

Northern
Oil and Gas
Annual
Report
1995

The management of oil and gas resources North of 60° latitude in the Northwest Territories and in Yukon is a federal responsibility. This responsibility is carried out by the Northern Oil and Gas Directorate of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

Petroleum resource management on Crown lands north of 60⁰ latitude is exercised under two federal statutes: the *Canada Petroleum Resources Act* (CPRA) and the *Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act* (COGOA). The CPRA governs the allocation of Crown lands to the private sector, tenure to the allocated rights, and the setting and collection of royalties. It is administered by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The COGOA regulates the industrial activities with respect to resource conservation, environmental protection and safety of workers. It is administered by the National Energy Board.



Published under the authority of the Honourable Ronald A. Irwin, P.C., M.P. Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Ottawa, 1996

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To His Excellency
The Right Honourable Romeo Leblanc,
Governor General of Canada

May it please your Excellency:

As in accordance with the provisions of the *Canada Petroleum Resources Act*, I have the honour to present the 1995 Northern Oil and Gas Annual Report for the calendar year ending December 31, 1995.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald A. Irwin, PC., M.P.

Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

Canada's Northern Frontier Lands



Area under the responsibility Of the Minister of Indian Afairs and Northern Development

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OVERVIEW OF NORTHERN OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES

Exploration activity in the Northwest Territories resumed in 1995, following the first issuance of oil and gas rights in some 25 years. During 1995, ten new exploration licences were issued.

The 1994 call for nominations in the southern Northwest Territories, where the Pointed Mountain gas field is located, attracted posting requests totalling 149 817 hectares. The ensuing call for bids resulted in the issuance, in 1995, of eight exploration licences covering all of the nominated area.

The 1994 call for nominations in the central Mackenzie Valley, where the Norman Wells oil field is located, attracted nominations for some 527 000 hectares. The call for bids which closed in April 1995, resulted in the issuance of two exploration licences totalling 163 889 hectares.

The annual call for nominations for the Beaufort Sea and Mackenzie Delta region

closed in April 1995. Although a region with high potential and many -as yet undevelopedoil and gas discoveries, no nominations were received.

In the fall of 1995, calls for nomination in the central Mackenzie Valley and in the southern Northwest Territories saw an additional 13 parcels totalling approximately 572 000 hectares nominated for posting. The resulting calls for bids, launched in November and December 1995, will close in March and April 1996.

In 1995, work continued on the development of draft legislation required to transfer to Yukon the responsibilities for the administration and regulation of onshore oil and natural gas in the Territory in accordance with the Canada Yukon Oil and Gas Accord. Implementation of the agreement requires passage of legislation by both Parliament and the Yukon legislature.

Overview of Northern Oil and Gas Activities, 1995

Lands held under licence as of year-end (millions of hectares)	2.8
Licences active as of year-end	155
(includes exploration, significant discovery and production licences and leases)	
Licences issued during the year	. 10
Cumulative discovered natural gas resources as of year-end	811
Cumulative discovered crude oil resources as of year-end	345
Natural gas production (millions of cubic metres)	639
Oil production (thousands of cubic metres)	1733
Exploration, development and production expenditures (\$millions)	5.6 1
Oil and gas revenues received in 1995 (\$millions)	18.2

Northern Oil and Gas Resources

Discovered resources in the mainland territories, the Mackenzie Delta-Beaufort Sea, and the Arctic Islands total some 345 million cubic metres of oil and 811 billion cubic metres of natural gas.

Overall, the North holds about 25 percent of Canada's remaining discovered conventional oil and 26 percent of remaining discovered gas. The importance of the northern basins is even more evident when one considers undiscovered conventional oil and gas resources (see table). The North is estimated to contain roughly 40 percent of both Canada's undiscovered conventional light crude oil potential and its undiscovered conventional gas potential.

One-third of northern Canada (north of 60°N latitude) is covered by sedimentary rock. Major basins with proven petroleum potential lie beneath:

a) the mainland Northwest Territories and Yukon between the Canadian Shield in the East and the Rocky Mountains to the west (this area is the northern part of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin from which oil and natural gas are produced in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan);

- b) the Mackenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea (the B eaufort/Mackenzie Basin); and
- c) the Arctic Islands (the Sverdrup and Franklinian basins).

