

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
5TH COUNCIL, 29TH SESSION**

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL
NO. 7-29**

TABLED ON FEBRUARY 9, 1965



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

January 18, 1965.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 7 (First Session, 1965)

CENTENNIAL PROJECT

LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED TERRITORIAL LIBRARY

At the November 1964 Session of Council it was decided to make a Territorial Library the Centennial Project for the Northwest Territories, but the Council did not decide where to build the library. A decision on this question must now be made.

When considering the location of the Territorial library, attention should be paid to the type and scope of the activities that will go on in it. Because of the nature of the Northwest Territories this will not be any conventional regional library; indeed the necessary type and variety of its operation will almost remove it from the qualification of a "regional library" altogether. To repeat the comment of the National Librarian and Dominion Archivist, Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, it will be a "Frontier Library" rather than a regional one.

The principal difference between a conventional regional library and the one proposed for the Northwest Territories lies in the fact that a regional library customarily draws into an integrated system a number of already existing libraries, to provide better qualified staff and higher standards of service, combined with economy of operation.

In the Northwest Territories there are relatively few libraries to bring into a regional library system. The proposed Territorial Library will also have as one of its primary tasks the problem of servicing settlements without library facilities and supplying books to isolated individuals. In these respects it will be functioning as an extension library.

Beyond these factors the Territorial Library will have to work under difficult physical conditions. The population is small, distances are great. Transportation is often difficult and usually expensive.

Taking into account these factors it would seem that the Territorial Library Building will have to accommodate three different but related library activities:

1. A local library for the Community in which it is built.
2. A regional Library headquarters for the existing libraries in the Northwest Territories.
3. An extension service to the smaller settlements and to isolated individuals.

Therefore, the library should be built in a location that:

1. is large so the population can make maximum use of the library services, and
2. has good transportation facilities.

The Northwest Territories population is over 25,000. About 17,500 live in the Mackenzie, 2,500 in the Keewatin, and 5,000 in the Eastern Arctic.

Within the Mackenzie region the greatest concentration of population lives in the vicinity of Great Slave Lake.

(1961 Census)	Fort Smith	1,681
	Hay River	1,338
	Yellowknife	3,245
	Fort Providence	402
	Fort Resolution	485
	Rae	522
	Snowdrift	<u>140</u>
		7,813

The development of Pine Point will further increase the population of this region, so that more than one-third of the residents of the Northwest Territories will be living in communities around Great Slave Lake.

Bearing in mind the requirements for a regional library headquarters, it would seem that the proposed Centennial Memorial Building should be placed as close to the centre of this concentration of population as possible.

Three communities recommend themselves immediately as suitable sites; Hay River, Fort Smith and Yellowknife.

In the west, Inuvik and Fort Simpson might also suggest themselves as suitable sites, but for the fact that both are a considerable distance from other larger communities, transportation facilities are not as good, and costs would be higher than at more central locations.

Yellowknife is supplied with good road, water and air transportation. It is also the largest community in the Northwest Territories.

Fort Smith is served by water transport and lies on the main airline route into the Territories. A winter road is in operation and by the time the library is constructed an all-weather road will have been completed. Fort Smith is the administration centre for the Mackenzie District.

Hay River is provided with railroad, water and air transport. However, air facilities are not now very good.

The Commissioner recommends Yellowknife.

APPENDIX A

SUBMISSION TO: Council of the Northwest Territories January, 1965.

FROM: The Yellowknife Board of Trade

SUBJECT: The Location of a Centennial Memorial within the Territory.

It is proposed -- and apparently the proposal has been favourably received by the Council of the Northwest Territories -- that for a general centennial project for 1967 a library should be built in the north from funds supplied by the senior governments for the building of a lasting memorial.

It is understood that the original proposal was for a library and for archives, but this has now been modified so that a library only is now being considered. If this is not the case, and it planned to include space for archives within the proposed building, the Yellowknife Board of Trade submits that the remarks below can be considered equally valid and equally true no matter what the purpose of the building.

Part of the function of the library will be, we hope, to make arrangements for the circulation of books within the territories, groups of volumes being sent out to various communities where these can form a settlement library, and which can be replaced after enough time to permit full use of the volumes at each centre.

