



MR. R.J. SIMPSON
MLA, HAY RIVER NORTH

MAY 18 2017

Oral Question 704-18(2) Commitment to the Manufacturing Industry

Thank you for your questions on March 7, 2017, regarding manufacturing in the Northwest Territories (NWT). During our discussion, I committed to inform the House when a Manufacturing Strategy would be implemented and to follow the prescribed Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) process to develop legislation and strategies moving forward. I also committed to sit down with the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment for its review and input prior to the Manufacturing Strategy being released.

Furthermore, I committed to sit down with the Department of Finance and possibly the federal government and figure out how to move forward with P3 projects to better develop manufacturing in the NWT.

I offer the following information:

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) has completed a workplan towards the development of Manufacturing Strategy for the NWT; details of that workplan are attached to this letter. The GNWT remains committed to working with NWT manufacturers and industry to develop this strategy. ITI envisions and anticipates that it will improve the promotion of NWT-manufactured products, as well as identify areas of potential growth.

The NWT's manufacturing sector provides opportunities for economic diversification, local investment and job creation. The GNWT Northern Manufactured Products Policy and Business Incentive Policy leverage government purchases into investment in NWT-owned businesses and services.

The GNWT is renewing its emphasis on the Northern Manufactured Products Policy. ITI staff are working with NWT manufacturers to compile a full inventory of made-in-the-NWT products available to the GNWT. ITI is working to ensure manufacturers understand the policy and processes that are in place and that their products are registered.

.../2

ITI is also working with the NWT Manufacturer's Association to ensure that public and private sector buyers are aware of, and have the information that they need to purchase products made and available in the NWT, as well as supporting the development of marketing and promotional materials for manufacturers.

With respect to sitting down with the Department of Finance and the federal government to figure out how to move forward with P3 projects to better develop manufacturing in the NWT, these questions will be included and addressed in the Manufacturing Strategy's Terms of Reference, which are currently being developed. Once discussions have taken place, I expect this will provide further clarity on the matter.

Thank you for your interest in this important initiative. I trust this response is satisfactory.



Wally Schumann
Minister
Industry, Tourism and Investment

Attachment

c. Honourable Robert C. McLeod
Minister, Finance

Mr. Cory Vanthuyne
Chair, Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment

Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Tom Jensen
Deputy Minister, ITI

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator

Northern Manufacturing Strategy – Workplan Brief

Key Parties

Key parties, with whom ITI will work collaboratively on the development of the Northern Manufacturing Strategy (NMS) comprise:

- Infrastructure;
- Education, Culture and Employment ;
- Finance;
- NWT Housing Corporation; and
- NWT Manufacturers Association (NWTMA).

ITI will also have multiple engagements with the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment.

Consultations

The NMS will require consultation with:

- Industry and the NWTMA;
- Existing and prospective manufacturers;
- Sector experts in areas that include, but are not limited to, agriculture, construction, tourism and transportation;
- Procurement departments that include, but are not limited to, government and mining concerns;
- Training organizations; and,
- Experts in the deployment of key technologies that support the various manufacturing sectors.

Key Considerations

The NMS will comprise elements of:

- Expanding the existing base;
- Expansion into new areas of manufacture;
- Expansion of the market for both existing and new industry;
- Long term growth of the human capital available to the sector – both in terms of numbers and skills; and,
- Long term growth of the technology-based underpinnings of the sector – both in terms of indirect technology assists (i.e. access to fibre-optic lines) and direct technological investment in manufacturers.

Milestones

Development of the NMS will require ITI hire a Facilitator to assist with the collaborative and consultative requirements of the endeavor. The Facilitator will be tasked with producing a comprehensive "What We Heard Report" (WWHR) as well as a comprehensive roadmap of recommendations and actions that will guide ITI in the final development of the NMS.

Key aspects of the timeline comprise:

June 2017	Developed in collaboration with the NWT Manufacturers Association, a final Terms of Reference for the project is expected early-to-mid June.
September	Consultations to be completed by the end of September.
October	Draft WWHR due – to be shared with Key Parties for review and input.
November	Final WWHR and NMS roadmap due.
December	Draft NMS due – to be shared with Key Parties for review and input.
January 2018	Feedback from key parties on draft NMS due.
February	Delivery of final NMS to the Minister of ITI.
March	Tabling of NMS in the Legislative Assembly.