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## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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### SANITATION IN FOOD PROCESSING AND SERVING ESTABLISHMENTS

Food processing and serving establishments in existence in the Northwest Territories may be divided into the following categories:-

- (a) Eating and Drinking Establishments
- (b) Milk Processing Plants
- (c) Bakeries
- (d) Fish Packing and Exporting Establishments

For some years, the regular inspection of these establishments has been carried out by the Public Health Engineering Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare. These regular inspections were supplemented by those carried out by the local Medical Health Officers. Inspections of these premises have not been as frequent as is considered desirable, due to difficulty in recruiting staff for the vacant posts of sanitarian at Inuvik and at the Zone Office at Edmonton. It is these personnel who would normally be responsible for the supervision of sanitary conditions in food establishments, but in their absence, the Public Health Engineering Division kindly consented to help out in this matter.

A Schedule of Eating and Drinking Establishments in the Northwest Territories is attached herewith together with the rating given to them by the Public Health Engineering Division. A total of 55 establishments is listed, 40 of which may be classed as commercial types, and the remainder are operated by Government Departments for the benefit of employees or pupils.

The sanitary conditions of eating and drinking establishments in the Northwest Territories have improved considerably during the past five years. Of the 55 listed facilities, 42 are noted as generally satisfactory, 9 as only fairly satisfactory and 4 as unsatisfactory. During the past five years, 'closure' was imposed upon 4 places (2 at Hay River, 1 at Inuvik and 1 at Fort Smith) but only after due warning was given, and where there was a continuing danger to the health of the public. Those establishments doing the largest volume of food and drink service, i.e. cafeterias and beverage rooms have adequate equipment and sanitary services. It is the smaller establishments which most frequently contravene the Health Regulations, as (a) funds for improvement are limited, and (b) the operators often have little or no knowledge of food hygiene.

One of the major difficulties in the control of food and drink establishments in the Northwest Territories is the deficiencies in the existing legislation. The present position is that any person can, upon payment of a prescribed fee, demand a business licence to operate an establishment which is governed by Health Regulations, even though that same establishment contravenes all the stipulations of the Regulations. The Health Authority may, as soon as the establishment opens, inspect, and if necessary, issue a 'closure order', but this is a most unsatisfactory arrangement. Representations have been made to the Commissioner to create Regulations under the Business Licence Ordinance whereby a person wishing to open a business which is subject to Health Regulations must have the written approval of a Health Officer before a business licence can be issued. Such legislation, when passed, will give the Health Authority much more necessary control over the establishment of food processing and serving businesses.

It should be mentioned that the only realistic way to control sanitary requirements in public buildings is to have legislation which demands submission of scale drawings of the buildings to the Health Authority, the Fire Marshall, and the Engineering Authority, who should all approve before a building permit is issued. There have been occasions when large hotels and restaurants have been built in which both Health and Fire Regulations were not observed with the result that the proprietor, having incurred heavy expenditure erecting a building, found that he was not allowed to operate it unless he carried out major alterations.

Some people may state that such regulations should not be enforced in a developing community, and they may talk of hindering private enterprise. This is not a logical argument, as the health requirements would be no different than they are now, and yet the owner would be protected from erecting a building which would contravene Territorial regulations. Such a requirement is normal practice in Southern communities, and it is recommended that such a practice be considered for Municipalities, Local Improvement Districts, and Development Areas in the Northwest Territories.

#### Milk Processing Plants -

At the present time there are only two such plants in operation in the Territories, and neither can be considered satisfactory. Milk is an excellent food, but unfortunately it is also an ideal culture medium for bacteria, and it is imperative, in the interest of public health, that strict sanitary requirements are enforced. With this in mind, a draft set of 'Milk Regulations' has been submitted to the Commissioner which, if approved, will effectively control the production and distribution of this product in the Northwest Territories.

#### Inspections -

As previously mentioned, inspections have been carried out by the Public Health Engineering Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare. However, this Division is now being re-organized and is giving up most of its inspectorial duties, and has requested that it be relieved of routine inspections of food and drink establishments in the Territories. This means that it is now a matter of urgency to recruit Sanitarians for this type of work. The main reason of our failure to recruit in the past has been the very low salaries offered -- these have now been increased slightly from \$4020 - \$4740 to \$4680 - \$5400, and while some difficulty in recruitment is still envisaged it is hoped that the increase in salary may entice suitable candidates to apply for the vacant posts.

