

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

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL
NO. 12-32**

TABLED ON JANUARY 25, 1966



8th December, 1955.

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

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 12
(First Session, 1966)

SURVEY OF RIVER BANK EROSION AT FORT SIMPSON, N.W.T.

DISPOSITION

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

SURVEY OF RIVER BANK EROSION AT FORT SIMPSON, N.W.T.

At its 30th Session held at Yellowknife, in June 1965, the N.W.T. Council requested advice on studies and action taken to arrest erosion of the Mackenzie river bank at Fort Simpson. (Debates Vol. 1, Pages 172, 246).

The following is a summary of the action taken and the recommendations made in this regard: -

1. Request by the Commissioner

In a memorandum of July 21, 1965, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories requested Northern Administration Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources to carry out a study of bank erosion at Fort Simpson and to take suitable steps to successfully arrest this erosion.

2. D.P.W. Consulted

The Department of Public Works was immediately contacted. They advised that they had, in fact, carried out a survey in 1962 and prepared a report, a copy of which they forwarded for the Commissioner's reference. This report, compiled by Mr. McFarlane of Edmonton, and dated December 7, 1962, estimated the cost of bank protection to be approximately \$186,000. (D.P.W. advises now that an up-to-date cost for 1965 would be well in excess of a quarter of a million dollars). In their opinion, the cost of bank protection far exceeded the value of property lost and therefore remedial action was not warranted. They recommended at that time, that Professor Blench of the University of Alberta be engaged to study stream action to see if the river currents could be redirected in such a way as to reduce erosion.

3. Professor Blench Consulted

At the time of the 1963 floods at Fort Simpson, Professor Blench was retained by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources on a consultative basis. After viewing the flood and studying photographs which were taken before and after the flood, the Professor was of the opinion that no simple economic measures would correct this erosion. He noted, however, that considerable siltation was taking place in the area of erosion which suggested that probably the erosion would not continue for long into the future. He suggested, therefore, that aerial photos be taken each year of this area for the next five or six years after which a re-assessment of the erosion problem could be made.

4. Recommendations

- 1 - Construction of a protective wall to prevent erosion would involve prohibitive costs far exceeding the value of property protected, and should therefore not be contemplated.
- 2 - Surface drainages, which may contribute to the rate of bank erosion, should be controlled by proper ditching and diversion to areas where the effect of spilling over the banks would be minimized.
- 3 - Aerial photos should be taken each year (at the same time of year) for the next five years to record the process of siltation in the area.