



October 26th, 2012

Board Chair Report **2012 Annual General Meeting**

It has been an exciting year for the NWT Disabilities Council. One of the highlights of the past year was the development of a five year strategic plan. The plan was developed by the Board of Directors with the full input of all staff. I am confident the direction we are going in will enhance much needed support for persons with disabilities. When you entered you saw a copy of our vision, mission and goals. You can find a full version of the Strategic Plan on our website, www.nwtability.ca

The most successful fundraising events held over the past year were our Annual Benefit Auction. This event was specifically designed to maximize the generosity of the business community and individuals to benefit the Council and people we serve. With the amazing effort of Council staff, Directors, family and friends we were able to dramatically reduce overhead and enhance profit. As usual, the generosity of Northerners was unprecedented and we had a very successful event. I highly encourage all of you to continue to support the businesses and organizations that go out of their way to support the Council.

This summer we were pleased to be the beneficiary of the 21st Annual Abilities Cup Benefit Race hosted by the Great Slave Cruising Club. The event raised approximately \$5,000 and the Council is eternally grateful to the Great Slave Cruising Club for their generous and ongoing support. Thanks also go to the individuals, businesses and musical talent that supported the fundraiser.

New and innovative fundraising events are being planned now for development in the near future. It is anticipated that these new events will inject much needed funds into the organization and will assist us with bringing even more awareness about disability issues across the NWT.

The Executive Director, Denise McKee, and I have had very promising meetings with the highest levels of Territorial government in efforts to move forward on issues critical to the Council's success. Our focus continues to be driven by our Strategic Plan and with our goals and objectives in sync with the GNWT. We will continue to seek out partnership opportunities to support and enhance our programming. One main focus area discussed was the support of the GNWT to relocate the Council back to the centre core allowing easier access for the people we support



I am very appreciative of the gargantuan efforts of the staff over the past year, especially the amazing work of our Executive Director. Denise, please accept my heartfelt thanks for all that you have done and continue to do for the Council. With your drive, leadership and determination, I have no doubt that we will continue to see positive growth.

For those of you who have served the Council over the last year and have moved on, I want to thank you for your service to the Council. For those who are new to the Council, be prepared to engage in a challenging and gratifying experience. I challenge you to be selfless in your support of the Council and I sincerely hope that you will find your time with us rewarding and exciting. I also want to recognize Vice Chair Ray Massey for his years of service to the Council. Ray is currently fighting significant health issues and I ask that those of you are able to, please keep him in your prayers through this challenging time.

To the current and outgoing Directors of the Board, please accept my sincerest appreciation for all that you have done for the Council and for your support of persons across the NWT who are challenged daily to achieve their full potential.

It was certainly an honor for me to serve as Chair of the Council over the past year.

Thank you so very much for your support.

Sincerely,
Mr. D.E. (Don) Gillis
Board Chair.