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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 17  
(SECOND SESSION, 1966)

REVIEW OF 1965 MACKENZIE DISTRICT  
ACTIVITIES FOR THE COUNCIL OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

DISPOSITION

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Noted not Considered
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Review of 1965 Mackenzie District  
Activities for the Council of the  
Northwest Territories

All the public servants of the Northern Administration Branch in the Mackenzie District extend to the Council their warmest greetings and best wishes for a successful Session.

At the January 1966 Session of Council, members expressed approval of the report from the Administrator of the Arctic, presented as Sessional Paper No. 19, and asked for a similar report from the Mackenzie District.

This Report will undertake to outline some of the activities and events of the year 1965 in the District of Mackenzie. It will not attempt to cover subsequent events in the first two quarters of 1966, both because of the difficulties of discerning broad trends when much significant information is not yet available, and because of the relative merits of looking at the total year, recently past, in its broad perspective.

A reminder might be useful, from the outset, that the administrative headquarters of this District is located at Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories. Administrative services are provided to both the Federal and the Territorial Governments in the carrying out of their respective responsibilities, and to this end field staff are provided in such diverse areas as education, welfare, game management, municipal affairs, housing, forestry, engineering, and industrial development. The District itself is divided into three Regions, with Offices located at Fort Smith, Yellowknife, and Inuvik. Smaller administrative units, Areas, have offices located at a number of settlements within the District. The Fort Smith Region, for example, maintains Area Offices at Hay River, Fort Simpson, Pine Point, and Fort Smith itself.

One of the functions of a public service is to link decision-making and policy with specialized knowledge and skills. As such, the personnel of the Northern Administration Branch, being Territorial as well as Federal public servants, stand ready at all times to assist the Council of the Northwest Territories with whatever knowledge and skills they may possess, in the promotion and co-ordination of political, economic, and social development in the North.

Education ✓

The development of an advanced educational system is one of the major prerequisites of social progress in the North. To this end, teacher conferences, and physical expansion of facilities, the development of programs and approaches geared to Northern life, and teacher recruitment are all seen as essential to the creation of greater educational competence in the Mackenzie District.

By the end of 1965, 33 schools were in operation in the Mackenzie District, of which 28 were Federal Day Schools. Student enrolment numbered 4,867 (cf. 3,475 in 1963), and the breakdown in terms of origin was as follows:

Eskimo -	891
Indian -	1,248
Other -	<u>2,728</u>
Total -	<u>4,867</u>

Pupil residences throughout the District were filled to capacity, except in Fort McPherson, and certain applicants had to be refused

admission because of lack of space. In all 1,140 students were living in hostels by December. In addition to regular school students, 7 Eskimos, 2 Indians, and 85 other persons were taking adult academic correspondence courses.

Absenteeism continued to be a perplexing question for the District. In certain settlements, regularity of attendance was comparable to that in the South. In others, however, a number of families provided constant problems. For example, teenage girls, many with more than a grade 7 education were kept home for purposes such as baby sitting. Moreover, pupil residences were still faced with a situation in which some students went home for Christmas and did not return. It was noted that at Fort Simpson the most serious attendance problems involved the children of Indian families in which the breadwinner was steadily employed. At Tuktoyaktuk a 9:45 p.m. curfew was enforced during April, May, and June, when the 24-hour daylight period causes school attendance to fall.

Early in 1965, teacher conferences were held in the three Regions. Specialists in fields of education related to conditions in the North attended the conferences and contributed to the success of discussions and evaluations of teaching problems. Moreover, most of the senior officers of the District Education Division attended Departmental Management courses in Ottawa and Edmonton early in the year. These courses were thorough and provided a good outline of the Department's management plans.

At the end of the school year in June, 52 resignations from a total teaching staff of 207 were received. Of these, 31 were voluntary resignations tendered by those wishing to leave the District educational system. The others were forced to leave for personal or health reasons. In a consequent coast to coast recruiting tour the District Superintendent held approximately 250 interviews with interested applicants. However, problems arose because candidates were interviewed prior to the adjustments affecting salaries and holidays which came into effect in July. At the time of recruitment salaries offered were not competitive with those of other school systems.

