

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
5<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, 27<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 20-27**

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## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 20, 1964 (First Session)

### REPORT ON WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS AT RAE AND FORT PROVIDENCE

In the terms of agreement established by the Interdepartmental Committee on Federal-Territorial Financial Relations, it was recommended that the Territorial Government undertake responsibility to provide safe water and sewage services in established communities. A formula was set up to share the capital and operating costs between the Territorial Government, the Federal Government and users.

Based on this responsibility, three established communities were studied in detail by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources for water and sewer facility installations. These communities were Rae, Fort Norman and Fort Providence. Plans and specifications were prepared and presented to the Territorial Government for consideration. All three proposals were for partial systems in that truck services were required from the water treatment plants to the consumer. This partial system required therefore that access roads be built in these communities. Road construction was carried out at all three communities in the 1962-63 period and further road construction is planned in the 1964-65 period at Rae. Road construction was contracted at Fort Providence and Rae where Territorial Expenditures for \$13,192.70 and Tim Kostiuk for \$13,200.00, both of Hay River, carried out this work.

A decision was made to construct facilities at Rae and Fort Providence only, as costs to include all three communities at one time were considered excessive. The decision included eliminating the service trucks at Fort Providence. A contract was let to construct the following items at Rae and Fort Providence:

#### Fort Providence

- a. Water intake
- b. Water treatment plant
- c. Two-bay garage
- d. Sewage lagoon

#### Rae

- a. Water Reservoir
- b. Water treatment plant
- c. Sewage treatment plant
- d. Mobile Summer water point
- e. Piped services for hospital and R.C.M.P. between water treatment plant and sewage treatment plant.

Formal Contract No. NWT 23-62 was let to Byrnes & Hall Construction Ltd. for both settlements in the amount of \$225,309.00. Due to several extras and credits, the contract price is now \$239,238.41.

The facilities were taken over at Fort Providence in November, 1963, and it is expected that the Rae installation will be in operation by May 15, 1964.

The water in Rae for domestic use was heretofore obtained from Marion Lake right at Rae. This source is highly contaminated by the settlement and causes intestinal disease in the very young. There has been, however, no indication of virulent bacteria such as typhoid. The most serious contamination takes place at spring break-up when the winter wastes drain from the settlement to the lake.

The timing of the construction of the water treatment plant was such that no treated water will be available from it until May 15. It was recognized that a safe water supply was essential and a truck to haul water from Stagg River was commissioned in the spring of 1963. Water has been hauled from this source ever since.

Two new trucks were delivered to the settlement in August and put into operation hauling water and sewage. They do not service the complete settlement as access roads are not completed. The sewage truck is set up to service pump-out tanks and modifications are necessary to handle chemical toilets.

In order to provide complete service the settlement power supply must be improved, access roads constructed and a method of handling bagged sewage worked out. When complete service is available the users will be billed.

It is estimated at Rae that the total monthly cost including amortizing the capital cost is \$3,254.00, at Fort Providence, \$2,365.00. The recommendation of the Federal-Territorial Financial Committee states that the minimum cost to users on a partial system is to be \$50.00 per annum. The Committee agreed that subsidies were essential. This subsidy would be, at Rae \$35,000.00, and at Fort Providence some \$25,000.00 per annum. This could be relieved somewhat by the Federal Government paying full costs for their facilities.

No charges have been made as yet but initiation of charges will be made at Rae in the near future. A firm commitment is required from the Federal Government Agencies as to what responsibilities for Indian and Eskimo services they will accept.

May 8, 1964.