

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

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL  
NO. 13-32**

**TABLED ON JANUARY 25, 1966**



17th January, 1966.

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

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 13  
(First Session, 1966)

ORGANIZATION OF YOUTH CLUBS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

DISPOSITION

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

## ORGANIZATION OF YOUTH CLUBS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

At the February, 1965, session Council held a brief discussion on the possibility of promoting a Youth Club Program throughout the Northwest Territories. Some members thought that a "teen town" type of operation where the youth themselves organized and directed the Club program, would give young residents of the Northwest Territories a sense of responsibility and develop leadership qualities that would go a long way to reduce problems encountered by young people during leisure hours. The Youth Club at Frobisher Bay was considered the kind of organization that meets this need. (Page 433).

### Existing Programs

There are, of course, a number of national, fraternal and religious organizations promoting youth activities through Canada. Because these programs are offered on a wide scale they are regulated and restricted to the extent they do not meet the criteria set down by Council to permit the members of the youth clubs to organize, plan and administer their own programs. These larger organizations have also failed in enrolling many of the potential delinquents who remain outside the club and do not enjoy its benefits.

It appears most organizations of the type envisioned by Council owe their existence to a single dedicated person, or small group of persons, who are prepared to devote time, effort and ability to this kind of activity. The club ebbs and flows with the energy of this person and when he or she leaves the club, it usually collapses. There is a modification to this development in some municipalities with well established recreation programs where guidance and assistance to youth clubs is under the general direction of a community recreation officer. While this type of organization usually offers more continuity, the municipal authority must set out certain restrictions and conditions that are not always acceptable to the youth groups and in any event limits their responsibility and opportunity for leadership.

### Frobisher Bay

The Youth Club at Frobisher Bay is a good example of the ups and downs experienced by these clubs. Although encouraged by the senior Baffin Club at Frobisher Bay, the youth group made little progress until an employee of C.B.C. joined it to give leadership and some direction. When this young man transferred out of Frobisher Bay, the Club more or less collapsed. After several months of silence the Youth Club has not shown signs of rejuvenation and has a limited program in effect. One of the very valuable contributions this Club is making is in the successful integration of white and Eskimo young people. It is an example for the rest of the Arctic.

The administration has not been able to give guidance and leadership to youth clubs at Frobisher Bay and other locations because social workers, teachers and departmental officers who may be capable of assisting have had too many other responsibilities. However, the great value in this kind of development for all residents has been recognized in the new concepts of community development. Under programs now being planned by both Indian Affairs and Northern Affairs Branches local interest and participation will be fostered by placing more authority and responsibility with the residents. Taken on the broader aspect

of community life, the aims of the new Community Development program are similar to Council's object of encouraging youth groups to organize and develop their own clubs and it is expected many new local projects will be generated.

Resources Available

In the meantime, the resources available to the administration to promote this kind of program are limited to the Fitness Director at Fort Smith. Although he has not attempted to organize or promote youth clubs, he will assist in any social or recreational program a youth club may wish to carry out. It is expected that an additional recreation officer will be hired in the next fiscal year and located at Frobisher Bay. These two officers, working primarily with young people and visiting most of the settlements in the Arctic and Mackenzie District, are the most likely persons to encourage these self-controlled youth clubs.

Recommendation

The Commissioner, therefore, recommends that the Territorial Recreation Officers be directed to foster the establishment of youth clubs in the Northwest Territories by

- (a) helping to plan and finance fitness activities and
- (b) develop a system of grants to youth clubs based on membership and participation in recreational, social and educational activities.