The Northwest Territories Teachers' Association reached a working agreement with the Department by which the teachers' regular term of duty was reduced from 12 months to 10 months (206 days) with no reductions in salary. This brought them a step closer to the number of teaching days worked by educators across Canada. Provision for pay was made should teachers wish to work on special projects during the summer, thereby contributing their skills to District development.

In the case of physical facilities, construction and expansion continued, with a new school at Pine Point being put into operation, and extra classroom space being provided in such settlements as Hay River, Inuvik, Coppermine, and Fort Smith. The new public school at Yellowknife was opened during the year, and its design, which is very modern, provided a completely new look in school construction in the north.

Vocational Education courses under ten different programs were available to residents of the Mackenzie District. In total, approximately 500 residents underwent training during the year. Those at the post-high school level attended courses in Armed Forces Schools, Trade Schools and Technical Institutes in southern Canada, while those below the high school graduation level took training in the occupational courses at Sir John Franklin School, special occupational courses under the auspices of the schools in Inuvik and Fort Smith and through special short courses arranged at many settlements throughout the District. During the year

108 different courses were offered in addition to Night School courses arranged for adults in the various settlements.

Selection and Placement Officers interviewed over 1,000 persons looking for employment and were successful in obtaining work for over 300. In addition, the Selection and Placement Officers carried out their normal duties of selecting residents for training courses and made arrangements to place them in employment wherever possible on graduation.

Over 40 apprentices were employed in the District, a number with private employers and the remainder with the Department of Northern Affairs. All of these apprentices were assisted financially to take Theory Courses in Southern Canada during the year. Also, during the year the 100th Territorial Journeyman Certificate was issued. These certificates are issued by means of examinations which are developed by Vocational Education Officers and administered by District Vocational Education Staff. Three additional northern occupations were analyzed and added to the Apprenticeship Program and a further five are in process.

Small Business Management Courses were conducted for business men in Fort Smith and Inuvik, with a total of 40 persons taking part in the two courses conducted at each place. Further courses are planned under this program.

A Commercial Specialist was hired to investigate the Commercial Training Program requirements for the Mackenzie District and, as a result of this report, courses in the three Senior Secondary Schools have been revised and additional equipment has been purchased. The Sir John Franklin School is now able to conduct a full Commercial program up to the Senior Matriculation level.

Most of the District's university students returned North in May and all who did so were successful in obtaining summer employment. During the school year beginning in September, 38 students (cf. 24 in 1963) were in attendance at provincial universities. All of these were assisted by grants for tuition and other costs. Some received loans to aid them in paying room and board.

Projects were undertaken in other varied and diverse areas. Fishing and hunting guide courses, instruction in the production of high quality prints for Holman Island craftsmen, and a labour force survey during the summer were all carried out. The labour force survey aimed at helping assess the effectiveness of post-training programs and at providing a guide to training which should be useful in preparing residents for foreseeable job opportunities.

Education in the North implies the broadest kinds of social development. The extraordinary scope is dictated by extraordinary needs.

#### Social Conditions

Just as educational advance indicates social development in the North, so the state of health and welfare activities provides an index of the trends of social conditions in Northern society. The construction of adequate facilities for health services is second in importance only to the provision of such services. At Aklavik, a new Nursing Station was scheduled for completion by 1966, construction commencing September 20, 1965. This new, two-storey building was to serve the purposes of any modern Health Centre. At Hay River, construction of the new H.E. Williams Memorial Hospital was begun, with the opening of the 22-bed hospital set for the

for the Spring of 1965. The town was advised that, with the new hospital coming into operation, provisions were being made for the hiring of a second doctor for the Hay River Area. In Yellowknife the town called for Tenders for the construction of a new 35-bed hospital.

Clinical services were provided in a very thorough fashion for Mackenzie residents in most communities. In many settlements, routine physical examinations were made of all school children, x-ray surveys reached large proportions of the population, and the effects of vaccination programs were far-reaching. Special thanks are due, in many instances, to those Community Health workers who tirelessly canvassed great members of homes in their areas. A new program on mental health was instigated, and further comments on it must await its being worked out in practice.