In the far northwest, oil and gas have been found in the Eagle Plain of the Yukon, and in the east, gas/condensate has been discovered on the southeastern Baffin shelf. In addition, there are undrilled basins expected to contain petroleum resources.

The North has seen relatively little production of its oil and natural gas compared to southern Canada. This is highlighted by the limited number of wells, about 1350, drilled to date.

Northern Remaining Resources as Percentage of Total Canadian Remaining Resources							
		e Conventional Crude Oil		Conventional ral Gas			
	Discovered	Undiscovered	Discovered	Undiscovered			
Mainland Territories	2%	1%	1%	3%			
Mackenzie Delta / Beaufort Sea	18%	22%	12%	14%			
Arctic Islands/Eastern Arctic Offshore	5%	17%	13%	23%			
Northern Canada Total	25%	40%	26%	40%			

OIL AND GAS MANAGEMENT

Expenditures & Royalties

Northern oil and natural gas exploration expenditures continued to climb in 1995. They amounted to \$5 million in 1994, and have risen to about \$10.5 million in 1995.

Oil and gas related revenues amounted to approximately \$18.2 million. Royalties received from industry on northern oil and natural gas production amounted to \$7.6 million during 1995 (table on page 8).

Rights Issuance

Rights issuance resumed in 1994 for the first time in 25 years in the mainland Territories. Posting requests totalling 676 343 hectares were received in 1994; 149 8 17 hectares in the southwest comer of the Northwest Territories and 526 526 hectares in the central Mackenzie Valley.

Ten exploration licences were awarded in 1995 totalling some 3 13 706 hectares; 149 817 hectares in the Fort Liard area and 163 889 hectares near Fort Good Hope and Fort *Norman*.

Calls For Nominations & Bids

In 1995, two calls for nominations were launched for the second year in a row in the mainland Northwest Territories. Posting requests totalling 571 713 hectares were received and calls for bids for thirteen new parcels, five in the Central Mackenzie Valley and eight in the Southern Northwest Territories, were issued in November and December respectively. The calls for bids will close in March and April 1996. These calls were issued with the support of the Fort Liard Band

Council and the Gwich'in and Sahtu peoples who were consulted on matters including the environment and local benefits.

The annual call for nominations in the Mackenzie Delta and Beaufort Sea area was also launched in January 1995 following consultation with the Inuvialuit. No new posting requests were received.

Northern Benefits

The gradual reopening of the mainland Northwest Territories to oil and gas exploration will generate economic opportunities for northern communities. When exploration and development are undertaken in northern Canada, the proponent must ensure full and fair access to employment, training and business opportunities for northeners, and give first consideration to qualified individuals resident in regional communities.

Environmental Measures

The Arctic Seas Strategic Plan (ASSP) outlines the responsibilities of government in responding to spills in Arctic marine waters. It establishes lead and support roles for various agencies depending on the source and location of a spill. Oil spill contingency plans within the framework of the ASSP are to be updated and improved by the various agencies named in the plan.

The *Environmental Studies Research Funds* (ESRF), under the *Canada Petroleum Resources Act*, funds environmental and social studies related to the exploration and development of oil and gas resources on frontier lands. The program is funded through levies

paid by interest holders on frontier lands. No levies were applied to interest holders in 1995.

The ESRF Management Board did not approve any new studies in the 1995 program budget. However, work continued on previously approved and funded projects. Six of the eight studies underway at the beginning of the year were published by year end.

The *Program on Energy Research and Development* (PERD) funds energy research directed to wealth generation, industrial development, productivity and safety. In the fiscal year 1996/97 PERD's new structure will place more emphasis on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and the energy-related issues of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

Canada Yukon Oil & Gas Accord

In May 1993, the Federal Government and the Yukon Government signed an agreement (The *Canada Yukon Oil and Gas Accord*) for the transfer to Yukon of responsibilities for the administration and regulation of onshore oil and gas exploration and development in the Yukon.

