

INFORMATION

Ontario New Democrats **NDP** Nouveau Parti Démocratique

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Joint Statement by Jim Foulds, MPP Port Arthur,
NDP Natural Resources Critic and Marion Bryden,
MPP Beaches-Woodbine, NDP Environment Critic
re Hartt Commission.

Today's announcement by Premier William Davis replacing
Justice Patrick Hartt as Chairman of the Commission on the Northern
Environment with Mr. Ed Fahlgren of Red Lake, is an absolute
disaster.

It's like putting the fox in charge of the chicken coop.
Mr. Fahlgren's long and heavy involvement with the mining industry
indicates his fundamental commitment is to resource exploitation
in the north.

We had hoped that the Commission would draw up a blueprint
balancing proper growth for the north with environmental and social
concerns. It now appears that the Commission will simply revert in
its judgments to an ad hoc project by project basis.

We suppose our expectations were too high. Perhaps our dream
of a sane and a rational blueprint for development in the north, avoiding
the mistakes of southern Ontario, was too much to expect. Perhaps it
was too much to expect a one man Royal Commission to reconcile the
differences, and thus avoid the looming confrontations, between pro-
development and anti-development factions in northern Ontario.