It must be mentioned, however, that hygienic standards often are not met in many settlements, and that housing, a physical and social problem in the North, is often a definite health hazard for many of our Indian and Eskimo peoples. The standard of dental health among the adult population was still very low in 1965 in many areas.

Basic to the total program of Social Welfare Services was that of Social Assistance, which constituted approximately one-third of the work units for Welfare personnel. These work units were expended, for the most part, on administration, investigation, travel for interviews, and liaison with disciplines on a collaborative basis. The two broad categories of those receiving assistance were the unemployed employables (on a short term basis) and the unemployed unemployables (on a long term basis).

In the Fort Smith Region, assistance payments for 1965 decreased by 61%, primarily because of the increase in employment opportunities, economic growth, and the increase in co-operative projects. It is true that in an area experiencing a sudden thrust of economic expansion, problems of inadequate housing and increased living costs are often acute. Community development programs appeared to have been worthwhile.

Other aspects of the Welfare program became increasingly important in that year. Much time, effort, and planning was seen as essential for the development of adequate child protection services and foster care programs. There was an increased need for adoption homes because of the rise in illegitimate births and children coming into care. Inadequate resources for Child Welfare Services was apparent, and often hostels were used as a temporary recourse for children in extremely neglected circumstances. As well, there was an evident need for increased casework services for the unmarried mother.

At the headquarters level encouraging progress was made in the development of several new or expanded welfare programs including the Territorial Alcohol Education Program, a Five Year Program for the Extension of Services to the Aged and finally, the development of Residences for Single Employable People.

Apart from the appointment of a Director to head up the Alcohol Education Program there was no further activity under these new programs during this period. All three programs, however, are now at the point of implementation and will be mentioned in the next report to Council. The field of Family Welfare, too, was increasingly calling for more attention. Marital discord, child neglect, juvenile delinquency, alcoholism, and community unrest often develop from situations in which general family breakdown occurs. Such a breakdown is well known in

transitional societies, and is linked to such factors as economic growth and the transition to a wage economy. The North seemed to show, more and more, the symptoms of such a society, and it became increasingly apparent last year that an increase in personnel to provide the necessary casework services is essential.

A lack of time, personnel, and adequate facilities meant that the Correction Program continued to present the Department with a difficult task in 1965. A correction Program was planned for the future, however, that would close existing gaps in specialized care and casework services. However, so little time has been available to present personnel that, even with essential outside services supplied, rehabilitation work saw little progress in 1965 year in terms of overall adequacy.

### Services

We are able to further evaluate present social conditions in the Mackenzie by looking at developments in construction of facilities and the social services provided to the local people.

In addition to the construction of facilities relating to education and health, other community projects gave focus to the necessity of diverse facilities performing a whole range of functions. In Fort Liard, wiring was installed in the new Community Hall, and activities commenced in that log building. Construction on the Community Hall at Cantung (Tungsten) began, and the 1965 Christmas Concert was held in the new building. Ree also opened the doors of its new and very attractive rigid frame Community Hall. The Fort Simpson Centennial Committee began to draw up plans for its park and playground project, as did Nahanni Butte. Engineering programs saw the completion of new powerhouse and distribution systems across the District, new warehouse and stores buildings, waterline and fire hydrant systems, road maintenance programs, Winter Works programs (such as the emergency airstrip project at Fort Simpson), repair of structural defects in hostels and school complexes, as well as a host of other activities. One particular service, the Eskimo Loan Fund, was used to a limited extent for such purposes as the construction of low cost houses and the purchase of equipment.

Construction was completed on the Dew Line in the last quarter of the year, and the new communication network was tested. Using Territorial money, 3,700 feet of new road were carved out in Tuktoyaktuk, doubling the total road footage in the settlement. At Aklavik a pilot Low Cost Housing Project was initiated to test the feasibility of precutting local lumber to required dimensions for quick assembly. Plans were for 22 such units to be erected. At Yellowknife, the Territorial Medium Security Jail was under construction on the outskirts of the town.

The gold mines of the Yellowknife area, along with income from oil at Norman Wells, remained the major dollar-producers in the Mackenzie. The bulk of the population remained supported by a subsistence economy, partially dependent on welfare, hunting, and trapping.

