

November 8, 2011

NEW TRANSPORTATION MINISTERS FOR THE NORTH

Governments in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon recently announced appointments to newly formed cabinets.

Northwest Territories Premier Bob McLeod appointed the Hon. David Ramsay as Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment and Minister of Transportation on November 2, 2011.

Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski's cabinet was sworn in on November 5, 2011. Hon. Wade Istchenko was appointed Minister of Highways and Public Works

WESTAC congratulates Ministers Ramsay and Istchenko on their appointments and looks forward to working with them in the future.

<http://news.exec.gov.nt.ca/premier-mcleod-announces-ministerial-portfolios/>
<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/11-153.html>

Hon. David Ramsay

David Ramsay was elected to the 17th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories on October 3, 2011. This will be Mr. Ramsay's third consecutive term as the Member representing the constituency of Kam Lake.

Mr. Ramsay was born March 18, 1970 in Saint John, New Brunswick. He moved to Yellowknife in 1980 with his parents and two younger brothers, where he attended École St. Joseph School before graduating from St. Patrick's High School in 1988. He went on to obtain a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science specializing in Aboriginal Law and Self-Government from the University of New Brunswick in 1995.

After starting a small business, the Business Development Bank of Canada awarded Mr. Ramsay the "Young Entrepreneur of the Year" award in 1996. Mr. Ramsay was elected to serve on Yellowknife City Council in 1997, and again in 2000. In 2003 Mr. Ramsay won the riding of Kam Lake in territorial politics, and was re-elected in 2007 and again in 2011. During the last Assembly, Mr. Ramsay served as a member of the Board of Management, as well as Chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure.

Mr. Ramsay has two young boys named Malachi and Elijah.

http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/home.aspx

Hon. Wade Istchenko

Wade Istchenko was elected to the Yukon Legislative Assembly in the general election of October 11, 2011. He was sworn into Cabinet on November 5, 2011.

Mr. Istchenko was born in Whitehorse and raised in Haines Junction. He attended St. Elias Community School and, after graduation in 1984, he joined the Canadian Armed Forces, where he completed training in various locations across Canada and served with NATO forces in Germany for three years. He remains a proud member of the Canadian Rangers and the Royal Canadian Legion and has 26 years of service in the military to date.

For the last eight years, he has been running an outdoor adventure company, Kluane Ridin' Adventure Tours.

Mr. Istchenko has served in various capacities in his community, including as President and Vice-President of the St. Elias Lions Club, President of the St. Elias Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the Alsek Renewable Resource Council. He was also appointed to the Kluane Park Management Board and was instrumental in the development of the Alsek-Tatshenshini National Park.

Mr. Istchenko, as a Canadian Ranger Sergeant, runs the Junior Canadian Ranger youth program in Haines Junction. He has also coached minor hockey for five years and is the founder and first President of the Haines Junction Snowmobile Club.

Mr. Istchenko's grandmother, Hilda Watson, was an MLA for the electoral district of Kluane and the first woman to lead a political party in Canada.

He and his wife Donna have two sons, Joshua and Travis.

<http://www.hpw.gov.yk.ca/>