**Inuvik *struggles* with *dwindling* gas reserve**

**Town might *switch* to propane and diesel *temporarily*, no plans for *replacement well* yet**

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Business owners and *residents* in Inuvik are *confused* and angry because energy prices will *rise*. The town has to switch to diesel and a propane-air mix because its natural gas well is *running out* *earlier than expected*. (Philippe Morin/CBC)

Inuvik lies in an area which has an *abundance* of natural gas. In 2004 plans were made to build the Mackenzie Valley pipeline (1,220 km long) from Innuvik to the south of Canada to transport the natural gas. As a result, homes and businesses in Innuvit switched from *heating* with diesel to heating with natural gas. Innuvik has a natural gas *well* which is *supposed* to last until 2014. By that time the Mackenzie Valley pipeline was supposed to be built.

Now, the natural gas well is running out of natural gas and the pipeline project has been *put on hold*. 90 % of Homes and businesses heated with natural gas in Innuvik now have to switch back to diesel or buy an expensive propane-mix (similar to natural gas) which is being driven north from southern Canada. Both options are more expensive than natural gas.

Since the pipeline is not being built, Innuvik will have to build a new well to *access* local natural gas or continue buying expensive diesel or propane. But, no one wants to pay for the new well which is going to cost over $ 100 million.

The *mayor* of Inuvik says a 13 per cent *increase* of the price of power isn't fair to *communities* that already pay higher rates for power than everywhere else in Canada.