A significant event in the mineral development of the Yellowknife Region occurred early in the year when Echo Bay Mines on Great Bear Lake shipped its first silver concentrate south for refining. Reports from the five producing mines (cf. three in 1963) showed good results. Gold production and men employed (about 825) had increased slightly, and accident severity and frequency were down, Giant, Con, Tundra, Discovery, and Echo Bay all predicted continuing success for the following year.

The largest staking rush in many years took place in the Pine Point Area, commencing about October. The Mining Recorder's Office at Yellowknife was swamped by claims, and it proved necessary to open a sub-office at Hay River. Between October 1 and December 31, 11,694 claims were staked and recorded (cf. approximately 3,000 in 1963). During the same period, 21,111 claim tags were sold. Extra staff was engaged to deal with the rush.

The Canada Tungsten Mine began its operations again in 1965, and by the fourth quarter of the year was producing at full capacity. It was processing approximately 300 tons of ore-bearing rock per day, from which 9 tons of concentrate could be gleaned. The unit price for Tungsten had doubled and the immediate future for this mine appeared very bright. The Fort Simpson Area saw preparatory activities by oil and gas companies in the Trout Lake and Fort Liard areas. At least four drilling rigs were anticipated to be in operation early in 1966.

Judging by reports from the Yellowknife Region the Prospector's Assistance Program was well subscribed to during the year, and found to be of value. However, besides certain mineral possibilities in such places as Richards Island (oil and gas), the main hopes of many Mackenzie residents remained dependent on trapping, hunting, and fishing.

Early in the season, prospects for a good fur hunt were in evidence. But, as the winter progressed, it became obvious that the economic contributions of this activity would be little better than in previous years. Prices showed advances on some species, notably marten and lynx. In the final analysis, though, there was seen to be a general decrease in fur revenue, resulting from both a reduced harvest and lower prices. The year 1964/65 saw a net revenue of \$1,500,000 gleaned from trapping, while 1963/64 had netted \$1,800,000. Seal and polar bear skin revenue increased, while, for the most part, revenue on all other species declined. This meant that trapping income in the Arctic and coastal areas remained relatively unchanged, while such income in forested areas was drastically reduced.

In order to put the trapping evaluations and statistics in perspective, it might be wise to note the figures resulting from a harvest in the Aklavik Area. By December, 43 persons were actively trapping, a normal figure for the past few years. Some of these were not overly active, though higher prices did make the business more attractive. In some cases, lack of sufficient and proper traps posed a deterrent. Moreover, lack of large traps prevented some from taking any lynx, relatively plentiful even on the Delta plains. The total value of furs sold approximated only \$7,900 for the last quarter of 1965.

This would indicate a decline in numbers and value of seals and mink from the previous year when about 50 persons shared a total trapping income of approximately \$40,000. However, important trapping may be to the Mackenzie economy, figures seem to indicate that, by itself, it is not sufficient to support even a significant number of individuals.

At certain settlements caribou were available, and this meat proved of considerable value to the local people. To the north, the run of Char was disappointing during the year, while income from Whitefish was not large. Commercial fishing was attempted by a Hay River concern but was, on the whole, unsuccessful. Income derived by local fishermen from this source was small. This holds true for individual fishermen, although the company as a whole did find the operation profitable.

A non-resident big game hunting season was opened on August 1 in the Mackenzie Mountains, and a big game guide training course was held in which 13 trainees participated. The season closed out in October, the 13 guides having been employed for 532 man-days at a total salary of approximately \$7,000. It was estimated that approximately \$100,000 was paid by hunters in outfitter fees. It was anticipated that non-resident big game hunting would become an important factor in the Mackenzie economy.

#### Tourism 1965 - Mackenzie District

A highlight was the addition of staff to the N.W.T. Tourist Office providing a Senior Tourist Development Officer in Ottawa with District Officers for the Mackenzie and Eastern Arctic.

Other highlights were the passing of the Travel and Outdoor Recreation Ordinance to ensure an orderly and stable development of the industry; opening of non-resident big game hunting in the Mackenzie Mountains with approximately 75 Hunters taking trips to the area. The implementation of a Travel Development Survey focused attention on the Mackenzie Highway-System because of a need for facilities and attraction for auto-tourists. The estimated total number of visitors to the Mackenzie District in 1965 was 5,000.

