

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

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 1-33

TABLED ON OCTOBER 31, 1966

Sessional Paper 1-33
Tabled on Oct. 31, 1966



October 27, 1966

Confidential: Not to be
released before 10:00 am,
October 31, 1966.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 1
(Second Session, 1966)

COMMISSIONER'S OPENING ADDRESS

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Members of the Council of the Northwest Territories:

Following the initiative of this Council, the Parliament of Canada passed an amendment to the Northwest Territories Act last May. One of the new provisions created three additional elected memberships in this legislature. The necessary territorial ordinance being passed, ready and waiting, I was in a position to call by-elections at once. The result is that we shall be joined this day by Mr. Duncan Pryde, representing the constituency of Central Arctic, Mr. Siméon Michael, representing Eastern Arctic, and Mr. Robert Williamson, representing Keewatin. I intend not to lose another moment in seating our friends in this Council with full powers as Members. Nothing remains but to administer the oaths of office and allegiance. Mr. Pryde, are you willing to swear these oaths? Then please come to the Commissioner's table. Mr. Michael, are you willing to swear these oaths? Then please join Mr. Pryde here. Mr. Williamson, are you willing to swear these oaths? Then please stand with your colleagues. The Clerk of the Council will assist me in administering the oaths.

(Welcoming and seating procedure. Mr. Goodall to participate)

This day marks the first session of the Territorial legislature in which all parts of the northland and all the people are represented by elected members. It is a milestone in northern development. It is a milestone in the progress of Canada. No longer do we withhold by inadvertence the democratic franchise to people in remote regions. In this regard, Canada has shown maturity before her hundredth birthday. It is nice to become grown up at the age of 99 years.

New Members, I have bid you each welcome. Your novitiate is over as of now. Take full part in our proceedings. This Council has need of you. I have always felt conscious of the lack of voices from the Eastern, Central and High Arctic. I have felt conscious also that our Council has been less than whole in a conceptual or theoretical sense. Now that we have democratic representation from all parts of the Northwest Territories, I feel no longer need to make apologetic explanations concerning our representational character. I feel that the foundation of our edifice is complete and firm. We can build on it with confidence. And build we shall. Let no one think we regard the present structure of the Government of the Northwest Territories as satisfactory. All your colleagues in this chamber and I, your Commissioner, desire to see great extension of the powers and autonomy of the Territorial Government in the next few years. The Carrothers Report outlines in masterful fashion a series of steps which can carry the Northwest Territories to the brink of provincial status. I congratulate you on joining this honourable body and commencing to work at this opportune time on the task of shaping the government of the northland, its society and its economy, as well as participating in the session to session governance of the many services that fall into Territorial jurisdiction. I hail your arrival as the most vital and basic development in the growth of democratic government in the northland since the advent of the first three elected members in the year 1951.

Turning to the session and the tasks before us, you will note that we face a heavy load of work here in Resolute Bay. The order paper is longer than any previous one in the history of the Northwest Territories. This is partly because of the long interval since the last session but the heavy



agenda is much more because of the growth of activity in the territorial sphere. Everything we do opens new doors. Whenever we enter these new areas, we find there is much more to be done.

Since the last session, the report of the Advisory Commission on Development of Government in the Northwest Territories has been placed in our hands. I referred to it a few minutes ago as a masterful outline of desirable steps. I go further. It is a monumental work. Hard-headed and realistic in the best Canadian tradition, it is at the same time imaginative and courageous. It is obviously written by men having confidence in the basic worth of human beings. Its concept is founded on the dignity and rights of man. It speaks of opening opportunity to people. It has respect for tradition, and also respect for new frontiers through education and broad experience. It encourages us to make ready to harvest great measures of wealth for the nation from these northlands.

Consideration of the Carrothers Report is the most important of all the tasks of this session. I propose that the Council decide what they will ask the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to do about it. I hope the Council will be able to speak with one voice in clear tones.

Members of the Council of the Northwest Territories, you will be asked to consider twenty-six Bills. Many of them are of more than ordinary importance.

Among the list are: A Bill to establish a Northwest Territories Housing Corporation geared to do business with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and with private individuals, companies, municipalities and the Territorial Government.

A Bill to prevent discrimination in employment, trade union membership and accommodation on the basis of race, colour, religion, nationality or ancestry and between male and female persons by means of unequal pay rates will be introduced.

The Financial Administration Ordinance is consequent upon the growth of Territorial functions. It is designed to create the legal framework within which to administer the financial affairs of the Territories.

The Pine Point Development Loan Agreement Ordinance would authorize the Commissioner to borrow up to five hundred thousand dollars from the Government of Canada to establish a new subdivision at Pine Point. This will be a self-liquidating investment.

An amendment to the Low Cost Housing Ordinance would authorize the Commissioner to borrow an additional two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to grant first mortgage loans.

The Commissioner would be authorized by passage of a further Loan Agreement Ordinance to borrow \$2.7 million respecting capital expenditures for the fiscal year 1966-67.

Amendments to the Game Ordinance would abolish the Arctic Islands Game Preserve, prohibit the shooting of polar bear cubs under two years of age, revise the specification regarding the fire-power of rifles, and enact other improvements.



Trucks from outside the Territories would no longer be permitted to operate within the Territories licence-free for a period of 90 days with passage of an amendment to the Motor Vehicles Ordinance. This Bill would also raise licence fees from \$2 to \$5.

A complete revision of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance prepared as a result of the enquiry into Workmen's Compensation matters in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories will be introduced.

An Ordinance will be introduced which would permit the Commissioner to expropriate Lot 40 in Fort Smith for the purpose of erecting a recreation centre in that community.

Other new legislation will be introduced relating to: the Territorial Public Library Service; the use for medical purposes of human tissue from persons who have died; holding plebiscites in towns and villages concerning the introduction of fluoride into the water supply; the practice of optometry in the N. W. T.; prisons, gaols and lock-ups in the N. W. T.

Miscellaneous amendments to the Fuel Oil Tax, the Interpretation, the Vital Statistics, the Municipal, the School, the Pharmacy, the Liquor, the Dog and the Child Welfare Ordinances will also be placed before you.

There will be a Supplementary Appropriations Ordinance.

A total of thirty-one Recommendations to Council and Sessional Papers dealing with such subjects as Polar Bear Conservation, Problems related to the Operation of One-Room Schools, a New Water and Sewer Policy, the setting up of Laundry Facilities, School Bus Transportation, a New Hunting Licence System, Centennial Planning, the Commissioner's Award, the Trappers Assistance Program, Reports of the Labour Standards and Workmen's Compensation Enquiries, the transfer of Functions from the Federal to the Territorial Government, and many others including a number of annual reports, will be introduced.

You will also be asked to consider a Reference for Advice concerning a number of questions relating to Liquor Administration.

I have a message from the Honourable Arthur Laing, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. He asks that I express his congratulations to the newly elected Members of Council and his pleasure at the territorial enfranchisement of the Eastern Arctic made possible by an amendment to the Northwest Territories Act last spring and acted on so expeditiously by the Territorial Government in the holding of by-elections. He looks forward very much to meeting the new Members at their early 1967 Council session in Ottawa.

He asks also that I express his compliments for the location which the Council has chosen for the session. It is peculiarly appropriate for the occasion of seating elected members from Arctic constituencies.

Finally, he asks me to express his hope that the Council will give careful study to the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on the Development of Government in the Northwest Territories.

I commend to your best consideration the extensive labours of this thirty-third session of the Council of the Northwest Territories, which I now have the honour to open.