If and when suitable personnel are recruited for the two vacant posts of Sanitarian at Inuvik and Edmonton and for the third position which has been requested for Churchill, frequent regular inspections of all food processing and serving establishments should be possible, and consideration could also be given to holding special courses for food-handlers and hotel-operators in the major centres in the Territories.

SANITATION OF EATING AND DRINKING ESTABLISHMENTS, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Restaurants, Cafeterias, etc.

Settlement	Pop.	Establishment	Type	Other Business in Bldg.	Sanitary Facilities	Major Deficiencies	Rating
Aklavik	500	Hotel Aklavik Cafe	restaurant	bakery, small hotel, dance hall, movie theatre.	piped water in summer, ice in winter, staff bucket toilet	dishwashing, open dish storage, open unrefrig. food display.	fairly satisfactory
Cambridge Bay	200	Ross's Cafe	restaurant	sportsmen's and tourist lodge	trucked water, pressure system, bucket toilets	abandoned construction camp, unsuitable for permanent cafe.	generally satisfactory
		Blakeney's Cafe	coffee shop	bakery	trucked water, lavatory	building too small, poorly planned, no refrigerator, no toilets.	generally satisfactory
		D.O.T. Steff House	cafeteria		trucked water and sewage low-volume flush toilets		generally satisfactory
Enterprise	-	Triway Truck Stop	coffee shop	highway service station	piped water and sewage well and septic tank	conc. floor and conc. block walls difficult to clean	fairly satisfactory
		Esso Coffee Shop	coffee shop	highway service station	piped water and sewage well and septic tank	dishwashing, general housekeeping	unsatisfactory
Fort McPherson	500	Mike's Cafe	restaurant	bakery, theatre, pool hall, general store	trucked water, piped sewage low volume flush toilet	plywood flooring, no public washrooms.	generally satisfactory
		Fleming Hall	cafeteria	school hostel, cap. 100	piped water and sewage, dishwashing machine	dishwashing rinse temp. control	generally satisfactory
Fort Providence	450	Riverview Cafe	coffee shop	highway service station	lavatories and toilets to be installed soon	no exhaust fan, open pastry display	generally satisfactory
		Mackenzie River Cafe	coffee shop	highway service station	trucked water, gravity tank not connected, privy	dishwashing, dipping water, poor lighting, no fly screens.	unsatisfactory

Settlement	Pop.	Establishment	Type	Other Business in Bldg.	Sanitary Facilities	Major Deficiencies	Rating
Fort Resolution	500	McPherson Cafe	restaurant	small hotel, grocery store, family residence	trucked water, no public lavatory or toilet	poor dishwashing sink and practice, family shares kitchen	unsatisfactory
Fort Simpson	700	Fort Simpson Hotel Cafe	restaurant	small hotel	pipd water and sewage, public and staff toilets	dishwashing, open food display, poor basement food storage	fairly satisfactory
		Anglican Hostel	cafeteria	school hostel	pipd water and sewage staff washrooms	fly screens, food spoils in hot basement storeroom	generally satisfactory
		Catholic Hostel	cafeteria	school hostel	pipd water and sewage staff washrooms		generally satisfactory
Fort Smith	1700	Capitol Cafe	restaurant		pipd water and sewage dishwashing machine	kitchen overcrowded, lack storage space, no public lavatory or toilets, operation unsatisfactory.	unsatisfactory
		Northland Cafe	restaurant	large hotel, dining room, beer and cocktail lounges	pipd water and sewage public washrooms	inconvenient staff washrooms downstairs, many other renovations required	fairly satisfactory
		Pinecrest Hotel	cocktail lounge		good washrooms, glass-washing		satisfactory
			beer parlor		share above washroom	unreliable manual glass-washing	fair
		Kaesser's Store Cafe	coffee shop	grocery and meat market	pipd water and sewage	dishwashing, food stored on floor	fair
		R.C.M.P. Barracks	cafeteria	jail meals prepared	pipd water and sewage	dishwashing	generally satisfactory
Hay River	1250	Chow's Cafe	restaurant		trucked water and sewage public washrooms	general housekeeping inadequate refrigerated storage	fairly satisfactory
		Hay River Hotel	restaurant	large hotel, beer parlor	trucked water and sewage staff and public washrooms		generally satisfactory
			beer parlor		good washrooms, glass-washing		satisfactory

