

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
5<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, 32<sup>ND</sup> SESSION

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL  
NO. 3-32

PASSED ON JANUARY 25, 1966



10th November, 1965.

Confidential - Not for  
release before tabling  
during the 32nd Session  
of Council.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 3  
(First Session, 1966)

FUR BUYING IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

DISPOSITION

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

## FUR BUYING IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

In the replies to the Commissioner's opening address at the June, 1965 Session of Council it was requested that the Game Management Branch make a study of fur buying arrangements in the Northwest Territories and report back to the Commissioner. This is the report.

1. The present system of issuing Trading Post Licences was instituted so that a source of merchandise for the trapper would be assured. Outpost Licences are issued to holders of Trading Post Licences and provide for the supply of trade goods to small groups on their trapping grounds during the winter months. The establishment of outposts relieves the trapper of the necessity for long journeys to main centres for his supplies.
2. A Trading and Trafficking Licence can only be purchased by the holder of a Trading Post Licence. The issue of these licences ensures that the buying and selling of fur is conducted and recorded in an orderly manner.

It is not believed that Travelling Cash Buying Licences would keep more trappers on their lines. Rather than being an advantage, such licences could work to disadvantage in several ways. The money received from a travelling fur buyer, visiting a remote trapline, serves little purpose unless merchandise is available. Therefore, a trip to the settlement by the trapper to purchase supplies would still be necessary. A travelling fur buyer would also expect to recover his travel expenses from furs purchased. Along with this, his normal profit might leave the trapper with less money than he would have received at the settlement.

A Travelling Cash Buying Licence could mean the abandonment of outposts now established. With the issue of these licences, there would then be no necessity for a trader to maintain a stock of trade goods. Outposts are an essential tool in helping the trapper to stay on the land, particularly in the more remote areas, and the establishment of more outposts should be assisted rather than hindered.

Increasing amounts of furs are now being shipped by individual trappers to fur auction houses. This is good business. It brings the trapper more money. A Cash Buying Licence which would permit any person to purchase furs from a designated establishment would perhaps also bring the trapper more revenue, although perhaps not as much as he should expect to realize from an auction house.

The present Ordinance makes ample provision for any person who is financially able to maintain a stock of trade goods and has a suitable establishment to obtain a Trading Post Licence and subsequently, a Trading and Trafficking Licence.

While the Commissioner does not advocate that a Cash Fur Buying Licence be created at this time, it is realized that such a licence could be of benefit to the trapper by stimulating competition for the furs the trapper produces. If a new type of licence is created, it is believed that initially it should be limited to designated establishments in the larger settlements.

The Commissioner does not recommend the creation of a new licence at this time.