

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

5TH COUNCIL, 30TH SESSION

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 3-30

TABLED ON JUNE 14, 1965



10 March, 1965.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 3
(Second Session, 1965)

RIVER BANK EROSION - AKLAVIK

DISPOSITION

Accepted as read..... **JUN 21 1965**
Amended..... See Text.
Rejected..... See Text.
Deferred..... See Text.
Not considered.



10 March, 1965.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 3
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RIVER BANK EROSION - AKLAVIK

River bank erosion at Aklavik was investigated during the summer of 1963 by the Harbours and Rivers Branch of the Department of Public Works.

The report stated that the cost of providing bank protection in the area under discussion would be prohibitive as there is no rock available in Aklavik. Even then they would not be in a position to guarantee that their recommendations would withstand the rigours of ice flow and bed erosion.

In view of this unfavourable cost benefit ratio, it was agreed that it would not be practical to proceed with any work. The entire area on which the settlement is located consists of deltaic deposits of silt in which permafrost is encountered at moderate depths. The river banks and the adjacent ground surface are devoid of vegetation. As a consequence, the summer thaw of the exposed banks creates an unstable condition and continued sloughing-in occurs. The section of the bank at the maximum of erosion faces south and receives the full effect of this thawing action. This condition, combined with the effects of erosion by river currents and abrasion by ice floes during breakup periods, results in a rapid rate of continued erosion. The river channel at this point is from 12 to 35 feet deep and extends from the bank outward into the river nearly 200 feet.

The Chief Engineer of the Harbours and Rivers Branch of the Department of Public Works recommends that no action be taken to protect the bank at the present time. The Administrator concurs with this recommendation.