Settlement	Pop.	Establishment	Type	Other Business in Bldg.	Sanitary Facilities	Major Deficiencies	Rating
Inuvik	1300	Mackenzie Hotel	restaurant	hotel, beer parlor, cocktail lounge	piped water and sewage, staff and public washrooms	installation of dishwasher advised	generally satisfactory
			beer parlor		good washrooms, glass-washing		satisfactory
			cocktail lounge		good washrooms, glass-washing		satisfactory
		Peffer's Coffee Shop	coffee shop	bakery, theatre, pool hall	piped water and sewage washrooms adequate	dishwashing arrangement inadequate	generally satisfactory
		Anglican Hostel	Cafeteria	school hostel	piped water and sewage staff washrooms		generally satisfactory
		Catholic Hostel	cafeteria	school hostel	piped water and sewage staff washrooms		generally satisfactory
		Rehabilitation Center	cafeteria	central washroom and laundry	piped water and sewage staff washroom	housekeeping poor with staff turnover	generally satisfactory
R.C.M.P. Barracks	cafeteria	jail meals prepared	piped water and sewage staff washrooms		generally satisfactory		
Norman Wells	300	P.W.A. Hostel	cafeteria	small hotel	piped water and sewage staff and public washrooms	dilapidated bldg. (temporary wartime structure); ceiling too low	generally satisfactory
		Imperial Oil Ltd.	cafeteria		piped water and sewage staff washroom	dishwashing machine rinse temp.	generally satisfactory
		Recreation Hall	coffee shop	community hall	piped water and sewage public washrooms		generally satisfactory
		D.O.T. Staff House	cafeteria		piped water and sewage staff washrooms	ventilation fan required	generally satisfactory
Rae	500	Army's General Store	coffee	general store	water and sewage to be hauled by community truck	dishwashing, housekeeping, washrooms required	satisfactory
Tuktoyaktuk	400	Clarke's Cafe *	restaurant	general store	trucked water, bucket toilets	no adverse report by nurse	satisfactory
		Yellowknife Hotel	restaurant	large hotel, beverage room, barbershop	piped water and sewage public washrooms, good washrooms, glasswashing	dishwashing, no separate staff washroom	generally satisfactory

Settlement	Pop.	Establishment	Type	Other Business in Bldg.	Sanitary Facilities	Major Deficiencies	Rating
Yellowknife	4300	Yellowknife Hotel co. b'd	beverage room		good washrooms, glass-washing		satisfactory
		Gold Range Hotel	restaurant	large hotel, beverage room	pipd water and sewage staff and public washrooms	kitchen overcrowded, poor basement storeroom	fairly satisfactory
			beverage room		good washrooms, glass-washing		satisfactory
		Rex Cafe	restaurant		trucked water, privy	no public lavatory	generally satisfactory
		Akaiicho Hall	cafeteria	school hostel	pipd water and sewage staff washrooms		generally satisfactory
		Capital Grill	coffee shop				generally satisfactory
		Giant Gold Mine	cafeteria		pipd water and sewage staff public washrooms		generally satisfactory
			coffee shop		pipd water and sewage staff and public washrooms		generally satisfactory
		Con Gold Mine	cafeteria		pipd water and sewage staff washroom		generally satisfactory
coffee shop			pipd water and sewage staff washroom		generally satisfactory		
Discovery Gold Mine	cafeteria		pipd water and sewage staff washroom		generally satisfactory		
Coral Harbour	40	D.O.T. Mess Hall	cafeteria	offices, staff hostel	pipd water, bucket privies		satisfactory
Rankin Inlet	120	Mine Mess Hall	cafeteria	hostel, Nursing Station, offices	pipd water and sewage		generally satisfactory
Baker Lake	30	D.O.T. Mess Hall	cafeteria	hostel, recreation rooms, offices	pipd water and sewage		satisfactory
Chesterfield Inlet	100	School Hcstel	cafeteria	hostel	pipd water and sewage		satisfactory

Settlement	Pop.	Establishment	Type	Other Business in Bldg.	Sanitary Facilities	Major Deficiencies	Rating
Frobisher Bay	1,100	East Coast Carriers Lodge	cafeteria	hotel, lounge bar, beer parlour	desol toilets, hauled water supply	food storage, kitchen hygiene	fairly satisfactory
		D.N.A. Apex Hill	cafeteria		pipd water and sewage tank	no toilets for patrons	generally satisfactory

Dairies

Yellowknife		Red Cap Dairy (milk distributor)			3 compartment sink	cleansing of utensils	fairly satisfactory
Frobisher Bay		Slows Dairy			Daisy mechanical cow sink	no toilet facilities, high bacterial counts.	fair

\* Not examined since opened in 1962.