

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
5TH COUNCIL, 28TH SESSION

REFERENCE FOR ADVICE
NO. 3-28



21 October 1964

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

REFERENCE FOR ADVICE NO. 3
SECOND SESSION, 1964

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CENTENNIAL PROJECT

The Commissioner requests the Advice of Council on the question of implementing the recommendations in this paper.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CENTENNIAL PROJECT

Territorial Library and a Regional Library System

Since the June session of Council, further consideration has been given to a centennial project for the Northwest Territories. The building of a library and the organization of a regional library system seems, to the administration, to be a project worthy of serious consideration.

A library, and a regional library system covering the Northwest Territories, would be of immense value to the whole population, for it would benefit directly and personally every citizen who wished to utilize its facilities.

Under the provisions of the Centennial Grants Program the Federal Government will contribute two-thirds of the cost of projects up to an amount equivalent to \$2.00 per head of population, and provided that the Territorial Government pays the other one-third of the cost. Thus, the Territorial Government will have available approximately \$72,000 for a project of lasting nature.

This sum might be used to construct a Territorial Library building which could, wherever it is built, act as a headquarters for a regional library system extending into all communities within the Territories.

The sum of approximately \$72,000 would cover construction costs only. Fitting and furnishing the building as a library would be an additional expense. Also the operating costs of the library and the regional library system would have to be met by the Territorial Government in future years.

Thus, the crux of the decision on whether or not to build a Territorial Library as a centennial project lies primarily in the willingness of the Council to assume its annual costs of operation.

As the Yukon Territory already operates a regional library system, it might furnish Members of Council with some idea of the financial burden the Territorial Government would be assuming if Yukon operating expenses were quoted here. Presumably operating costs in the Northwest Territories might be roughly comparable to those in the Yukon Territory.

Yukon Regional Library

Operation and Maintenance

	<u>Voted 1964-65</u>	<u>Voted 1963-64</u>
Salaries	\$ 18,250	\$ 13,193
Books	11,470	10,000
Travel & Living Expenses	2,600	1,892
Stationery & Office Supplies	2,500	2,000
Miscellaneous	<u>5,287</u>	<u>4,400</u>
	\$ 40,107	\$ 31,485

At the June Council session a joint Territorial Library and Archives was mentioned as a possible centennial project. On further consideration it does not presently appear necessary nor desirable to provide special accommodation for Territorial archives. The function of an archives is entirely different from that of a library, and it should be located close to the administrative centre of government. A library could be placed in any community in the Territories and still effectively function as headquarters for a regional library system. It would not of necessity have to be placed at the centre of government.

The Administration recommends that a library building be erected as a centennial project to commemorate Confederation. It would serve the community in which it was built; it could serve as headquarters for a regional library system extending to communities everywhere in the Territories. There is vast need for library facilities in the north and such a centennial project would be of direct and continuing benefit to a maximum number of the residents of the Northwest Territories.

In case Council desires to consider other possible projects I mention the following: A special type of tourist building and archway at the N.W.T. border on the Mackenzie highway.

The Commissioner requests the advice of Council.