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**SESSIONAL PAPER
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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 15

PROPOSAL TO INFORM EASTERN ARCTIC
RESIDENTS ABOUT THE NATURE OF GOVERNMENT

DISPOSITION

Accepted as Read.....

Amended.....See Text

Rejected.....See Text

Deferred.....See Text

Not Considered.

PROPOSAL TO INFORM EASTERN ARCTIC
RESIDENTS ABOUT THE NATURE OF GOVERNMENT

At the 30th Session, Council requested the Commissioner to have the administration prepare a report about steps taken to establish an information program for Eskimos in the eastern and central Arctic on the nature and responsibilities of Territorial Government as distinct from federal responsibilities (Debates 30th Session, Page 296). This has been considered under two main headings. A review was made respecting what has been done already in this field and inquiries were launched to ascertain what else could be done.

Action Already Taken

Gaujivaallirutissat

The "Q-Book" contains a series of articles related to the general topics of government, law and voting. These articles are entitled "Citizens", "Voting", "Voting in Canada's Federal Election", "Councils", "How Councils are Set Up" and "Law Enforcement". Under this series there is coverage of the Federal Government and local Councils but only brief passing reference to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Voting Procedure Papers

In addition to the "Q-Book" articles, a paper on voting in federal elections was prepared for the information of the Eskimo people prior to the election in June 1962. This statement was approved by the Chief Electoral Officer, translated into syllabics and widely distributed. Its contents were also broadcast over the CBC services.

Supplementary to the departmental statement were other local papers on voting procedure prepared at Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake by departmental officers. The departmental paper was revised and updated and reissued as a voting guide prior to the federal elections held on November 8, 1965.

Because the election machinery for both federal and territorial elections is basically similar all these statements have a good deal of information appropriate to an election to either legislative body. However, none of these papers attempted the difficult task of separating and explaining federal and territorial governmental functions.

Film Strips

The Education Division has produced to date two film strips on the general topic of Government with two more film strips in preparation. The film strips now available are:-

- (a) "What is Government"
- an introduction to basic government
- (b) "History of the Government of the Northwest Territories"
- this strip traces the history of the Government of the Northwest Territories from its earliest form up to within the last couple of years. A supplementary manual provides extra details for a running commentary.

The film strips yet to be produced are entitled:-

- (a) "Government in Action", and
- (b) "The Structure of Government".

Civics Instruction

The Social Studies Program for territorial schools includes formal studies on government and very many references to government operations as they come into studies on transportation, communications, sanitation, medical services, and so on. This presentation is supplemented by much film fare showing the opening of Parliament, the work of the R.C.M. Police and a great many other allied subjects.

The formal study program is supported and underlined by mock Parliaments and by class elections for various purposes and the entire Social Studies Program gives children in northern schools the same level of experience and background information as is available in other Canadian school systems.

There is, of course, a flow into the home of school experience and learning and, indirectly, unschooled parents are getting ideas of Government at its many levels. In addition, the Adult Education Program also introduces information about Government as part of the social studies instruction given but this program does not reach everyone.

Additional Action Possible

By Education Division

The Adult Education Section is prepared, at short notice, to produce a series of instructional pamphlets for distribution wherever required. It would take a month to turn these out in quantity. Upon distribution they would be used by the teaching staff to give a number of lectures, slowly introducing idea by idea the complicated topics of Government and the selection of governmental representatives to speak for the people.

By the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

The CBC will be pleased to broadcast any information fed to them using both short and long wave propagation. Scripts would have to be prepared and the Education Division has promised help here.

The many aspects of Government could be treated also as part of a "forum" type of radio program. Some agency would have to organize a series of discussions. This type of presentation seems very appropriate for use by the Ottawa-based Members of Council as a ready-made panel of experts on government at many levels and in its many phases.

A third program could use the existing arrangements whereby W.G. Brown, former Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, broadcasts regularly to the North on topics of general interest and he might be asked to speak on some facets of Government for the Northwest Territories.

In general, the CBC has expressed enthusiasm in aiding in publicity or the dissemination of information on the whole topic of Government for the Northwest Territories.

General

The interest of the Indian-Eskimo Association in all that is going on in the North and touching the native peoples makes this body a logical choice to tap for aid in producing material for radio or, perhaps, for sending or paying the cost of sending someone like Mr. Okpik to speak to the Eskimo people on Government. However, it should be noted that a speaker could reach only part of the settlements and the only sure way of communicating to all the Eskimo people is by using the services of the Education Division and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

The Commissioner intends to arrange a showing during the January 1966 Session of the film strips and other material used by the specialists of the Education Division. This would enable the councillors to reach their own conclusion as to whether this material would be useful.