

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
5TH COUNCIL, 30TH SESSION

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL
NO. 9-30

TABLED ON JUNE 14, 1965



7 June, 1965.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 9
(Second Session, 1965)

OBSERVANCE OF CANADA CENTENNIAL
IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

DISPOSITION

Accepted as Read..... **JUN 22 1965**
Amended..... See Text
Rejected..... See Text
Deferred..... See Text
Not considered.

OBSERVANCE OF CANADA CENTENNIAL

IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Council has considered plans and projects for celebrating Canada's 100th birthday in the Northwest Territories at the last three sessions. Interest in the 1967 observances is increasing rapidly throughout Canada and this paper is to:

- (a) report on the plans for the Northwest Territories; and
- (b) recommend a change in the Centennial Grants Program agreed to at the February Session of Council.

The overall program for the Northwest Territories may best be understood and appreciated if we consider programs and projects under three classes:

- I Federally Sponsored Programs - Those programs initiated, planned and financed by the Federal Government and brought to the various provinces and territories. In some of these programs there will be a small territorial expenditure when the actual program is brought to the public.
- II Joint Federal - Territorial Programs - These consist of the Centennial Memorial and Centennial Grants Projects which are selected and carried out by the territories but are financed either wholly from federal funds or jointly from federal - territorial funds.
- III Joint Territorial - Local Projects - These are projects initiated and planned by the community and financed by Territorial Grants of \$2.00 per resident provided the community contributes \$1.00 per resident.

I Federal Programs

1. Confederation Caravan - The caravan consists of several modules or trailers with displays and exhibits showing Canada in the making from the Ancient History recorded in the legends of Indians and Eskimos down to Canada in the Atomic Age. The caravan will visit a number of locations along the Mackenzie Highway including Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Providence, Rae and Yellowknife. Included with the caravan will be a covered stage and platform that will be set up at each location for holding receptions and providing entertainment for residents coming to view the caravan.
2. Student Exchange - This program provides for groups of high school students in the 15-17 age bracket to travel from one territory or province to another territory or province for a period of seven days. The students travel in groups of 24 and one group has been organized in the Mackenzie District this year and will travel to St. Catharines, Ontario. A similar group of students from St. Catharines will visit the Mackenzie District. The number of students and groups from the territory will increase in 1966 and 1967.
3. Centennial Voyageur Canoe Pageant - This pageant will take the form of a race in 1967 covering 3500 miles from Edmonton to Montreal and following closely the old fur trading routes of the voyageurs. It is expected that there will be a canoe team of six persons one alternate from each province and territory. The 1967 pageant will require approximately 100 days and there will be allowances and prizes for the paddlers to compensate for loss of earnings during this period. In addition to the major race, there will be experimental runs in 1965 and 1966 to help iron out any problems that may arise. The total cost of a pageant is estimated at \$350,000 of which the Northwest Territories is asked to contribute \$1000.

4. Medallions for School Children - At some time during 1967, each school child in the Territories will be given a medallion commemorating Canada's 100th birthday. These will be supplied by the Centennial Commission.
5. Fitness Awards for School Children - Fitness standards for school children at various ages are being established for several athletic events such as, track and field, swimming, skating, etc., and each school child in the territories will be asked to take the tests during 1967. Those meeting the minimum standards will receive a certificate of qualification.
6. Tree Planting Project - Each school child in a selected grade, probably Grade 6 or 7, will be asked to plant and cultivate a tree during 1966 and 1967.
7. Community Improvement - Some organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce or Local Community Society will be asked to take the initiative in encouraging local residents and businessmen to improve and clean up their premises for 1967.
8. Performing Arts Program - The Centennial Commission will subsidize a number of selected artists and performances to make possible the staging of high quality performances at reduced costs during 1967. A further subsidy will be granted for travelling expenses to enable smaller communities in isolated locations to partake in this program. A second part of the Performing Arts Program will be to commission writers and directors to develop a simple Centennial Pageant or Performance that can be enacted by local performing arts or theatrical groups. This program is just now developing and we do not yet know to what extent the Northwest Territories will benefit.
9. Canadian Armed Forces Tatoo - This searchlight tatoo will recreate the whole history of the Canadian Armed Forces. Unfortunately, the tatoo will not travel to the Northwest Territories but the Armed Forces have given assurance that some form of observance will be provided in the territories.

We are still negotiating with the Centennial Commission for a special project for the Northwest Territories, such as a barge travelling down the Mackenzie River, to act as a focus for Territorial Centennial observances. The Centennial Commission appreciate that some such feature will be required in the north and have assured us that some project will be developed.

II Joint Federal - Territorial Programs

1. Centennial Memorial Project - This is the Regional Library Building that Council decided to build at Hay River. The Federal Government is putting up \$250,000, which will be the whole cost of building, equipment and furnishings other than books and office furniture. A library consultant and an architect have been commissioned. Final plans for the building are expected by the end of the summer. The position of Territorial Librarian is being advertised.
2. Centennial Grants Program - Under this program, the Federal Government contributes \$2.00 per resident for approved projects of a lasting nature provided the territories make a matching grant of \$1.00 per resident.

At its February Session, Council agreed to a proposal to confine these funds to the single project of a Centennial Arch and Tourist Centre to be constructed along the Mackenzie Highway close to the Alberta border. Since the February Session, we have had requests from some of the larger communities in the Mackenzie District for assistance with projects such as local library buildings and swimming pools that would fit in very well

with the Centennial Commission's idea of projects under the Centennial Grants scheme. The proposed Arch and Tourist Centre has been criticized because:

- (a) It is not for the use of residents of the Northwest Territories;
- (b) Its value is limited to a few months in each year;
- (c) Maintenance and operation costs will be high;
- (d) Locating this second major project a few miles from the Memorial Library means that all of the Federal - Territorial financed projects will be in one section of the territories with nothing for the Mackenzie Delta, the Central and Eastern Arctic.

If our regional library system is to function properly, we will require sub-libraries or distributing centres in such locations as the Delta, the Central and the Eastern Arctic. A local library is also urgently required in Yellowknife. It is now believed that a more practical allotment of the Centennial Grant money would be a very substantially reduced tourist centre to be manned by students during the summer months and to ask the more populated centres of the Northwest Territories to submit projects for consideration under the Centennial Grants Program. Preference could be given to projects of a cultural or historical nature and to communities that offered some local support and gave assurance to the future operation of the project.

III Territorial - Local Programs:

This program was proposed and agreed to at the November Session of Council and provides each community with a grant from the Territorial Council of \$2.00 per resident provided the community contributes \$1.00 for each \$2.00 from the Territorial Government. Observances under this program may take any form the majority of local residents approve. The local project may be a structure, an improvement, a celebration or any other form of observance. The response from individual communities to this program has not been very active up to this time. This may be attributed to the lack of advertising of the program or the lack of local interest. To give better effect to this and all Centennial programs Mr. Jack Taylor of Yellowknife has been engaged on a part-time basis to visit communities, to advise them and help to initiate Centennial Observances. As most of these projects will be small, it may be well into 1966 or early 1967 before the local project is finalized.

Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends that the decision reached at the February Session of Council with regard to the Centennial Grants Program be set aside and that the total of \$72,000 provided for this program be made available for projects in several communities in the Northwest Territories: that projects of a cultural or historical nature will be given preference and that no more than six such projects will be considered.