

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
5TH COUNCIL, 33RD SESSION**

**RECOMMENDATION TO
COUNCIL NO. 4-33**

TABLED ON NOVEMBER 15, 1966



October 11, 1966
Confidential - Not
for release before
tabling during the
33rd Session of
Council.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 4-33
(Second Session, 1966)
Tabled on November 15, 1966

PAYMENT FOR PUPIL MAINTENANCE
IN PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

DISPOSITION

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Noted not Considered

PAYMENT FOR PUPIL MAINTENANCE IN
PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

I. Introduction

Pupils from small settlements attending schools in the larger centres of the Territories are housed usually in pupil residences provided by the Federal and Territorial Governments. These pupil residences are located at Inuvik, Fort MacPherson, Yellowknife and Fort Smith in the Mackenzie District and Chesterfield Inlet, N.W.T. and Churchill, Manitoba, in the Eastern Arctic. Smaller residences for 8-12 pupils are located at Baker Lake, Eskimo Point, Cape Dorset, Pangnirtung, Broughton Island, Pond Inlet, Igloolik and Cambridge Bay. With the exception of Akaitcho Hall, Yellowknife, the residence at Churchill and the small pupil residences which are owned and operated by the Federal Government, all residences are owned by the Federal Government and operated by either the Anglican or Roman Catholic Church.

A number of pupils also live and board in private homes and a local boarding payment is made by the Government to the boarding house operator for the board and lodging of each pupil. Living and boarding costs in all residences are paid for by the Territorial Government on behalf of white pupils and by the Federal Government on behalf of Indian and Eskimo pupils.

In 1964 Grandin College, Fort Smith, was opened as a residence for about 40 high school pupils. The college is owned and operated entirely by the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Mackenzie, and the pupils enrolled attend the Joseph Burr Tyrrell School in Fort Smith. The existence of a privately owned pupil residence whose pupils attend a school under Federal-Territorial jurisdiction raises the question of Government payment for pupil maintenance in private institutions. If such payments are approved, there remains for consideration the matters of rates of payment and the eligibility of private institutions to qualify for payments.

II. Background

In a letter to the Commissioner in September 1964, Bishop Piché requested financial assistance for board and lodging of Grandin College pupils from the Territories who were attending the Joseph Burr Tyrrell School. At its November 1964 session, Council discussed Bishop Piche's request and agreed that a policy regarding the accommodation of pupils at Territorial Government expense in institutions operated by religious organizations was required before requests of this nature could be properly dealt with.

Since that time, a thorough investigation of the problem has been conducted by the Commissioner and the officers of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. The principle of payment for pupil maintenance in private institutions was agreed to and conditions were proposed as a basis for a policy which would be general throughout the Northwest Territories and applicable to any group who were prepared to provide residential facilities of an appropriate calibre. The involvement of both Federal and Territorial Governments made it necessary to seek mutual agreement as to the basis of payment for pupils' board and living accommodation.

To ascertain whether a private authority would actually be interested in entering into an agreement based on the proposed conditions of payment, Bishop Piche was asked for his views on the proposals. At a meeting in Fort Smith with the Administrator of the Mackenzie and the District Superintendent of Schools, Bishop Piche expressed his agreement with the proposed conditions and confirmed his view in a subsequent letter to the Department.

At present Grandin College is the only privately-owned pupil residence in the Territories. Most of the pupils enrolled in the College are either Eskimo or Indian. In 1965-66 there were 9 Eskimos, 35 Treaty Indians and 19 others.

Payment for the maintenance of Eskimo and Indian residents of the Territories attending schools away from their home settlements is the responsibility of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. The Department has indicated that, subject to the conditions set out in the following recommendation, it is prepared to share pupil maintenance costs at Grandin College, by paying for the board and lodging of Eskimo and Treaty Indian pupils who reside at the College and who are enrolled at the Joseph Burr Tyrrell School, Fort Smith, on condition that the Territorial Government make similar payments for non-Eskimo and non-Indian pupils attending the College.

Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends that Council adopt the principle of payment for pupil maintenance in private institutions subject to the following conditions:

1. Payments will be made only in respect of pupils who would be eligible for admission to a government pupil residence and whose parents or legal guardians have given their consent.
2. Selection of pupils to attend the Federal School adjacent to the privately owned pupil residence is to be approved by the District Superintendent of Schools three months prior to the opening of school in September, subject to such flexibility in the matter of dates as the District Superintendent is able to use, in view of the probable variety of circumstances.
3. When a pupil is admitted to a residence, the organization operating the residence must accept a commitment to provide accommodation for the full school year to assure schooling without interruption, provided the pupil's parents are in agreement.
4. Pupils must be examined medically prior to admission to the pupil residence.
5. The District Superintendent of Schools must be advised in advance of the suspension or expulsion of a child from the residence.
6. The Residence Administrator will ensure the regular attendance at school of all pupils in the residence and will act as a parent would to assist the school and the academic progress of the child.
7. Medical and nursing attention must be provided for pupils in accordance with regulations for government pupil residences operated by the Churches.
8. All staff members who are in contact with the children must undergo medical and psychological examination.
9. The building used as a residence must be satisfactory in respect of heating, plumbing and sanitary facilities, and must meet fire and general safety standards prescribed for public buildings in the Northwest Territories.
10. Payments will be on the same scale as the per pupil allowance for local boarding in the Territories. The Territorial Government will be responsible for white and Metis children and the Federal Government for Indian and Eskimo children who are residents of the Northwest Territories.
11. Payments will be made for that period of time that the pupils are in regular attendance at the Federal School adjacent to the privately owned pupil residence.