

Minister's Statement 27-14(2): Commissioner Dan Marion

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, last week I congratulated Ms. Glenna Hansen on her appointment to the Commissioner's Office. Today, I would like to thank the current Commissioner, Mr. Dan Marion, for his service to the Northwest Territories. Mr. Marion served four years as Deputy Commissioner until April of last year, when he became the first Commissioner of the new Northwest Territories.

Although he currently resides in Rae-Edzo, Mr. Marion has, over the years, lived in many other Northwest Territories communities. In each place he has lived, he has participated in community life and contributed to the well-being of those around him.

Before his appointment as Commissioner, Mr. Marion already led a very active public life. He has served the people of his community and the Northwest Territories in a number of capacities. He has been elected eight times to the Rae-Edzo Hamlet Council, serving as mayor of Rae-Edzo for three terms. He is a former member of the Rae-Edzo School Society, a past executive director of the Dene Band Development Corporation and has served as a member of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation's board of directors.

Through his own business interests and through business organizations in which he participated, Mr. Marion also contributed to the economic growth of his community. Mr. Marion's life experiences prepared him well for his duties as the first Commissioner of the new Northwest Territories. During his travels last year, Mr. Marion was known in every community he visited. His familiarity with the people, history and geography of the North has enriched the activities of his office.

Mr. Marion can relate to people on a one-to-one basis. When you are talking with him, you know that he is focused on what you are saying. This personal touch carried through in his duties as Commissioner. He cares about people.

Mr. Marion, like most Northerners, has also learned to adapt to changing conditions and make the best of any given situation. I can recall an event in Deline where he was asked to represent Canada in his role as Commissioner. As the day unfolded, circumstances beyond anyone's control resulted in Mr. Marion representing not only his country but also two absent federal Ministers.

Faced with the task of delivering three speeches, Mr. Marion decided instead to combine them into one. He then proceeded to pick and choose the best parts of each of the speeches on hand, careful to give credit where credit was due, all while standing at the podium making his presentation. I thought he was a very resourceful Commissioner indeed.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, all of the Ministers and myself, I would like once again to thank Mr. Marion for his years as Deputy Commissioner and for his time he served so well as Commissioner. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Mahsi