A glance at the map will show why Yellowknife is justified in feeling that it is in a happy position to supply this service. It is geographically about the centre of the Mackenzie District -- it is served by an all weather airport -- by a road for most of the year and by a large number of charter airlines serving the whole north to an extent impossible for any other community within the territories.

It is envisioned that a book-mobile type of operation could work from Yellowknife. These are, as council members must be aware, van type vehicles equipped with shelves for books which have proven successful elsewhere in Canada. Such an operation from Yellowknife would serve most northern communities where roads exist.

Charter operators, we predict, and history has shown them to be eager to assist in public service would be happy to carry loads of books to communities without charge from time as they make trips into these places. And the volume of charter traffic from the two Yellowknife bases -- the airport and Yellowknife Bay exceeds that of another point in the north.

This deals of course with only one phase of the library's work but it does lead to the suggestions that a library will be of most value where it can serve the most people.

It is here the Yellowknife Board of Trade feels it is on particularly strong ground in presenting the case for the location of the library here.

Population of Yellowknife, by actual count in the summer of 1964 exceeds 3,700 -- or a good large portion of the entire N.W.T.

This does not include the population of mining and exploration camps served from out of this town, nor does it include Rae, so readily accessible by road.

But it does include a school roster of almost 1,000 -- of this about one-third residents at Akaitcho Hall and attending Sir John Franklin High School.

No other group of students, until such time as the University of the North is established at Yellowknife, has greater need for the facilities of a good library for research, for these are mostly students in the academic stream with a healthy sprinkling of young people taking up vocational training.

In any case these are students who have advanced to some extent beyond the elementary level and who could further pursue their studies whether manually or mentally directed by having adequate reference works available.

If the library is to be used for reference by students and others engaged in research on northern economic development, it could only suitably be located in Yellowknife since this is the only centre in the entire north country to which private industry makes more than a token contribution toward maintenance and proper municipal government.

This is possible because Yellowknife is strategically located close to water transportation on the edge of the great Pre-Cambrian shield and is also now serviced by road and improving aviation and it is here that the mining interest centres.

This may be challenged by Pine Point in the near future but Pine Point threatens to become, in spite of efforts to the contrary, a one-company settlement. It is difficult to see how this can be avoided.

Yellowknife on the other hand already has four producing gold mines within its service area and these are all operated by different companies though two of the companies are linked.

The tie between this economic and mining activity and the library is not difficult to envision. The library should surely contain all the standard and most of the advanced books on geology and mining. It could thus become a study centre for the industry.

This town has already shown its interest in things cultural with construction and operation of the Museum of the North. Museum officials, we understand are also making representations in connection with the location of this library and we are content to let them speak for themselves in regard to many problems which might be mutually solved between the museum and a territorial library.

The Town of Yellowknife operates an efficient water and sewer system and by the time any library building is ready for construction will have adequate water supply and pressure so that the building can be sprinkler protected.

The Board of Trade is prepared to undertake, if other agencies, such as the Town of Yellowknife fail to do so, to make sure that centrally located ground is made available for the library. But this certainly should not present any problem whatever.

In addition there are few problems in connection with building sites except that it could be necessary to do some rock blasting. Certainly there are few difficulties with permafrost since structures can be anchored easily to the bedrock of the Pre-cambrian shield, always close to the surface.

The Yellowknife Board of Trade would not presume to give any other advice on the form of the structure than that it should fit into its surroundings. It should and would be architect designed with this and its utility in mind and exotics in design be abandoned in favour of economy.

To recapitulate:

1. Yellowknife is the geographical and travel centre for the whole of the western part of the north and for much of east as well.
2. Library located in Yellowknife would serve the territories largest centre of population.
3. Library located in Yellowknife would be of value to the north's largest high and vocational training school.
4. As the economic centre of the N.W.T. the mining and geology section of the library should be available to mining men who are doing research.
5. Library activity could suitably be tied up with that of the Museum of the North already located here.
6. All municipal facilities including first class fire protection up to sprinkler protection is available.
7. Problems of foundations which plague many northern communities are no problem here.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

YELLOWKNIFE BOARD OF TRADE

Don DeLaporte President

APPENDIX B

SUBMISSION TO: Council of the Northwest Territories January 13, 1955.

FROM: Hay River Centennial Committee

SUBJECT: Location of the proposed Archives and Library to be constructed in the Northwest Territories to commemorate Canada's Centennial.

