorsed the CMA's Principles for Health Care Transformation. This work dovetailed with our anti-poverty work.

Food Security

- Worked to encourage UN Rapporteur on the Right to Food to include a northern visit in his Canadian tour. (The Rapporteur went to Iqaluit, but not NWT)
- Disseminated information on Food Security review; supported Territorial Farmers Association activities.

Miscellaneous issues/"One-Off" events

- AN Strategic Planning Workshop (Feb) - day-long brain-storming and strategizing on priorities
- GNWT Energy Charette – members participated
- Media misrepresentation of review boards and associated issues – letters written
- City of Yk water supply – letter of inquiry
- Arctic Council NGO input – meeting in Sweden

Support for partner and like-minded groups

- Palestine dinner
- Raging Boomers
- Yes We Care event
- Black Out Speak Out
- Dene Nation/AFN Day of Action
- Idle No More
- Sisters in Spirit