

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

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 11-30

TABLED ON JUNE 23, 1965



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 11

The attached brief on regulations governing grants to communities for the construction of recreational facilities is submitted by the Council of the Town of Hay River.

B R I E F

To the Commissioner and Members
of the Northwest Territories Council

From the Council of the Town of Hay River

With regard to Regulations
governing grants to communities for
construction of Recreational Facilities.

Hay River, N.W.T.

June 12, 1965.

BRIEF TO THE COMMISSIONER AND
MEMBERS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
COUNCIL FROM THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN
OF HAY RIVER WITH REGARD TO REGULATIONS
GOVERNING GRANTS TO COMMUNITIES FOR CON-
STRUCTION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

In 1962 the town of Hay River undertook the building of a community centre, consisting of an arena, centre core, and a curling facility at an estimated cost of \$100,000.00. A grant of \$50,000.00 was received from the Territorial Council to defray half the cost of the capital expenditure. The \$50,000.00 remaining was raised by a debenture of \$31,250.00 and local subscriptions of \$18,750.00.

With the funds available, the town of Hay River has managed to construct the arena and some materials are on hand to partly complete the centre core. It will be impossible to carry out this project as originally planned under the present plan of financing. The reasons for finding ourselves with insufficient funds are as follows: (1) Although estimates were obtained from a reputable firm of architects, it is now obvious that the estimate of costs made by that firm of architects was too low. (2) The actual construction was considerably delayed by the Hay River flood which made it necessary to relocate the community centre after the foundations had been constructed. During this period of approximately two years, the cost of material and labour increased considerably and although the Territorial Government very generously reimbursed the town of Hay River for its loss due to the flood, the loss of material and labour could not be replaced for the same price at the later date.

Hay River has certainly received full value for the money spent on the recreation centre project to date. Both in the amount of the physical plant that has been completed and in the effect that the arena has had on the life of this community. The arena building proper was completed to the extent that it could be put into use by January 15th., 1965. The attached extract from the report of Mr. Mansell, Chairman of the Hay River Recreation Board, to the

Director of Recreation at Fort Smith shows the extent to which this arena was used by the people of the community. It is the consensus of opinion among school authorities, service groups and the R.C.M.P. in the town that the recreation afforded by the arena has had a marked effect on the conduct and attitude of the people of Hay River as a whole and on the young people in particular. It is obvious that if we are able to complete the community centre as originally planned, it will have an effect on this community far in excess of the cost in dollars. Unfortunately, under the present Territorial grant structure, it will be impossible to complete this project as planned.

We therefore request that the Territorial Grants Regulations be amended to make provision for increased grants for larger projects as follows:

<u>Total Outlay</u>	<u>Territorial Grant</u>	<u>Local Share</u>	
		<u>non-debenture</u>	<u>Debenture</u>
\$100,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$18,750 pledges	\$31,250.00
\$200,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$18,750 pledges \$18,750 Mun. funds	\$62,500.00
\$300,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$18,750 pledges \$37,500 Mun. funds	\$93,750.00

We submit that this new schedule of grants would have a number of advantages.

1. The cost in grants to the Territorial Government, although larger at the outset, would not be larger in the total grants over a period of fifteen years, for a project costing 300,000.00, built in stages. For example, should it be necessary for Hay River to wait five years for the second grant of 50,000.00 and another five years for the third grant of 50,000.00, the community centre, which is required now, will be in a constant state of construction and will not fully serve the purposes for which it is being constructed. We realize that, if this suggested plan is adopted, further grants for recreational purposes would only be available

after a period of fifteen years.

Although our arena, as we have pointed out, has been of immense benefit to the town, it loses some of its value because the dressing rooms, waiting rooms, etc. which were planned for the centre core, are not yet available. The limited facilities of the arena, without the centre core, have been taxed so greatly that it became a matter of real concern to the Recreation Board this past winter.

2. The suggested schedule of grants leaves the amount to be pledged locally at \$18,750.00. We contend that this is the maximum which a small community may logically be expected to raise by local subscription. It amounts to \$10.00 per head for every man, woman and child in the community and would be comparable to an amount of four million dollars for a city the size of Edmonton. Such an amount, we believe, would present quite a challenge to such a community, even though it would have larger commercial and industrial resources to call on and we feel that the record of Hay River in regard to raising funds for this project is as good as can be expected.

The people of Hay River are enthusiastic about this recreation centre project and are convinced that it is and will fulfil an essential requirement and need in this community. The consideration which Hay River has always received from the Territorial Council is gratefully acknowledged and it would lead us to believe that careful and sympathetic consideration will be given to this brief.

Respectfully submitted.

THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION
OF THE TOWN OF HAY RIVER

per _____
(D.M. Stewart) Mayor

Crest
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

office of
Regional Co-ordinator of Recreation
Hay River, N.W.T.

May 2nd., 1965.

Mr. J. van Pelt,
Director of Recreation,
Fort Smith, N.W.T.

Dear Jack:

Re: Recreation - Hay River.

As you are aware, recreation in Hay River, from the standpoint of the Recreation Board, is still predominately concerned with hockey and baseball. We hope to get some activity going next fall in badminton and in basketball but these, too, are in the line of sport and the other side of the recreational field has not progressed very far as yet. However, we feel that if we can get a few activities organized and properly active, we are on the right track.

You are familiar with the hockey activity during the past winter. I have a copy of the report of Mr. L. Makepeace to the Hay River Community Society on the winter's operation and you might be interested in the statistical information:

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>NUMBERS OF PEOPLE</u>
1. Girls Figure Skating 16 years and under	26
2. Girls Hockey 14 years and under	22
3. Girls Hockey over 14 years	42
4. Boys Hockey 4 to 7 years	32
5. Boys Hockey 8 to 10 years	36
6. Boys Hockey 11 to 14 years	60
7. Boys Hockey 15 to 18 years	30
8. Boys Hockey	45
	Tot-1 293
9. Public Skating - estimated maximum attendance in one day	375

In addition to the above statistics, I might add that over 30 people gave freely of their time and energy to coach the teams listed above. #3 above includes quite a number of married and single women who were interested in getting out for a little competitive sport and this activity created much interest. I think that the most serious hockey of all was played by the boys, aged 4 to 7 years. These little fellows, as did every other group, showed amazing improvement in their ability to skate and drew constant crowds of spectators. The result of the activity in the arena this winter was that it became the centre of community activity and there was a noticeable lessening of other, less savory, activity in the town. By and large, the conduct of the public at the arena was exemplary and it was possible for families to

send their children to the arena without fear of their getting into trouble.

Our native children were included in the arena activities to whatever extent they themselves desired without any discrimination. However, I think there was some reluctance on the part of some of the Indian children to get involved, whether because of lack of funds to buy equipment or other reason, I don't know. The Recreation Board will have to look into this aspect this coming fall. The natural athletic ability of the Indian people is recognized and it is one way in which this group of our people can secure the necessary sense of achievement.