The Hay River Centennial Committee respectfully submits that the proposed Archives and Library building should be located in the Town of Hay River. This committee consists of representatives from the following organizations and societies in Hay River:-

The Town Council
Chamber of Commerce
Royal Canadian Legion
Women's Auxiliary to the
Royal Canadian Legion
Catholic Women's League
United Church Women
Anglican Women
Kiwanis International
Community Society
Home & School Association
The Hospital Guild
Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

Our reasons for believing that Hay River would be the best location for such a building are as follows:

1. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The Committee feels that the geographical location of Hay River makes our town the most logical selection for the site of the proposed building.

We are the centre of the road complex presently existing in the north; Hay River is the terminus of the Mackenzie Highway leading to the "outside"; we are connected by an all weather road with Yellowknife, Pine Point and within two years will also be connected with Fort Smith. Our central location with regard to the highways will remain true when the roads now projected are completed to Fort Resolution and Fort Simpson.

Hay River is the telecommunication centre for the Mackenzie Region and the Western Arctic. Hay River is the only northern community likely to be served by railroad for many years. Hay River, the only harbour on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, is and will remain the centre for northbound shipping by water. We are the only community in the Northwest Territories provided with bus and truck service twelve months of the year, in and out of Hay River. Upon completion of the Hay River airport, this community will then also become the centre of airline service to the north particularly to the Mackenzie Delta and to the outside.

2. ACCESSABILITY OF HAY RIVER

The transportation and communication services referred to in the previous paragraph will make the archives and books more easily available to writers, historians, students, tourists and others who are the persons most likely to be interested and make use of them. Because of this the purposes for establishing such an institution will be more fully accomplished. The distribution of books and other material to the entire north will be facilitated.

3. MAIL FACILITIES

Daily mail service which includes second and third class mail by both air and bus would make the shipping costs of books and other material in and out of Hay River lower than the costs from any other point.

4. NEED OF DECENTRALIZATION OF SUCH INSTITUTION

We would submit that such institutions as the archives and library (although, as yet, few in number) should in so far as practicable be located in different localities. Hay River now has no institution or establishment such as this and would appear to be an ideal location for the archives and library.

5. STABILITY AND FUTURE POTENTIAL OF HAY RIVER

It would be a tragedy if the archives and library were located in a community which did not develop to the extent where the potential use of such facilities would not be fully utilized. This certainly could not happen in Hay River because with its many diversified interests and rapid growth it is destined to become one of the leading cities of the north.

Hay River's economy and development is not dependent upon resources that are not renewable, such as gold mining and/or economy based on government employment only.

6. AVAILABILITY OF SITE

Hay River is presently being moved to a new townsite and definite planning at this time would enable the construction of this building in an area being developed for recreational, educational and cultural requirements. This complex, overlooking the Municipal Park Reservation, would include the recreational centre presently under construction, a museum and library, as well as being in close proximity to areas designated for future school requirements.

A new townsite being developed makes it possible to place this building to its best advantage functionally and aesthetically. The new townsite at Hay River at its present stage of planning and development is, fortunately, in this position.

The site reserved for this building is guaranteed to be of such a nature that standard foundation design can be used.

It is our earnest hope that our request will receive the favourable consideration of the Territorial Government.

(Sgd) N. L. McCowan

N. L. McCowan
Chairman
Centennial Committee
Hay River, N. W. T.
"Hub of the North"

APPENDIX C

SUBMISSION TO: The Commissioner and Territorial Council of the Northwest Territories, January 2, 1965.

FROM: Yellowknife Centennial Committee.

SUBJECT: The location of the Territorial Library and Archives.

Mr. Commissioner and Members
of the Territorial Council
of the Northwest Territories:

The following submission is made by the Yellowknife Centennial Committee as a petition for the construction of a Territorial Library in the Town of Yellowknife.

Our committee is comprised of 30 members representing all of the cultural, business and recreational organizations of Yellowknife and includes members from the outlying mining communities of Discovery and Tundra.

We have studied the briefs prepared by the Yellowknife Museum Society and the Yellowknife Board of Trade on this matter and concur fully with their arguments.

Our objective in this submission is to briefly outline additional arguments in favour of locating the Territorial Library in Yellowknife and to stress the obvious importance of some points in the other submissions.

We feel that the following points favouring Yellowknife as the location require very little elaboration.