In 1995, work continued on the draft legislation which, once passed by both Parliament and the Yukon legislature (expected during 1996), will implement the agreement.

After implementation, Yukon will exercise provincial-type authority over all onshore oil and gas resources within its boundaries. The Accord also provides for a commitment to negotiate shared management of oil and gas resources in the Beaufort Sea.

DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION

Norman Wells

The Norman Wells oil field, 156 km south of the Arctic Circle, is Canada's fourth largest producing oil field in terms of remaining reserves, with estimated ultimate recoverable reserves of 37.5 million cubic metres (236 million barrels).

Oil was discovered there in 1920, and a small refinery has been operated by Imperial Oil since 1930. An expansion project which began in 1983 was the first major hydrocarbon development project in the North.

About half of recoverable hydrocarbon reserves have been produced and production is expected to continue until about 2020.

A project to tap peripheral reserves at Norman Wells, by the drilling of additional wells, was initiated in 1995. Three horizontal development wells were completed this year.

Norman Wells production in 1995 was an estimated 1.7 million cubic metres (10.7 million barrels) of oil and 129.8 million cubic metres (4.6 billion cubic feet) of natural gas.

Kotaneelee

In February 1991, production resumed at the Kotaneelee gas field in the southern Yukon, which had been shut-in since 1980. Natural gas production in 1995 amounted to an estimated 442.9 million cubic metres (15.6 billion cubic feet).

Bent Horn

Oil production from the Bent Horn field in the Arctic Islands totalled some 35.3 thousand cubic metres (222 thousand barrels) in 1995. A total of 48.1 thousand cubic metres (303 thousand barrels) were shipped from Cameron Island during the summer in the M. V. Arctic, a double-hulled tanker.

Pointed Mountain

Natural gas production from the Pointed Mountain gas field in the southern part of the Northwest Territories amounted to an estimated 65.9 million cubic metres (23.3 billion cubic feet) in 1995.

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

The following statistics summarize oil and gas activities under the management of the Northern Oil and Gas Directorate. A breakdown is also provided by region.

The exploration, development, production and resource inventory statistics are provided courtesy of the National Energy Board.

Discovered resource totals are estimates of original recoverable volumes and do not reflect production; totals have been rounded; crude oil includes condensates.

Licences include exploration, significant discovery and production licences as well as leases.

Activity Status						
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	
Licences issued	24	5	2	0	10	
Wells spudded	9	2	0	0	3	
Metres drilled	15 325	2 560	0	0	4 850	
Wells terminated	9	2	0	4	3	
Geophysical programs run	6	4	2	0	3	
Reflection seismic (km)	3 641	5 822	340	0	698	
Rig-months	12	2	0	0	3	

Oil and Gas Revenues Received (\$)							
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995		
Royalty	7 938 775	8 717 685	7 075 862	7 455 222	7 633 984		
Rentals	25 755	25 755	25 755	7 818	7 818		
Issuance/Registration Fees	6 573	2 348	886	17 897	4 621		
Work Deposit Forfeitures	0	0	0	1050 119	10 576 840		
Total	7 971103	8 745 788	7 102 503	8 531056	18223263		

Land Status							
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995		
Number of Licences issued							
Mainland Territories	12	2	0	0	10		
Mackenzie Delta & Beaufort Sea	12	3	2	0	0		
Arctic Islands & Eastern Arctic Offshore	0	0	0	0	0		
Tota	al 24	5	2	0	10		
Number of Licences Active							
Mainland Territories	51	53	53	53	63		
Mackenzie Delta & Beaufort Sea	73	73	73	72	69		
Arctic Islands & Eastern Arctic Offshore	23	23	23	23	23		
Tota	ıl 147	149	149	148	155		
Lands Issued in Licenees (in millions of hectares)							
Mainland Territories	0 1	0 *1	0	0	0.3		
Mackenzie Delta & Beaufort Sea	0.3	0 *1	0 • 1	0	0		
Arctic Islands & Eastern Arctic Offshore	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	0.3	0 *1	0 '1	0	0.3		
Lands Relinquished or Surrendered (in millions of hectare	s)						
Mainland Territories	0.5	0 1	0	0	0		
Mackenzie Delta & Beaufort Sea	0.8	0.2	0•1	0 • 1	0.1		
Arctic Islands & Eastern Arctic Offshore	0	0	0	0	0		
Tota	1.3	0.2	0	0 *1	0.1		
Lands Held Under Licence (in millions of hectares)							
Mainland Territories	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5		
Mackenzie Delta & Beaufort Sea	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0		
Arctic Islands & Eastern Arctic Offshore	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3		
Tota	.1 2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.8		

