

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
5TH COUNCIL, 32ND SESSION**

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL
NO. 2-32**

TABLED ON JANUARY 25, 1966



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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 2
(First Session, 1966)

ENCOURAGEMENT OF SETTLEMENT IN
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

DISPOSITION

Accepted as Read.....
Amended.....See Text
Rejected.....See Text
Deferred.....See Text
Not Considered.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF SETTLEMENT IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

At the Thirtieth Session, Members of Council asked for proposals designed to encourage settlers to move to the Northwest Territories.

At that Session, the Member for Mackenzie South suggested the possibility of easing hunting regulations, in more remote areas, for new settlers.

Members of Council are aware that for some years the Council of the Northwest Territories has subscribed to the policy of preserving game resources for the use and benefit of the local Indian and Eskimo populations who depend on these resources for their livelihood. Consequently, the hunting of game in the Northwest Territories generally has been restricted to the local Indians and Eskimos and to a small number of long-term non-Indian and non-Eskimo residents who, traditionally, have been dependent on hunting and trapping. These people are issued annually with a general hunting licence.

In 1961, the regulations were relaxed to permit people with a minimum of four years' residence in the Northwest Territories to obtain a licence to hunt moose, black bear and dall sheep on a quota basis in certain restricted areas in the Mackenzie District. The regulations were further eased in 1963 to permit the holder of a resident big game licence to hunt a limited number of caribou in the Mackenzie Delta area. In the fall of 1965, the regulations were further relaxed to permit non-residents who have a licence to hunt big game in the presently unharvested Mackenzie Mountains area. In addition, the residency requirement of four years was reduced to one year.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that the stringent regulations in effect in the Northwest Territories have been progressively relaxed as game populations increase and remote areas become opened up. Further relaxation may become possible when the current status of certain big game populations becomes known, bearing in mind the extent of native utilization of these resources, present and future.

As matters now stand, settlers in the Northwest Territories can, after one year's residence, obtain a big game licence for restricted hunting of big game in the Mackenzie District. They would, of course, also be able to obtain licences to hunt upland game birds and migratory water fowl in season in areas not included in Game Preserves and Game Sanctuaries.

Previous Councils have shown a keen awareness of the necessity to preserve game, and this Council is doubtless no less aware. If it now desires to change the policy as outlined above, then the Commissioner proposes that formal resolutions be formulated giving precise indication of what further relaxation of the regulations Council would like to see for the purpose it has in mind. On the basis of these specifics, the question could then be carefully examined by specialists to obtain their advice as to whether the changes would be commensurate with sound game management.

There are other aspects of life in the north, affected by policies established by the federal, territorial and municipal governments, which might encourage persons to settle in northern Canada. Some of these policies relate to the leasing or purchasing of land;

to housing loans; the provision of sewer and water services; and the provision of electric power. There are other minor benefits, but none can be mentioned as having been adopted with the purpose in mind specifically of inducing new settlers into the Territories.

The desire of Council to attract new settlers to the Northwest Territories is shared by the Government of Canada. Certainly it is believed that in the years to come there will be a greater number of Canadians living in the north than there are today, but the residents will be there as a result of the development of the resources of the country and of the establishment of industry. These are the initial objectives to aim for and it is with this purpose in mind that the Government of Canada offers incentives and is planning to offer further incentives to private enterprise to develop the resources of the north through the construction of roads and airports. There is also the offer of financial assistance for prospecting, mining exploration, scientific research and other means now in effect or which will be adopted in due course by the Government of Canada.

It is appropriate to single out at this point the massive road program announced in October, 1965, by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources to stimulate resource development in Canada's north. This is a ten-year program which calls for an average expenditure of 10 million dollars per year, double the annual roads investment in the previous ten-year period, and this is the first phase of a long-range twenty-year northern roads network to be carried out by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. The Northwest Territories will benefit a great deal from this program and there is no doubt that as these roads come into existence new people will be attracted to the Northwest Territories and new communities will be established. This has been the consequence of improvement in communications through road building in the provinces of Canada. The Yukon and the Northwest Territories are not expected to form an exception.

A good deal of progress has been made in a short span of years, but there is still much to be done and this will require heavy expenditures of public money. On the other hand, careful planning is required along the lines indicated, that is to say, by encouraging the development of resources in order to establish a sound and lasting economy, rather than by populating the area first, then creating the economic inducement to sustain the population.

In summary, it is suggested that the hunting regulations as they stand do take into consideration the question of new settlers albeit on a restricted basis, as at present. If it is desired to relax further the regulations in their favour, then Council should set out their requirements in the form of resolutions indicating precisely what is needed.

In relation to other proposals to encourage settlement of the Northwest Territories, the stimulus given by the Government of Canada, through its roads program and by other means, is the first essential step which will lead to greater settlement of the north within the not too distant future.