1. Yellowknife is the largest population centre in the Northwest Territories. Thus, the complete library facilities would be available to the largest number of permanent residents.
2. Yellowknife is the most fully developed transportation and communication centre. Thus, books and other information could be circulated to other communities readily.
3. Located in Yellowknife, the library would be easily accessible for educational purposes by the largest concentration of highschool students and staff.
4. In the same manner, the library would be available to the largest number of tourists presently visiting the Northwest Territories.
5. Library facilities and Archives would concern mining to a considerable extent and would be directly available to the local mining population.

6. In Yellowknife good property, centrally located, is available for a site, and this is serviced with water, sewer service and electricity.
7. In Yellowknife there is a strong likelihood of tax relief for the library by the Town.

In general, we submit that the main objective of a library is to function as an informational source. The best measure of success in this objective is the exposure to, and use of its information by the public. At present, Yellowknife would serve as the site where this objective would be most fully realized.

Respectfully submitted,

Yellowknife Centennial Committee

(Sgd) P. E. Murdoch

P. E. Murdoch, Chairman

(Sgd) G. W. McConnell

G. W. McConnell, Secretary

G. S. Bromley

(Sgd) W. A. Case

W. A. Case

G. S. Dundas

(Sgd) John H. Parker

J. H. Parker

APPENDIX D

SUBMISSION TO: Council of the Northwest Territories, November 1, 1964.

FROM: The Fort Smith Centennial Committee.

SUBJECT: The location of the Territorial Library and Archives.

Fort Smith's Centennial Committee has reached 4,000 years into Northern history for the design of a Territorial Library and Archives Building.

The shell of the building is not so important as its function. In line with the basic theme of the Centenary as outlined by the National Centennial Administration, the Library and Archives will "recognize outstanding achievements of the past and help build a better Canada for the future."

The building will house a Territorial Library, with Archives open to those engaged in writing and research; a Reference Section able to circulate books to other libraries, within and outside the Territories, schools and individuals; a Territorial Information Centre to make readily available to the public all existing pamphlets, circulars, reading lists and maps concerning the Territories; and perhaps, initially, a Local Public Library Section.

Two stories under ground will measure 200 by 80 feet. Above ground, overlooking the Rapids of the Slave River, is a circular granite memorial 80 feet in diameter. Although ultra-modern in design, this monument is based on architectural concepts of the earliest known builders in the North--the Eskimos of the recently-uncovered Dorset culture.

The Committee believes that this building also will meet the subsidiary aim of the Centenary of "encouraging Canadians to know their country better and to understand better the facts of geographic and racial diversity which have made the Canadian experiment in nationhood such an interesting one."

Here is a project of the Territories and in the Territories, in which every part of the Canadian population can participate directly.

The Fort Smith Centennial Committee takes pride in presenting this proposal, confident that for another 100 years it will provide genuine and necessary service, not only to the people of the Territories, but to the people of Canada and all the world.

THE LOCATION

Among the journals, diaries, notes, sketches and publications in the Territorial Library, we will have gathered the basis of our histories of the Territories.

Since the dawn of history, this Library site has been the camping ground of the first Canadians. The explorers came, Mackenzie en route to the Arctic, Lt. George Back to lose a crew to the white waters visible from the Archives windows and thereby name them Rapids of the Drowned.

Missionaries and traders stopped here, and in this century the Federal Government began to build the administrative plant which now is Fort Smith's principal industry.

Today there is a nucleus of Territorial Government staff in Fort Smith, world's newest Capital and the nerve centre of the earth's largest politically emerging land mass.

The Committee considers the Territorial Library and Archives most appropriate to Fort Smith, recalling the remarks of the Hon. Arthur Laing, Minister of Northern Affairs, concerning the retention of Fort Smith as an educational centre in the North.

Already, the Roman Catholic Church is building toward a multi-million dollar University in Fort Smith, started with a private endowment and built on the solid foundations of 100 years of work in Northern education, including the Grandin Home experiment.

Fort Smith is the Administrative headquarters for the Northern Affairs education program, and the site of a large Federal School and Hostel and a specialized school for age-grade retarded students.

THE SITE

"Here," thinks a writer seated on a parkland terrace out front, "is a site truly suited to the dignity and purpose of this Centennial Building."

From the Library grounds he has been watching a string of pelicans play aerial follow-the-leader. They circled up and out of sight above a V-shaped clearing on the far bank of the river which marks the original site of Fort Smith.

