

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

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 5-30

TABLED ON JUNE 23, 1965



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 5

The attached brief regarding the extension of the Ingraham Trail and improvements of Other Tourist Facilities is submitted by the Yellowknife Board of Trade.

YELLOWKNIFE BOARD OF TRADE

BOX 340

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

June 1, 1965.

Mr. Commissioner and Members
of the Territorial Council

Re: Extension of the Ingraham Trail and
Improvements of Other Tourist Facilities

The Yellowknife Board of Trade respectfully tenders to you this Board's submission on suggested immediate improvements in tourist facilities, with particular reference to an extension of the Ingraham Trail.

While mining is the major industry of the Northwest Territories, tourism is our second industry and, growing in stature every year, is vitally important to the future economic welfare of the residents of the N.W.T. The records of the N.W.T. Tourist Office indicate that an estimated 5,000 visitors travelled to the N.W.T. during 1964, compared with 3,500 in 1963 and only 2,200 in 1962. Inquiries of the Yellowknife Board of Trade from potential tourists are almost double the 1964 inquiries as of this same date, which could indicate a very substantial increase in the number of visitors this year. In the light of this we must justify the visit of these tourists through the provision of adequate facilities and in particular—since the majority of tourists come to fish—the provision of opportunities to catch fish! No publicity is more harmful than adverse word-of-mouth publicity from those who may have travelled several thousand miles by road to the Territories in search of sport fishing and who report back they were disappointed either because they found they had to fly to reach the best fishing spots, or because they found the lakes accessible by road depleted by commercial fishing. As examples of the latter we would point out Prosperous and Prelude Lakes.

Perhaps the surest indication of the growth of tourism is found in the fact that scarcely five years ago there was only one sport

fishing lodge in the Territories; there are now ten.

We would therefore suggest to Council the following major steps toward improvement of facilities for the ever-increasing number of tourists:

1) The immediate extension of Ingramham Trail, which is that road crossing the Yellowknife river, running eastward past Prosperous Lake, and presently ending abreast of Prelude Lake.

We understand this extension is out and surveyed, and would remind Council that in public speeches the respective ministers of Northern Affairs, the Hon. Walter Dinsdale and the Hon. A.R. Laing, promised this road would be extended. We respectfully implore Council to intercede with the Federal Government that this project be carried out. Not only will this extension open up virgin lakes to the tourist, it will also pass near known gold mining properties (at least three of which are in various stages of development) and could accelerate their development. The beauty of the country, and its appeal to the tourist photographer is obvious. Less obvious, perhaps, is the fact that the extension would open up an area for "rockhounds", with easily reached and abundant samples of pegmatites carrying exotic minerals and crystals.

2) The immediate protection of sport fishing lakes within 30 miles on either side of the proposed extension as far as it is surveyed, closing these lakes to commercial fishing now, rather than delaying this until the extension is completed.

3) Since the majority of tourists come to the Territories by car (the potential for sport fishermen travelling by air remains to be tapped) and since there are numerous sport fishing lakes along the Mackenzie route, these lakes should be singled out and access roads built to them.

4) The provision for air strips at the settlements of Snowdrift, Soliance and Rocher River. We cannot emphasize too strongly that these strips are long overdue for emergency use of the settlements concerned.

At the same time they will be of use to commercial aircraft, to mining concerns, and to the flying sports fishermen. With the Yellowknife airport having good facilities, and the Hay River airport now being improved, these could be jumping off points for sports fishermen wishing to fly into the settlements referred to above.

5) Provision to restrict usage of tourist campsites to legitimate tourists and other travellers. There have been instances where certain groups have established semi-permanent residence in these campsites.

The Yellowknife Board of Trade is appreciative of the Council's consideration of the recommendations which we have made in the foregoing.

Yours faithfully,

YELLOWKNIFE BOARD OF TRADE

D. R. Delaporte, President