There were significant developments in the area of promotion with the Tourist office sponsoring two Writers Tours to the Mackenzie District. Total inquiries from potential visitors to the N.W.T. processed by the N.W.T.T.O. in 1965 was over 10,000. Our promotional pamphlets (Travel North, In and Igloo, Hunting the Far North, Angling to the Arctic) have been revised and reprinted. The first travel posters have been produced and the Tourist Office has displays at both the Toronto and Ottawa air terminals. Financial assistance in the form of grants, have been given to Yellowknife and Hay River, for their tourist promotion efforts and a grant of \$500 was given to the N.W.T.T.A. for use as secretarial salary.

Timber utilization in Wood Buffalo National Park continued far ahead of that in the Mackenzie chiefly because of the better quality and less isolated location of the timber. Sawlogs were processed in only three locations - Aklavik, Resolution, and Grand Detour. None of the sawmills were very large, the biggest expecting to cut little more than two million board feet.

It is apparent, therefore, that the non-renewable mineral resource base of our economy continued to expand during 1965, while the income derived from renewable resources showed less progress.

Commercial and investment trends in the Mackenzie, that is, trends relating to business, industry, co-operatives, and capital investment, will give further clues on the state of economic development. In the North as a whole, high costs of electricity and normal operation costs of small businesses create a heavy burden for those involved, and profits are marginal. In many settlements, retail sales in 1965 decreased because of generally unfavourable economic conditions (as much as 20% in certain areas because of such handicaps as poor fur harvests and lack of logging). In other settlements, as has been noted for Fort Smith, a favourable economic climate prevailed. Throughout the entire District, liquor sales continued higher than anticipated. On a hopeful note, the Yellowknife Board of Trade reported a rising membership, and at the end of the year selected its slate of officers for 1966.

Capital investment in many areas was derived largely from government funds. Allocations for Community Development were well received in many

communities, the funds being spent on worthwhile projects, often on the decisions of local Advisory Councils or their equivalents. The \$110,000 combined Nursing Station and Public Health Unit at Aklavik created expectations of a new era in area development. Mention has already been made of investments undertaken in the field of mining, and these had their counterpart in the commercial field in the construction and expansion of facilities such as stores, restaurants, and similar constructions. The Hudson's Bay Company in Yellowknife, for example, opened a modernized, remodelled store and set the tone for a growing business community.

#### Co-operative Development

Continued activity in the co-operative field has resulted in the steady progress of established co-operatives, expansion of planned development throughout the district and a growing desire of the people to enjoy the material and social benefits of the co-operative way of life.

Some of the most imaginative and skilful Eskimo carvers are found in Coppermine where the first co-operative in the Mackenzie District was established in 1960. Summer tourist facilities operated by the co-operative provide an outlet for their carvings and handicrafts and with a projected tannery in view, members hope to create a market for fur garments made from locally-tanned seal-skins.

About two hundred miles due north of Coppermine on Victoria Island, one co-operative was formed at Holman in 1961 and another, at the same time, at Cambridge Bay. Holman prints, seal skin tapestries and textile printings are becoming known throughout the continent, largely because of the effective display of the creative arts and skills of the Holman people at the 1965 Exhibition at St. John, New Brunswick. The waters of Ferguson Lake and Wellington Bay have provided the Cambridge Bay fishermen with a very successful char fishing season.

Inspired by the 1963 Co-operative Conference at Frobisher Bay, members of the then newly-formed Inuit Co-operative at Inuvik forged ahead with their housing program. This year they anticipate building another ten houses and hope to develop in other directions.

Contracts entered into between the Territorial Government and the Co-operative Union of Canada provide development officers for community and co-operative development at Fort Resolution and Rae, and the Fort Resolution saw mill and lumbering business and the production and marketing of Indian handicrafts at Rae have been incorporated as co-operatives. The Great Bear Co-operative at Fort Franklin was the first Indian co-operative to be incorporated in the Northwest Territories and is being managed by one of their own people. These co-operatives, and the ambitious fur garment industry at Aklavik, demonstrate the wide diversity of activities carried on by co-operatives in the district and the peculiar adaptability of this type of organization.

