

## Consul General Austria Meets Officials of the Northwest Territories



29 October 2018 – Consul General Maria Andrelita S. Austria calls on the Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Northwest Territories (NWT) who spoke about their government’s open-door policy and their desire to create more opportunities for foreigners to come in and be part of their community.



Consul General Austria is given a guided tour of the Legislative Assembly of NWT and invited to witness the proceedings of the Third Session of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly at the Chamber, where the Speaker announced her presence.



The Honourable Bob McLeod (right), Premier of the Northwest Territories, presents Consul General Austria with a token of appreciation, following their meeting, where they discussed NWT's great need for more people to support their traditional resource-based industries and the expansion of their knowledge economy, as well as to staff a large, new and modern hospital targeted for opening in May 2019.



Consul General Austria meets with Chief Superintendent Jamie Zettler of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who informed her that there have been no Filipinos arrested or detained in the NWT for a long time and assured her that procedures are in place that would include contacting Post in the event of an arrest.



Mr. Tom Jensen (center), Deputy Minister at the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment briefs Consul General Austria on the economic overview of the Northwest Territories. According to him, the NWT is a resource-based economy, with mining as the key driver. With geological potential in gold, diamonds, and oil and gas, the NWT hopes to bring in more Filipinos skilled in trades and mining.



NWT Tourism and Parks Director Evan Waltz (center) hosts lunch for Consul General Austria at Bullocks Bistro, one of Yellowknife's iconic restaurants in Old Town, while sharing with her the government's tourism road map, identifying the Philippines, along with Mexico, India and Australia, as one of its new markets. With them is Ms. Carmen Moore, Chief of Protocol (right).



Consul General Austria (center) poses with Assistant Deputy Minister Robert Jenkins of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (rightmost), Director Andrew Stewart of the Department of Public Works and Services (4R), and Manager for Climate Change Programs Aileen Stevens (leftmost), after their briefing on energy and infrastructure and climate change. The government places high priority on the building of roads and transmission lines and is embarking on a long-term approach to developing renewable and alternative energy sources. Also in photo is Consul Arlene Magno (2L).



Consul General Austria listens to a briefing on innovations in relationships with indigenous governments by Mr. Clayton Balsillie, Director of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (rightmost), as he describes how the responsibility over public land, water and resource management was devolved to the indigenous communities from the federal government under the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement of 2013, which created more economic benefits for the aboriginal communities.



Consul General Austria poses with Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck (leftmost), Mayor-elect Rebecca Alty (2L), and recently re-elected Filipino Councillor Rommel Silverio (rightmost). She conveyed her gratitude for Mayor Heyck's able leadership and kindness towards the Filipino community, and congratulated incoming Mayor Alty on her new position. Consul General Austria encouraged Mayor-elect Alty to include in her work plan the possibility of bringing a mission from Yellowknife to the Philippines.