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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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PHYSICAL FITNESS AND AMATEUR SPORT PROGRAM

This report is intended to summarize the progress made and the costs involved in the fitness and amateur sports program initiated by the Northwest Territories Council, July, 1963. The report also gives some indication of the requirements for more successful future operation.

Section 5 of the Federal Fitness and Amateur Sports Act empowers the Minister of National Health and Welfare to enter into an agreement with any province/territory for a period not exceeding six years, under which the Federal Government may assist the province/territory in undertaking programs designed to encourage, promote and develop fitness and amateur sports activities. The 1963-64 federal allocation for this program amounted to \$35,749. The Federal Government provides sixty per cent reimbursement to a province/territory for expenditures incurred under approved projects up to the limit of the above allocation. In turn, territorial local sports governing bodies are encouraged to contribute their share which may run up to fifty per cent of project cost in some cases.

The above program and all payments to local fitness and amateur sports governing bodies were administered by the Territorial Government. A recreation director was appointed on a contract basis in July, 1963, to provide information, leadership and encouragement to local effort. The office of the Territorial Recreation Director has been established at Fort Smith.

Program Emphasis

Fitness and amateur sports grants to provincial/territorial governments are subject to criteria outlined in the agreement. Assistance to the Northwest Territories may include projects for:

1. Training for leaders and coaches in fitness and amateur sports;
2. Provision for undergraduate scholarships;
3. Strengthening and co-ordinating program services;
4. Surveys;
5. Promotion and development of participation in amateur sports; and
6. Assistance for summer undergraduate study at recognized universities.

Program emphasis in 1963-64 lay in improvement in quality and quantity of local leaders for physical recreation. Support for social and creative recreation programs cannot be obtained from federal sources. The costs of such programs would be entirely the responsibility of the territorial and local governing bodies. A survey is at present being held to establish actual assistance needs for such programs. Present program emphasis is geared to physical fitness alone.

There are two reasons for emphasis on leadership training. First, federal criteria must be considered when submitting local projects. Second, the Northwest Territories does not have the required number or calibre of fitness leaders and depth of active public participation in genuine fitness activities. This factor limits the amount of local, regional, territorial and territorial/provincial participation which in turn results in a lower

interest level. Present leadership is transient. Many territorial fitness leaers are not professionally trained, do not earn their livelihood by instructing - instead, they give of their spare time, often at great sacrifice and personal expense, and lacking public recognition. It is the purpose of this program to support them with week-end clinics where they can learn about the newest techniques, training methods, developing a higher status in community development services. It is now proposed that a central territorial leadership training camp be established for local, most permanent, leadership potential to ensure greater depth and continuity at the local level. A general outline for this project is given in some detail under "Proposals" below.

Program Services

Organization and Administration

Upon completion of a four-week orientation course at Ottawa, the Director returned to Fort Smith where his recreation office is now established with the Administrator of the Mackenzie. Fort Smith is a very satisfactory location. There are many administrative advantages in remaining close to the centre for advice, office procedures and general Northern Affairs and National Resources services. This avoids unnecessary delays and it is more economical. Many phases of this program require close co-operation with established Northern Affairs and National Resources personnel and this has certainly not been lacking.

Present services of the recreation office include processing of project applications, consultative services by correspondence and field trips. There is a book, film and pamphlet library loan service, and the seasonal issues of "Recreation Bulletin", equipment loans for instructors' use, and some promotion visual aids are provided.

Local contacts for fitness and amateur sport services consist of sports committees operating under incorporated societies. They initiate the projects, and grants for approved projects are distributed to them on completion of projects. Very small settlements lacking incorporated societies are served via regional/area administrators who consult the Recreation Director. Hay River and Yellowknife municipalities are considering the possibility of hiring part/full-time recreation directors and the establishment of a recreation board under municipal by-law.

For the sake of continuity, information and improved program planning it would be very beneficial if local recreation leaders could count on one annual Mackenzie District conference.

Activities

Initial action for projects is taken at the local level, and project plans are submitted to the recreation office, which, in turn, contacts the Federal Fitness Office via the Commissioner's Office.

Under the above-mentioned week-end clinic scheme, instruction was given in the following activities:

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Number of Participants</u>
Hockey officiating	9
Basketball officiating	20
Figure skating instructor training	3
Boxing officiating	18
Square dance calling	12
Hockey competition	40
Hi-Y Teen Club leadership	2
Trailski leadership and skill	70
Ladies' fitness classes	30
Badminton leadership, skill and competition	40

Considering the fact that at present these projects can be offered as short-term week-end ventures only, the trainees did return more enthused to their communities and they were better equipped to pass on their fitness skills. In following up local activities after clinics there are few disappointments in spite of the short clinic duration. Value of leadership training is much harder to sell than facilities or equipment. Transportation costs in the Territories are high and local fund raising is often a tedious task.

Clinic instructors are engaged in the Territories when possible; others come from Alberta.

Other projects include regional sport organization conferences and the purchase of some clinic instruction equipment which is issued on a loan basis. One adult university scholarship has been submitted.

Proposals for the Coming Year

Priority for leadership training should continue. At least one season of active participation should be the condition for assistance to competitors. Special emphasis should be given to long-range program planning at the local level. Local recreation program leaders must meet for long-range planning.

1. Mackenzie Conference on Recreation

The most important issue for success in the coming year(s) is a Conference for local recreation leaders. Delegates should include representatives of the Federal Fitness Office, Northern Administration Branch, Administrator of the Mackenzie, and one recreation program leader from every Mackenzie community.

Purpose of this Conference would be to discuss:

- (a) evaluation of the present program;
- (b) advancing local programs;
- (c) leadership training possibilities;
- (d) common goals;
- (e) facilities planning;
- (f) recognition of leaders; and
- (g) Territorial Government recreation services other than Fitness and Amateur Sports.

2. Establishment of a Territorial Fitness/ Recreation Leadership Training Camp

Present week-end clinics are unstable ventures. They lack depth, continuity, are costly due to travel, and do not turn out qualified, certified leaders. An established framework is required. Future emphasis should be given to and provision should be made for a centrally located training site where potential leaders may be given more intensive instruction by qualified staff and thereby provide permanent certified leaders to support local programs more effectively.

Initial program should consist of summer courses to which first and second year graduates may return to be further certified.

Initial facilities should consist of a low-cost tent camp for approximately thirty persons near one of the following centres: Inuvik, Fort Simpson, Yellowknife, Hay River, or Fort Smith. Regional/Area Administrators have been approached regarding this matter.

Local recreation agencies will be encouraged to send leaders with highest potential and pay a sizeable registration fee to increase the candidate's sense of responsibility.

FITNESS/AMATEUR SPORTS

EXPENDITURES

July 1963 - April 1964

OFFICE OPERATION

Recreation Directorate, Fort Smith, N.W.T. \$11,700.00

CLINICS

Leadership training, skill instruction,
competition. \$ 1,514.86

CONFERENCES

Program planning. \$ 440.00

EQUIPMENT

On loan basis at local request. \$ 637.00

\$14,291.86

Less Federal recovery of 60% 8,575.12

\$ 5,716.74

May 8, 1964.