^{&#}x27;1 less than 0.1 million hectares

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW cont'd **Exploration Licences Issued in 1995**

EL 362

Ranger Oil Limited Representative: January 23, 1995 Effective date: January 22, 2002 Expiry date: One well to be drilled Status:

before January 22, 1999

Work bid: \$1 838 075 20918 ha Area:

EL 364

Amoco Canada Petroleum Representative:

Company Ltd.

Effective date: January 23, 1995 January 22, 2002 Expiry date: One well to be drilled status:

before January 22, 1999

Work bid: \$1278 934 13 357 ha Area:

EL 366

Representative: Chevron Canada

Resources Ltd. January 23, 1995 Effective date: January 22, 2002 Expiry date: Status: One well to be drilled

before January 22, 1999

Work bid: \$1201200 11 839 ha Area:

EL 368

Representative: Paramount Resources Ltd.

January 23, 1995 Effective date: January 22, 2002 Expiry date: Status: One well to be drilled before January 22, 1999

Work bid: \$2 800 000

23 085 ha Area:

EL 371

Representative: Foxboro Ltd. Effective date: June 8, 1995 June 7, 2004 Expiry date:

One well to be drilled Status:

before June 7, 2000

\$1 150000 Work bid: Area: 75 196 ha

EL 363

Representative: Ranger Oil Limited January 23, 1995 Effective date: January 22, 2002 Expiry date: One well to be drilled Status:

before January 22, 1999

\$3 529 000 Work bid: 9864 ha Area:

EL 365

Representative: Ocelot Energy Inc. Effective date: January 23, 1995 January 22, 2002 Expiry date: One well to be drilled Status:

before January 22, 1999

\$1500 000 Work bid: Area: 20 635 ha

EL 367

Representative: Shell Canada Limited Effective date: January 23, 1995 January 22, 2002 Expiry date: One well to be drilled Status: before January 22, 1999

Work bid: \$1 768 600

24 382 ha Area:

EL 369

Representative: Shell Canada Limited Effective date: January 23, 1995 January 22, 2002 Expiry date: One well to be drilled status: before January 22, 1999

\$8 765 580

Work bid: Area: 25 737 ha

EL 372

Representative: Ranger Oil Limited Effective date: May 18, 1995 May 17, 2003 Expiry date:

Status: One well to be drilled

before May 17, 1999

Work bid: \$3 215 000 88 693 ha Area:

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW cont'd Exploration Licences Issued Prior to 1995

EL 297

Representative: Sceptre Resources Limited

Effective date: July 15, 1986 Expiry date: July 14,1998

Status: Ministerial approval required to

commence exploration

Area: 931 640 ha

EL 329

Representative: Amoco Canada Resources Ltd.

Effective date: September 5, 1987

Expiry date: n/a

Status: Under work prohibition

order

Area: 349 982 ha

EL 355

Representative: Imperial Oil Resources Limited

Effective date August 1, 1990

Expiry date: n/a

Status: Maintained under application

for significant discovery

Area: 15 351 ha

EL 317

Representative: Pembina Resources Limited

Effective date: October 5, 1986

Expiry date: n/a

Status: Under work prohibition

order

Area: 175 810ha

EL 344

Representative: Imperial Oil Resources Limited

Effective date: June 1, 1987

Expiry date: n/a

Status: Maintained under application

for significant discovery

Area: 7 787 ha

EL 358

Representative: Chevron Canada Resources Ltd.