Delegates and other representatives from all the district co-operatives attended the second conference of arctic co-operatives held at Povungnituk, Quebec, in April 1965. Their contributions to and participation in the conference program reflected their maturing outlook and the values derived by Eskimo, Indian and Metis people from involvement in controlling their own economic affairs. One of the delegates, elected as co-chairman, effectively chaired most of the conference sessions. A decision made at that conference will undoubtedly result in a federation of all co-operatives in the Mackenzie District and the eventual formation of a centralized arctic co-operative organization.

People in Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Fort Simpson, Fort McPherson, Gjoa Haven and other Mackenzie communities are showing intensive interest in the opportunities provided by co-operatives. Tremendous possibilities exist for the fishermen's co-operative at Hay River which should be firmly established within the next few months. The Yellowknife Credit Union has tripled its membership since 1963 and a credit union group has been formed in Inuvik. In these and other centres thrift and availability of loans will develop through the introduction and steady growth of credit unions. And the "spectacular progress made in a few years", to quote Hebe Spaul in her new edition of the Co-operative Movement in the World Today, referring to Eskimo co-operatives in the Northwest Territories, may well be surpassed within the next two or three years. The present expansion program justifiably envisages doubling or even tripling the eight co-operatives and one credit union now operating in the Mackenzie District, provided manpower and other resources become available.

### Industrial Development Projects

#### Delta Logging

The Aklavik logging and sawmill project continued its operations on an improved basis by consolidating the former widespread logging activities into three major sites and the use of more mechanical equipment. The logging phase provided employment for an average of 40 men, while the sawmill which produced 280,000 board feet of rough and dimensioned lumber valued at \$30,000 employed 11 men.

An outgrowth of the Aklavik sawmill operation was the establishment of a small pre-cut housing factory and the erection as a pilot project of a \$7,000 pre-cut house. The experiment was so successful that plans call for the erection of 22 such houses in 1966, and an increasing number in the following two years. It is anticipated this will lend to a continuing demand for pre-cut lumber for house construction and repairs which will call for the pre-cut factory to use upwards of 150,000 board feet annually.

Early in 1966, a survey of the timber resources in the delta area was undertaken by the Territorial Division of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. This led to some important recommendations which within the next year should substantially improve the harvesting, milling and marketing aspects of this operation.

#### Reindeer Project

\* During 1965, the reindeer herd increased to nearly 8,000 animals. Under contract management approximately \$36,000 of reindeer products were sold and a number of improvements were made to buildings and corrals. During the year studies were underway to determine the economic viability of the reindeer operation and the feasibility of increasing the herd size to 30,000 animals. One of these was carried out by the Inuvik Research Centre with a report to be produced early in 1966. The other was carried out by the Canadian Wildlife Service and related to the grazing potential of the present range and biological factors. A report on the latter is not expected until 1968.

#### Fisheries

Fishing projects undertaken by the Federal Government were confined to the winter operation at Ferguson River. A new project officer was positioned in the Cambridge Bay area to supervise this project and the

summer char fishing operation of the Eskimo co-operative. Some 28,000 lbs. of frozen lake trout were produced for local sale and export to the Edmonton market. A contract project officer was sent in to assist the Eskimos of Bathurst Inlet to supervise the seal fishery. After spending part of the season there the officer moved to Cape Parry to carry on similar operations.

### Arts and Crafts

All equipment and supplies for a new tannery operation were shipped to Aklavik during the shipping season and plans were made by the Vocational Education section to hire an expert tanning instructor early in 1966. Once the tannery is in full operation and a full scale training program is underway, it is expected that the tannery will supply tanned skins for the Aklavik Fur Garment Co-operative as well as for other fur garment and craft projects in the Mackenzie District.

In 1965 a new Arts and Crafts Officer was transferred from Ottawa to the Mackenzie District. Although the initial duties of this officer were concentrated on the re-organization of the Inuvik crafts centre, it is anticipated that a great deal of new development work will be undertaken in other settlements. With this in mind, an arts and crafts survey is planned to be carried out early in 1966, by an Ottawa crafts specialist. This survey will examine the development possibilities and estimate the production potential of a large number of Indian and Eskimo communities throughout the District.