By coincidence, this ascetically pleasing site adjoins land set aside by The Territorial Government for possible location of its buildings.

The Committee believes that the Territorial Government will take pride in providing this land and necessary services, and that it will be possible to deter any development in the immediate area not compatible with a Library and Archives Building.

The building on this site would provide space near other Territorial Government buildings for the Territorial Archives, and eventually for the Territorial Government's Legislative Library.

CONSTRUCTION

What would you build if it were to be proof against time and tempest and at the same time a lasting monument to Confederation--and a harbinger of full Territorial participation in that Confederation?

Build below ground, comes the answer. Two storeys down, 200 feet by 80 feet, two-foot thick reinforced concrete walls.

Place the monument above ground, an architect's conception of the Eskimo Stone House, executed in the appealing red and blue tones of local granite.

Here the past will be captured in the present, for the benefit of generations to come.

The Committee estimates that the cost of the first-year phase of construction--the underground shell--could be completed for about \$450,000.

The monument above ground would be completed in the second year.

Completion of storage vaults, and the many other interior facilities would continue over a longer period.

The Committee feels that the challenge of designing a building in granite from archeologists' reconstructions of the Dorset Stone House would lend itself to an architectural competition, although it was possible that the project might bring forth an architect who would offer his services for the sake of being associated with an undertaking of this nature.

SCOPE

A thesis is to be prepared toward a doctorate. The writer has Northern experience, strong Northern interests and a good deal of research and observation on Northern subjects behind him.

Yet he writes the thesis on a problem in the United States!

What is the loss to the Territories?

The North will never know the extent of the loss. But we do know why it lost.

Proper research on a Northern problem may require extensive and expensive travel, in order to obtain records not now available at any one centre. Perhaps the thesis required research involving Hudson's Bay Company records: They are available (up to 1870 so far) only in London, England. Other facets of the research may have involved trips to Montreal, Ottawa, Washington, or any of a dozen other points.

And we know why the U.S. again won via brain drain: All information on the U.S. problem selected for the thesis was readily available in one American city.

This is only an example of a great loss that is growing by the day. Records of the North are being lost for lack of security in their handling, for lack of a proper place to keep them. They are becoming dispersed for lack of a centre to gather them and for lack of a system of cataloguing them.

The Committee recommends immediate action to preserve for the future the records of the Territories' past and present.

It cites as an example the need for space for its Archives of the Roman Catholic Mission in the Territories, and recommends these be stored in the Centennial Building where their rich store of history will be available to researchers and writers.

Copies of the complete Hudson's Bay Company archives, as made public, should be available in this Library.

The aim is to house under one roof all written and published records of the Northwest Territories, including those records of the Territories as they were before creation of the western provinces, records from foreign countries which shared in the exploration, mapping and development of the North.

Next in importance would be records and publications dealing with all other Northern countries. In the initial years, complete catalogues would be maintained of all material not actually contained in the Library, and exchange agreements would be arranged with such centres as the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, England.

A Reference Library section would, on request, circulate publications to other libraries, schools and individuals, particularly in the N.W.T.

The Territorial Information Centre would make readily available to the public all existing pamphlets, circulars, reading lists and maps concerning the Territories.

Initially, while space is available, the Fort Smith Public Library would operate from the same building.

THE MONUMENT

Any Centennial Building in the Territories should also be of the Territories.

For this reason, granite quarried in the Territories, as near as possible to Fort Smith, is recommended for use in construction of the monument.

For the same reason, it would be fitting to give a preference to Territorial contractors in awarding construction contracts, and possibly advisable to engage them under a modified cost plus arrangement.

The Committee sees the monument as one of the most practical buildings that could be conceived for use in a northern community.

Its circular shape would be uninterrupted by any interior partitions. Instead, provision would be made in the ceiling for an unlimited arrangement of removable, sliding partitions. Thus a cozy 10-person projection room could be set up, or a Little Theatre production could be staged for 100 persons.

Travelling art displays, or displays of local handicrafts for visitors, photographic showings or special library presentations could each have their place.

The interior would have concealed lighting and wall-to-wall carpeting.

Reaching just a little bit, the committee foresees the day when a five-hour documentary history of the Territories, filmed by the National Film Board, could be set up in a small projection room for automatic showings.