Effective date: December 16, 1991
Expiry date: December 15, 2000
Status: One well to be drilled

before December 16, 1996

Work bid: \$3 200 000 Area: \$140 088 ha

Discovered Resource Inventory					
	Crude Oil (millions of m³)	Natural Gas (billions of m ³)			
Mainland Territories	39	35			
Mackenzie Delta and Beaufort Sea	240	360			
Arctic Islands and Eastern Arctic Offshore	66	416			
Total	345	811			

Oil and Gas Production								
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995			
Oil production (thousands of m ³)								
Norman Wells	1894.0	1850.0	1790.0	1730.0	1697.6			
Bent Horn	32.6	28.2	56.9	52.9	35.3			
Total	1926.6	1878.2	1846.9	1782.9	1732.9			
Gas production (millions of m ³)								
Pointed Mountain	90.0	86.7	99.6	63.6	65.9			
Norman Wells	130.0	128.0	133.6	123.9	129.8			
Kotaneelee	227.2	506.9	492.3	471.1	442.9			
Total	447.2	721.6	725.5	658.6	638.6			

Regional Exploration Activity for the Mainland Territories					
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Wells spudded					
Exploratory/delineation	7	0	0	0	0
Development	1	0	0	4	3
Total	8	0	0	4	3
Wells terminated*'					
Exploratory/delineation	7	0	0	0	0
Development	1	0	0	4	3
Total	8	0	0	4	3
Metres drilled	11517	0	0	0	0
Exploratory/delineation Development	11517 636	0	$0 \\ 0$	$0 \\ 0$	4850
Rigs active	5	0	0	0	1
Geophysical programs run	5	1	1	0	8* 4
Reflection seismic (km)	321*2	1867*2	55	0	698
Monay spant (millions of C)					
Money spent (millions of \$) Geophysical/geological Exploratory/delineation/	2.5	1.1	0.5	0	10.5
Workovers*3	18.8	7.7	4.9	0	0
Development drilling Production facilities	3.7	0	0	4	5.9
Production facilities Abandonments	$0 \\ 0$	8.6 0	5.6 0	8.8 0	$0 \\ 0.07^{*5}$
Total money spent (millions of \$)	25.0	17.4	11.0	12.8	16.47

^{*1} In the Mainland Territories, where exploratory operations are generally restricted to the winter months, a well is deemed to be terminated in the year in which it reaches total depth, even though it may be re- entered in the following year for testing.

^{*2} Includes three-dimensional seismic equivalent.

^{*3} Includes extended production tests.

^{*4} Includes one aeromag program (5 0 3 5 0 km).

^{*5} Two wells in Yukon.

Regional Exploration Activity for the Mackenzie Delta & Beaufort Sea							
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995		
Wells spudded	1	2	0	0	0		
Wells terminated*' Exploratory/delineation	1	2	0	0	0		
Metres drilled Exploratory/delineation	3173	2560	0	0	0		
Rigs active	1	1	0	0	0		
Rig-months	2	2	0	0	0		
Geophysical programs run Reflection seismic (km)	3 320	3955*2	285	0	0		
Money spent (millions of \$) Geophysical/geological Exploratory/delineation/workovers Abandonments	4.2 4.9 n/a	8.8 10.1 n/a	4 0 n/a	0 0 n/a	0 0 0.04		
Total money spent (millions of \$)	9.1	18.9	4	0	0.04		

^{*1} In the **Beaufort** Sea, where operations are seasonal and could take place over a number of seasons for a given well, a well is deemed to be terminated in the year in which it reaches total depth.

^{*2} Includes three-dimensional seismic equivalent.

Regional Exploration Activity
for the Arctic Islands & Eastern Arctic Offshore

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Money spent (millions of \$)					
Geophysical/geological	0	0	0.4	0	0
Exploratory/delineation/workovers	2.7	4.2	n/a	0	0
Production facilities	0	0	0	0	0
Abandonments	0	0.2	0	0	0.1
Total money spent (millions of \$)	2.7	4.4	0.4	0	0.1

^{*} Two suspended gas wells in the Arctic Islands were abandoned in 1995.

