



MR. NORMAN YAKELEYA  
MLA, SAHTU

AUG 29 2015

**Oral Question 762-17(5) Supports for Sewing and Beading Craftwork**

This letter is in follow-up to our discussion in the Legislative Assembly on Monday, March 9, 2015, regarding Oral Question 762-17(5) Supports for Sewing and Beading Craftwork.

During our discussion, I committed to have the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) investigate the concept of bringing together and holding an international forum in the Northwest Territories (NWT) on beading or design-makers to share their experiences with northerner producers, as well as other designers around the world.

I also committed to advise you as to whether or not ITI has any policies and/or regulations in place that protect the NWT's beadwork and garment designs from use and misuse in the marketplace.

Lastly, I committed that ITI would have discussions with the Departments Health and Social Services (HSS) and Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) in order to determine and examine the therapeutic value of incorporating beadwork into clothing.

I am pleased to advise that officials from ITI have initiated discussions with officials from HSS and ECE regarding options and opportunities that may exist in sponsoring an international forum in the NWT, involving northern and international crafters, garment producers and designers from the NWT. Once an analysis has been developed, I would be happy to bring this to your attention.


On the matter of policies and regulations aimed at protecting beadwork and garment designs from use and misuse in the marketplace, in general, intellectual property is a matter of federal jurisdiction. For example, artistic works are subject to the federal *Copyright Act*. Therefore, ITI does not have any policies or regulations in place that would protect NWT beadwork and garment design from use and misuse in the marketplace.

.../2



With respect to the therapeutic value of incorporating beadwork into crafts and clothing, ITI officials have contacted HSS and ECE to discuss options and opportunities in how best to approach this initiative to ensure best results can be achieved and reported upon.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. I trust this information is satisfactory.



David Ramsay  
Minister

- c. Honourable Glen Abernethy  
Minister of HSS
  
- Honourable Jackson Lafferty  
Minister, ECE
  
- Mr. Peter Vician  
Deputy Minister, ITI
  
- Mr. Tim Mercer  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
  
- Mr. David Hastings  
Legislative Coordinator