A visitor would simply press a button, the lights in the small projection room would dim, and the film would begin. The starting point of the film (not necessarily the beginning) would be selected by pushing other buttons, e.g. 1860, 1922 or Samuel Hearne or Alexander Mackenzie.

FINANCING

Can a Nation put a price on its past?

If it must, in this case, the cost of completing the Centennial Building and equipping it with microfilming facilities, vaults, furniture, etc. is likely to be \$5,000,000.

This does not take into account the cost of building up the libraries inside the building, annual maintenance costs and staff salaries.

Nonetheless, the expenditure is regarded as realistic, and it is fully realized that the proposal reaches far beyond the scope of Centennial grants being offered to the Territories.

The Committee has set up a Finance sub-committee which has taken steps to begin raising the first \$25,000. for this project locally.

Any grant available for a major Centennial project in the Territories would be accepted if made available for this purpose.

The Territorial Government would be asked to apply funds toward this building which otherwise would have been spent to house the Territorial Archives.

The Village will be asked to pay for any use of space in the building as temporary quarters for a local Public Library.

The Committee believes the Federal Government may wish to contribute in large measure to construction costs of this building, not simply because it is a Centennial Year project. By its nature, it is of immediate concern to all Canadians, because:

1. Its purpose is to collect and preserve the history, literature and records--so far largely unavailable in one place--of more than one-quarter of the land area of this country;
2. The N.W.T. population is so drastically out of proportion to its land area that the project is beyond the people's resources at present, yet any delay in carrying out the project will be seriously harmful to an important part of our country's non-renewable resources--our history;
3. The North's Territorial status makes it much more dependent for financial resources on the Federal government than are the provinces;
4. And further, because Canada and other nations today look to the North for their future development, the North is the logical place for such a centre. Few such Northern research facilities are in the North, although a fairly large number exist, and Canada should lead the way North.

Foreign countries and Northern Research libraries may well be interested in supporting this project financially. Norway, for example, whose explorers gave us part of our Arctic and such names as Ellef and Mund Ringnes, might react most favourably to the news--delivered at the proper level--that the exploits of the heroes we share are being enshrined North of the Sixtieth Parallel in Canada.

The Arctic Institute of North America has been seeking a Northern home for its Library; possibly it could be housed in this same building.

The Committee also suggests that a number of large North-oriented corporations could successfully be approached for both financial assistance and valuable records.

The Finance sub-committee at Fort Smith does not propose to raise the funds required for this project beyond the initial \$25,000. since the Committee felt that financing this project was neither extremely difficult nor within the scope of a local volunteer committee.

SUBMISSION TO THE COMMISSIONER AND
TERRITORIAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

ON TERRITORIAL PUBLIC

ARCHIVES

Submitted by

YELLOWKNIFE MUSEUM SOCIETY

October, 1964.

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A BRIEF

ON TERRITORIAL PUBLIC ARCHIVES

PART I

INTRODUCTORY

Mr. Commissioner and Members of
the Territorial Council of
the Northwest Territories:

Canada's northern heritage is a proud and important element of her identity as a nation. The cultural property which embodies this heritage in large part belongs, or should belong, to us all as Canadians.

We who reside in the Northwest Territories are beneficiaries of this cultural property; whether or not it takes the form of stone monuments or flint arrowheads, or the form of less durable but more communicative parchments and papers recording past events and the men and women who made them. In common with our fellow Canadians, we are aware of the importance of our responsibility for the collection and preservation of these articles of the nation's public property.

On our behalf, as our Legislature, your predecessors enacted the Archaeological Sites Ordinance, whereby sites and works of importance in our heritage may be preserved for careful examination under proper auspices, and whereby ancient artifacts, explorer's cairns and documents may be protected likewise.

At the "muskeg" - or northern equivalent for "grassroots" - level, we formed Yellowknife Museum Society as a non-profit organization some years ago, and through it have achieved the creation of The Museum of the North at Yellowknife.

The farsighted generosity and encouragement of your Territorial Government, Mr. Commissioner, enabled us last year to obtain for posterity the priceless photographs of the late Henry Busse, a quiet but observant Northerner whose photographic artistry is world renowned. Again, it was the support of your Territorial Government which made possible the acquisition and construction of much that went into the Museum of the North. As you know, we have been blessed with many generous gifts from far and near, both within and beyond the Territories, from a multitude of generous friends besides your Government.