Well Activity 1995			
Well Name	Latitude/ Longitude	Status / Result	Total Depth
Exco et al West Parkin YT D-54	66°13'9.73"N/ 127°26'10.40"W	ABANDONED 08.27.95	1811 m
Peel Plateau Eagle Plains YT No. 1 N-49	66°48'54"N/ 138°08'30"W	ABANDONED 08.28.95	2923 m
Shell Beaver House Creek H-32	68°22'16.37"N/ 135°33'03.04"W	ABANDONED 09.12.95	3748 m
Shell Ulu A-35	68°44'02"N/ 135°52'57"W	ABANDONED 09.13.95	3920 m
SOBC Can Sup et al North Ellice J-23	69" 12'34"N/ 135°51'14"W	ABANDONED 09.16.95	3505 m
Panarctic et al E. Hecla C-32	76°2 I '09.4"N/ 1 10°13'46.2"W	ABANDONED 10.04.95	1341 m
Panarctic Tenneco et al POR Hecla F-62	76°21'15.93"N/ 110°24'38.53"W	ABANDONED 10.05.95	1219 m
Imp Norman Wells C-52X	65°16'51"N/ 126°50'16"W	COMPLETED: spud 08.03.95 rig release 09.05.95 (Shehtah #1)	1626 m
Imp Norman Wells D-52X	65°16'48"N/ 126°50'15"W	COMPLETED: spud 10.20.95 rig release 11.30.95 (Shehtah #1)	2057 m
Imp Norman Wells A-43X	65°16'48.5"N/ 126°50'15.4"W	COMPLETED: spud 12.04.95 rig release 12.2 1.95 (Shehtah #1)	1167m

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND)

Many sources of information on oil and gas, environmental and land use matters originate with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Please visit our web site located at:

http://www.inac.gc.ca

To obtain specific information, please include the appropriate contact listed in the sources below with the general mailing address for the department.

Northern Oil and Gas Directorate

Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development OTTAWA, Ontario, Canada K1A OH4

Street Address: 6th Floor, 10 Wellington Street, Hull, Quebec Telephone: (8 19) 997-0877 Fax: (819) 953-5828

Information on the resource management regime, calls for nominations and bids and other related information is available from:

Chief, Rights Issuance and Policy-Telephone (8 19) 994-1606.

Information on registration procedures and regulations, exploration, significant discovery and production licences, transfers, notices and maps is available from:

Manager, Rights Administration and Registrar-Telephone (8 19) 953-8490.

Information on northern exploration history and geological/geophysical activities is available from: Staff Geologist -Telephone (819) 953-8722.

Other relevant departmental information and publications such as *Land* Use *Regulations*, *Environmental Operating Guideline Handbooks* and land claim settlement agreements are available from the department's **Enquiries Kiosk**, by calling (819) 997-0380 or by Fax (819) 953-3017.

OTHERS

National Energy Board (NEB) Energy Plaza 3 1 1–6th Ave. SW, Calgary AB T2P 3H2

Telephone: (403) 292-4800 Fax: (403) 292-5503

Through the offices of the NEB, information on the following is available:

- the Regulatory **Support Office** has information on exploration, development, production, pipeline transportation and export;
- the Frontier Information **Office** provides information on obtaining operational authorities, access to maps, technical information, geological and geophysical reports, well history reports and records; and
- the Environmental Directorate has information relating to the Environmental Studies Research Funds.

The Geological Survey of Canada, Calgary, provides public viewing and sampling facilities for cores and samples, and information on wells drilled north of 60" at its offices at 3303-33rd Street NW, Calgary AB T2L 2A7.

Telephone: (403) 292-7000 Fax: (403) 292-5377

Information on wells drilled in the **Baffin** Bay – Davis Strait region is available from:

Core Storage and Laboratory,

Geological Survey of Canada, Atlantic,

Dartmouth NS B2Y 4A2

Telephone: (902) 426-6127 Fax: (902) 426-6186

Information concerning Program on Energy Research and Development (PERD) is available from:

Office of Energy Research and Development,

Natural Resources Canada,

580 Booth Street, Ottawa ON K1A 0E4

Telephone: (613) 995-8860 Fax: (613) 995-6146