

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

**REFERENCE FOR ADVICE
NO. 9-28**



October 1, 1964.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

REFERENCE FOR ADVICE NO. 9
Second Session, 1964

PROPOSED NORTHWEST TERRITORIES TRUST FUND FOR THE
EDUCATION OF YOUNG TERRITORIAL RESIDENTS

The Commissioner requests the advice of the Council on the establishment of a trust fund for the education of young territorial residents.

Proposed Northwest Territories Trust Fund for the
Education of Young Territorial Residents

The Northwest Territories leads the rest of Canada in its higher education program, whereby any student who is the product of the N.W.T. secondary school system and whose parents continue to reside in the Territories can attend university with grants and loans from the Government of the Northwest Territories. The establishment of this program had a considerable side-effect on scholarships offered by such agencies as the Territorial Government, the Indian Affairs Branch and private donors, because the only area of expenditure not covered by government grant is that for room, board, clothing and pocket money; for these purposes the student may borrow from the Northwest Territories Government. As a result, most scholarships have now been tailored to cover these latter costs so that the winning student will not have to incur any debt at all.

Despite the generous higher education program in the Territories, there are individuals and organizations who wish in some way or another to help financially with the education of young people from the Territories, and in particular Indian and Eskimo students. Such impulses are welcomed, and every effort is made to channel the interests of the individual or organization into the current area of greatest and most deserving need. The sources are varied. A recent example is that a noted collector of Eskimo art has arranged for the Smithsonian Institution of Washington to display his collection at museums throughout the United States and in so doing to accept voluntary contributions of money to be devoted to the education of a young Eskimo. Several hundred dollars may be realized in this way and the exhibitor has asked if the Department of Northern Affairs would accept and administer such funds. The Department believes that, while it has been pleased to encourage such giving, the funds are better handled by some means other than the administration.

The proposal is therefore advanced that, if Council approves, the Commissioner establish a trust fund into which will be paid voluntary contributions offered by private individuals and organizations to assist with the education of young people from the Northwest Territories. Out of this fund, and on the advice of a small impartial board, the Commissioner would make grants to deserving individuals for the purpose of assisting with the expenses of training or studies. Since students may be financed through university to the bachelor level by means of grants and loans under the higher education program, this new fund should be used for worthy educational purposes not covered by the higher education program. Some examples of desirable uses might be the following:

- (1) To assist deserving students in the post-graduate field.
- (2) To pay transportation expenses for an under-graduate student to study abroad, possibly on an exchange basis. The university financial aid program of the N.W.T. pays expenses only to the nearest university offering the course.
- (3) To assist non-university students in such fields as art, music or dramatics to pursue their studies at institutions of learning, or privately under recognized tutors.
- (4) To pay transportation expenses for young northern residents to other parts of Canada, to Greenland or Alaska, where such travel would serve to increase both a broader understanding of the Northwest Territories by those outside, and a broader understanding of the outside by northern residents.

The advisory board, which should be given as free a hand as possible to aid worthy students in ways not covered by the higher education program, would consist of three persons appointed by the Commissioner and one officer of the administration to serve as secretary. An accounting of receipts and disbursements would be rendered annually to Council. No

cost to the Government of the Northwest Territories is foreseen in this proposal, beyond the administrative costs of an annual meeting of the advisory board. Such a fund might well, however, attract additional money to the Northwest Territories, especially from those now seeking worthy causes with which to celebrate the anniversary of Confederation.

The Commissioner requests the advice of Council on the establishment of a trust fund and an advisory board for the purposes outlined above.