The Tuktoyaktuk Fur Garment Shop continued to be one of the most promising projects operated by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Under the direction of a professional fur garment instructor and a contract manager, the shop employed an average of 12 to 15 seamstresses and sold a total of \$50,000 worth of goods during the year.

### Area Surveys

An expanded program of Area Economic Surveys for the N.W.T. was carried out with a major part of the work done in the Mackenzie District during 1965. A complete survey of Banks Island was begun and completed during the summer and a report made ready for publication in 1966. Preliminary survey work was carried out in the Delta area with the objective of mounting a full scale summer field operation in 1966. During the winter plans were formulated for a complete survey to be carried out in the Rae - Lac la Martre area as soon as field operations could begin in 1966.

### Local Government and Political Development

Hand in hand with the concept of economic development goes that of political development. It is beyond the scope of this Report to discuss the place of this District within the general political framework of the Territories. Nevertheless, since this District, either as a separate unit or as part of a larger whole, will one day have much to do with the decisions that affect its peoples, some comment may be in order as to the level of political awareness and local self-government that 1965 reflected.

The organization of local government varied from Town Councils to Community Associations, the advisory committees of unorganized communities. Comment cannot be offered on the functioning of local government as a whole. In certain communities, the establishment of Development Committees

promised to provide an effective instrument to implement the knowledge and initiative of the existing organs of local government. Planning Committees, in such settlements as Tuktoyaktuk, performed the function of local town planning, considering business and land applications from residents and outsiders. In other areas, the development of local government appears to be retarded, proving both uninteresting and ineffective from the point of view of residents.

Two more points may be made which illustrate the ambiguous prospects of political development in the Mackenzie. In the first case, many localities noted that the Federal election of 1965 created an intense interest among many local persons, to the extent that some would say the interest was higher than in the South. In Aklavik, for example, over 90% of eligible voters cast their ballots. However, this did not hold true for all communities, and there is the ever-present question of the attitudes and interests of local Indian and Eskimo peoples.

In the second case, the Carruthers Commissioner elicited varying degrees of interest across the Mackenzie. Fort Smith delegates, for example, went to Ottawa and presented a brief on the question of a capital for the Northwest Territories. Very little response was received, however, from many communities which the Commission itself visited; many seeming to feel that their problems extended no further than their community boundaries.

#### The District

On December 15 of 1965, Mr. K.W. Hawkins became the new Administrator of the Mackenzie, while the former Administrator, in November, became of the newly-elected Member of Parliament for the Territories.

Mr. A. Okpik, a member of the Welfare staff of Northern Affairs in Yellowknife, was appointed to the Territorial Council, and Dr. Lloyd Powell of Yellowknife was elected to head the newly-formed Northwest Territories Medical Association.

Of the many distinguished visits to the District in the past year, perhaps the most important was the history-making tour of the U.S.S.R. delegations accompanied by Mr. E.A. Cote, Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

In 1965 several conferences were held throughout the District and at all levels. The Regional Conference held in Yellowknife from November 15 to 23 may be described as an illustration.

For the first time, Indians and Eskimos from throughout the Region met with Area and Regional staff in a detailed and serious attempt to do some effective economic and social planning for their communities. Delegates chosen by their own people as eloquent and knowledgeable spokesmen for their communities came from Holman Island, Coppermine, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Pelly Bay and Rae. They came to teach and to learn. With much of the drive, and almost all of the suggestions stimulated by the Indians and Eskimos themselves, the Conference formally adopted over forty resolutions, which, if implemented, would have a drastic effect on the entire economic and social picture of the Region.

Lack of knowledge, research, and writing about the North has proven a constant complaint for those involved with its development. In February of 1965, the Council made a decision to build the new Territorial Library in Hay River, thus giving the North a centre for information, research, and study.

Finally, we may mention that only 9,000 acres of Crown Land were destroyed by fires last year, compared to an average of 132,000 acres per year since 1961. In addition, a spread of anthrax among our buffalo herds did not recur.