

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
5<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, 33<sup>RD</sup> SESSION**

**RECOMMENDATION TO  
COUNCIL NO. 5-33**

**TABLED ON NOVEMBER 10, 1966**



4th October, 1966.  
Confidential - Not  
for release before  
tabling during the  
33rd Session of  
Council.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 5-33  
(Second Session, 1966)

*Tabled on November 10, 1966*

COMMISSIONER'S AWARD

DISPOSITION

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

### COMMISSIONER'S AWARD

At the last Session of Council the establishment of a Commissioner's Award in the form of a cast medal was agreed upon. Since then the Commissioner has approved a design by Mrs. Mara de Pedery-Hunt of Toronto and has received ten sample medals in bronze.

The purpose of the Award is to acknowledge outstanding service in the Northwest Territories. This may include significant acts of bravery, continued public service, or other activities the Northwest Territories may wish to honour. At present there is no such award specifically for the Northwest Territories.

Each medal will be individually inscribed with the name of the recipient, the date of the award, and the nature of the service recognized. An accompanying letter from the Commissioner will round out the presentation. Although there has been discussion of a formal certificate to accompany the medal, it would seem redundant and would not allow the latitude of expression or the personal touch of a letter from the Commissioner.

Courage, cooperation and public-spiritedness are by no means uncommon qualities in the Northwest Territories. To present the Award too readily would cheapen its prestige, as well as insult the fine spirit which is so much a part of the northern character. However, significant service to the community or to the broader, and more elusive, society of men should be promptly noticed.

In keeping with this policy there would be no need to formalize the procedure by which deserving persons are brought to the Commissioner's attention. Any private individual or public servant acquainted with a person or act deserving commendation should be able to bring it to the Commissioner's attention. The Commissioner would establish a selection board, made up of outstanding persons, to review all recommendations for presentation of this award in order to decide which ones to proceed with. The Commissioner would refer to this board all cases deserving commendation which were brought to his attention.

It is recommended that the Commissioner announce Award winners, and cite the services so recognized by the Award, at each Session of Council.

The actual presentation of the Award creates certain difficulties. It is not feasible to collect Award winners in one place for a special dinner, nor is it feasible to have the Commissioner visit the home settlement of the recipient in all cases. Wherever possible the Commissioner should make the presentation in person, but otherwise the Deputy Commissioner or other senior official in the Territorial government could present it in his stead. The recipient should be presented with his medal before the Council Session following the one in which his services are cited.