We mention these things, not only because it gives us pleasure to acknowledge our continuing gratitude to all who have guided, helped and supported our endeavours, but because it underlines our deep sense of obligation to them and to you with reference to the discharge of our duties as a body politic serving the public.

These duties are expressed in the objects of our Society, which are:

- (a) to preserve and exhibit specimens of flora and fauna and objects having archaeological interest;
- (b) to preserve and mark buildings, structures and sites having historic significance; and
- (c) to carry out such other functions as are usual to a museum.

It is under the last sub-heading that we are submitting this brief to you on Territorial Public Archives.

We realize of course that the creation and maintenance of such archives is beyond our present resources; and we are aware that your Government in conjunction with the Government of the Dominion has for some time now devoted much serious study to the present and future need for and benefits to be derived from such archives, particularly if they are to be located within the Northwest Territories. We do not ourselves propose to undertake such detailed professional studies, nor can we anticipate playing more than a minor part in their implementation, again due to our presently limited resources.

However, we believe that a good case can be made out that there exists an ever-present and rapidly growing need for the location of pertinent archives within the boundaries of the Territories, where they may be accessible to the public at that point where the need is most immediate and from which the greatest number can be conveniently served.

That point, in our submission, is and can be none other than Yellowknife at the present time and in the immediately foreseeable future.

Our reasons are set forth in the pages which follow. We trust that these, and our past history as a body of public-spirited citizens, will convince you that we make this submission to you with a sense of our responsibility not just to Yellowknife itself but to the people of the entire Northwest Territories.

If what we say should support you in your resolve to now provide to the public of the Territories the archives which we suggest it is their undeniable need and right to have within the Territories, without permitting much further delay, we shall feel that we have discharged one of our primary duties as a Society devoted to the protection of the Nation's cultural property in that vast and important part of Canada in which we live, the Northwest Territories.

If, in the implementation of your resolve, you should agree with us that Yellowknife is the natural site for the Territorial Public Archives, you may be assured that they will be here put to use where the need now and in the immediately foreseeable future appears likely to prove greatest. It is our belief and submission to you that the northern heritage of Canada should not be exiled from its northern setting any longer than is absolutely necessary, if it is to continue as a vital force contributing to our national identity, as we submit it should.

Our archives, we say, should therefore be brought home, not simply "to rest" by any means, but in order to fulfil their proper function.

PART II

THE NEED

The Northwest Territories of today include much of The North-Western Territory and of Rupertsland as known at Confederation in 1867, not to mention the Arctic archipelago. These areas are potentially rich in historical, anthropological and archaeological sites and materials of importance to Canada.

The name "Northwest Territories" is rich indeed in historical allusion, bringing to mind the great quest for the Northwest Passage, the early enterprise of the Northwest Company and the stern vigils of the North West Mounted Police. The name likewise calls up memories of the old "Wild West", and the yeasty days of the early Frontier. It is no exaggeration, for that matter, to say that the Territories now constitute for Canada, "The Last Frontier" - just as the Prairies did for all North America fifty years ago. And in the same way as Ohio was created a State out of the United States' Northwestern Territory in 1830, with the other western United States following, so the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta were carved out of Canada's North West Territories in 1905.

What remains is a vast wilderness undergoing the impact of forces generated by a world in rapid transition from pre-industrialism on the one hand to cybernation and the Space Age on the other hand.

The significance of the Territories and of their development cannot be gauged adequately by their dimensions, e.g. "almost one half of the land-mass of Canada," or by the potential wealth hidden within the ground, e.g. "a vast treasure store of riches," or even by their location in the Arctic, fronting the potentially hostile powers of Asia with their exploding populations. Neither is the significance of the cultural property of Canada which may yet be found located in the Territories of today capable of assessment except in general and somewhat speculative terms. It is the fate of archaeologists, historians and anthropologists and other students of mankind to come along often long after the pertinent information in its original form has largely been destroyed, defaced or discarded in the course of the world's workaday affairs. Steps can and should, however, be taken to mitigate this process, if not to prevent it as far as possible.

