



**TALKS AT UNITED NATIONS OF CLOSER ASSOCIATION BETWEEN
CANADA AND TURKS AND CAICOS**

OTTAWA – Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East, and Daniel Malcolm, former Member of Parliament and now Chairman of the Constitutional Committee for the Turks and Caicos Islands, have recently emphasized that Canada is the "First Choice" with which the British territory will seek "closer association". Mr. Malcolm has worked extensively on this issue as has Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East, on the Turks and Caicos portfolio. Indeed, Mr. Goldring is an ardent supporter, for many years, of strengthened links and common association with the islands.

Mr. Malcolm stated that with the Turks and Caicos being faced with the global economy, global warming and health crises, terrorism, financial meltdowns, and varying local problems, four possible scenarios exist in which the islands can assert self-determination. These are full internal self-government, full independence, integration, and closer association (with the UK, USA, Bahamas, and Canada). In his proposal to the United Nations committee, he goes on to say that the islands' first choice is Canada not only because of prevailing historic, cultural, social, and economic ties, but that 'closer association' proposes tremendous potential for both countries.

Having worked with Mr. Goldring in the past, Mr. Malcolm cites the Canadian Member of Parliament as a chief influence for his report and proposal. He also uses Mr. Goldring's publication *Canada's Atlantic Trade with the Caribbean: A Platform Approach* to substantiate his claims. Mr. Malcolm recently spoke with Mr. Goldring on the Turks and Caicos and its future course of action. However, Mr. Goldring stated, "The people of Turks and Caicos must choose this path collectively. It will determine their future culturally, socially, and economically both in the region and on the world stage."

Mr. Malcolm will be presenting his proposal at the upcoming United Nations Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization between May 19 and 21 in Managua, Nicaragua.

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**For further information, contact the Office of Peter Goldring at
613-992-3821 or peter.goldring.a2@parl.gc.ca www.petergoldring.ca**
