



Aboriginal Pipeline Group

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Press Release

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Fred Carmichael succeeds Nellie Cournoyea as new Chair of the APG

Inuvik, NT – The Aboriginal Pipeline Group (APG) today announced that Fred Carmichael would be taking over as chair of the APG, succeeding Nellie Cournoyea who will remain active on the Executive.

Ms. Cournoyea commented that “as chair of the APG one of my goals was to see the establishment of a forum that would ensure the federal government addressed Aboriginal ownership and benefits in a Mackenzie Valley pipeline. With the appointment of Roland Priddle as their point person, the federal government has set the stage to ensure these issues are addressed. In keeping with the spirit of cooperation and partnership established through the APG it is now appropriate that the position of chair move on to one of the other founding organizations in this groundbreaking aboriginal business venture.”

Fred Carmichael, President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, has been a prominent Aboriginal leader in the Mackenzie Delta for over 30 years. “I am honoured and pleased that the Executive has endorsed my appointment as Chair of the APG. Together with the APG team, including Peter Lougheed, I look forward to working with Roland Priddle and senior members of the federal and NWT governments. We have a lot of work to do in a very short time-frame to achieve significant Aboriginal participation in the project”

Mr. Carmichael added “On behalf of the APG Executive and the Aboriginal People of the Northwest Territories, I would like to sincerely thank Nellie for her efforts and dedication over the past three years to reach the point we are at today. Her perseverance has ensured an unprecedented level of understanding among government, industry and Aboriginal people that will hopefully lay the groundwork to build a Mackenzie Valley pipeline. I am very pleased Nellie will remain actively involved on the Executive to see our goals through to completion.”

The APG represents the Dene, Inuvialuit and Métis in the Mackenzie Delta, Mackenzie Valley and the NWT. It was formed in January 2000 to maximize Aboriginal ownership and benefits in the project. In the summer and fall of 2001, the APG negotiated and signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding with the four Mackenzie Delta producers formalizing Aboriginal support and participation in the project. In June 2002, the APG submitted a comprehensive Business Plan to the federal government and to the Government of the Northwest Territories that included a request for government financial assistance to facilitate APG ownership in the Project Definition Phase of the project.

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