To recognize the importance of the archivists' "respect pour les fonds" is to recognize the vitality and complexity of tradition in the life of our nation and the need to take immediate steps to preserve the cultural property in which it is embodied. It is part of our common debt to posterity as much as to ourselves and to those who built the traditions by which we all live. Especially heavy is our responsibility in the field of ethnological studies in view of the almost unique material which has come down to us by virtue of the presence here of Eskimo and Indian cultures of the Arctic and sub-Arctic.

Collection and preservation of original material in one form or another may be the first consideration, but its use and study must ultimately be the purpose of such endeavours.

On the mundane level of vital statistics information, court records, land and related titles registration, and the like, the Territorial public has certain rights of access which should be exercisable within the territorial jurisdiction of the Territorial Council and of the Territorial Courts. A rational administrative arrangement, in all the circumstances, should at least initially comprise in one overall administrative unit the Public Archives of the Northwest Territories and the Registries of Land Titles, Vital Statistics and the like. Convenience to the public and economy of administration suggest that there might be a useful combination, furthermore, of fireproof space for such Archives and Registries with similar space for depositories of court and other records. It is understood that irreplaceable records are today and have for a decade been housed in accommodation at Yellowknife which leaves much to be desired in terms of fire protection and security.

The foregoing considerations form but a general outline, and yet one which we suggest compels the conclusion that time should not be lost in placing within the Northwest Territories those public records which should be accessible to the public of the Northwest Territories under the aegis of the legislature and courts of those Territories, and that they should be adequately protected against fire and theft or destruction.

Furthermore, we consider that no time is to be lost in securing such archival material in the Territories as yet remains unsecured. We have reason to believe that private individuals might yield up much valuable material to proper local custody, but will not in many cases wish to see the material leave the Territories for placement in the National Archives or elsewhere at Ottawa. Valuable material has already come into possession of The Museum of the North in this way. However, as indicated above, our resources are limited and we cannot pretend to have done more than to scratch the surface in our search for original material within the Territories, most of our success having its origins at Yellowknife.

It would therefore in our submission appear that considerations of administrative economy and efficiency, coupled with public convenience and necessity, suggest that at least in the initial stage of instituting the Territorial Public Archives within the Territories, these should be kept under one

roof and generally under one administration with certain other important public records as outlined above.

PART III

LOCATION

We respectfully submit that Yellowknife, as the largest centre of population in the Northwest Territories at the present time and in the immediately foreseeable future, would provide the most convenient location for the Territorial Public Archives.

Such convenience, we suggest, should be regarded both in the light of access by the public at large and by persons and institutions having a special interest in the material which would be collected and preserved in these Archives.

The presence of The Museum of the North and our Society at Yellowknife are evidence of such interest at that point. Furthermore, Yellowknife is the location of the Territorial Court, which would presumably require access to archive materials from time to time, as would persons interested in the material held in The Museum of the North.

For convenience of administration, administrative economy and efficiency, we suggest that there is very much to be said for placing the Archives at the present time under one roof with the Museum and possibly with other Registries and offices of record. The expense of providing fire-proof accommodation would appear to dictate the provision of common facilities as far as possible for all local materials forming part of the cultural property of the Territories and of the nation.

The Society and the Territorial Government could well take advantage of lands owned by them immediately adjacent to The Museum of the North. A permanent building could easily be located here to the maximum advantage of the public, and of the administering agencies, as outlined above.

We therefore suggest that it is an inescapable conclusion that the most favourable location at the present time and in the immediately foreseeable future will be none other than Yellowknife.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

YELLOWKNIFE MUSEUM SOCIETY

(Sgd.) I.T. Dunks... President....

(Sgd.) A.J. Boxer, Honorary and Immediate Past President

(Sgd.) G.W. McConnell, B.Sc., M.A., Sc., P. Eng. Vice-President

(Sgd.) D.L. Woolger, Treasurer.....

(Sgd.) J.F. Wohler, B.A. (Hons.) B.Ed. The Director, The Museum of The North

(Sgd.) Marvel Barton, Secretary.....

(Sgd.) G.W. Dies, Director.....

(Sgd.) W.P. Johnston, Director.....

(Sgd.) Audrey W. Rivett, Director.....

(Sgd.) E.A. Schiller, B.S., M.S., Ph.D. The Curator, The Museum of The North

(Sgd.) Mark De Weerd, M.A., LL.B. Honorary Legal Counsel

SEAL OF THE
YELLOWKNIFE MUSEUM SOCIETY
N.W.T.
1958.

October, 1964.