

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

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 19-33

TABLED ON OCTOBER 31, 1966

Sessional Paper 19.33
Tabled on Oct 31, 1966



October 20, 1966.
Confidential - Not
for release before
tabling during the
33rd Session of
Council.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 19
(Second Session 1966)

PLANS FOR THE
COMMEMORATION OF CANADA'S CENTENNIAL OF CONFEDERATION
IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

DISPOSITION

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Noted not Considered
31. X. 66	8. XI. 66	9. XI. 66				

PLANS FOR THE
COMMEMORATION OF CANADA'S CENTENNIAL OF CONFEDERATION
IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

FLOATING EXHIBITIONS

The flagship of the Northwest Territories in Centennial Year will undoubtedly be Centennial Barge Number 100. The 110-foot house barge will carry exhibits on the theme of "Canada 1967" to communities around Great Slave Lake and down the Mackenzie River.

Its young Northern crew will provide commentary on the exhibits in the Indian and Eskimo tongues, and provide live entertainment for audiences at as many as 20 stops during the three-week voyage.

Organizations and authorities representing many facets of the Canadian economy are providing exhibits, and the Canadian Government Exhibition Commission will advise on presentation of the total display.

For the Eastern Arctic, efforts are being made to move a similar display to remote communities aboard the Eastern Arctic Patrol vessel "C. D. Howe," although available space will require that it be somewhat smaller.

Both of these Territorial Government projects are expected to include appropriate film fare and slide presentations, and the Centennial Barge may carry a ferris wheel or other entertainment ride.

The Centennial Barge and Arctic Patrol displays will parallel the Confederation Train and Caravan projects of southern Canada, which are to travel to every accessible town and village. The National Caravan project will have Confederation Caravan No. 7 visit Hay River, Fort Providence, Rae, Yellowknife and Fort Smith. As necessary, parking sites and access roads for the big tractor-trailer units are being improved or installed and administrative arrangements completed.

INFORMATION AND PROMOTION

As the examples above indicate, special Centennial projects are being developed to suit Northern conditions and interests. At the same time, the North is sharing with other parts of Canada in all the Capital programs and as far as possible in the National projects of Centennial Year.

Thus the Government of the Northwest Territories is building a Confederation Memorial, participating in the Centennial Grants Program, and operating its own Territorial Grants Program. Territorial paddlers are part of the Voyageur Canoe Pageant. Other National Centennial Projects are being adapted and promoted.

The job of getting information on all these undertakings to the people of the North is being stepped up. It includes stress on the purpose and significance of the "big birthday party," and encouragement to all Northerners to join in, as well as a clearcut explanation and suggestions on how to do so.

This information and publicity will reach the people by way of radio programs, newspaper press releases and a Northern Centennial Bulletin, as well as through the channels already in use, such as mail and personal contact with Centennial organizations.

OTHER TERRITORIAL PROGRAMS

Community Festivals

Smaller communities, especially the more isolated ones, will be invited to organize a community festival on an appropriate day of their choice in 1967.

The festival would be locally named in the language of the people of the region, and offer them an opportunity to commemorate the Centennial with a feast or celebration in their own tradition. It may include a religious observance, probably an eat-to-the-full meal of meat, and traditional dancing, singing or games.

The program is up to the celebrants. They will be offered help to organize, where required, and provide with sufficient meat for their banquet.

More sophisticated communities are eligible to use their Territorial Centennial Grant toward community festivals also, taking whatever form they desire.

Territorial Centennial Grants Program.

Under this scheme shared by the Territorial Government and the local settlements, financial aid for Centennial observances is available on the basis of a \$2.00 Territorial contribution for every \$1.00 raised locally to the limit of the community population total. For this purpose, an area population may be counted towards financing a Centennial event centered in one place for the whole region, or the population of two or more communities may be combined to finance a joint program. Spending under this scheme can be applied to any form of observance or celebration honouring Centennial Year.

Approved projects within this program include proposals for new or improved community homes, curling and skating rinks, improved or expanded playgrounds, a handicraft centre, workshops, a laundry bath-house, the purchase of books, documents, movie screen and projector, and a number of other recommendations.

A major project financed on this basis is a proposal of 100 Eskimo children from Frobisher Bay to spend a holiday in southern Canada in 1967. The Department of National Defence is studying now what it can do to provide air transportation between Frobisher Bay and southern destination for the selected holiday period.

Northern Tour of R.C.M. Police Band

A limited northern circuit by the R.C.M. Police Band is planned for early May, 1967, with calls at major centers only because of the size (40 men) of the Band. It is expected that transportation will be provided by the R.C.A.F.

CONFEDERATION MEMORIAL PROJECT

Like the Provinces, the Northwest Territories has a major Centennial of Confederation Memorial approved for the whole Territory. The contract has been let and work has started on a Regional Library Building at Hay River. It will function as a headquarters for the Library System serving all the Northwest Territories. Completion is set for mid-1967.

CENTENNIAL GRANTS PROGRAM

Under this Federal-Territorial program, the Federal grant is \$2.00 a resident toward projects of a lasting nature for every matching \$1.00 put up by the Territorial Government. Together, these total about \$72,000 the sum will be shared by larger centres such as Inuvik, Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Frobisher Bay.

Inuvik has used the Centennial Grants Program to finance the construction of a library and reading room, with construction well under way.

Fort Smith has used this program also, as a means to plan for a satellite library unit complementary to the Hay River headquarters building. Construction has been deferred until 1967 because of competition from other local programs.

Yellowknife's initial plans for an outdoor swimming pool have been cancelled and the local Centennial Committee is now planning an addition to the Museum.

The Frobisher Bay Centennial Committee is still considering whether to use the program to finance a library unit or a recreation building.

NATIONAL PROGRAMS

Youth Travel Exchange

It is expected that two groups of Northwest Territories students, one from the Eastern Arctic and one from the Mackenzie, will again visit other parts of Canada in 1967. The Exchange Program has taken 72 students and six escorts on visits to southern Canada already.

In 1965, 24 youngsters from the Mackenzie Valley exchanged visits with a student group from St. Catharines, Ontario. In 1966, two Western Arctic groups traded visits with students from Montreal and Campbell River on Vancouver Island.

The Federal Government is now assessing whether it should continue the exchanges after Centennial Year as a permanent program under

the Citizenship Branch.

Voyageur Canoe Pageant

A Northwest Territories canoe christened "Alexander Mackenzie" will join others from the Yukon and the Provinces for the 3,500-mile Centennial Pageant from Rocky Mountain House, Alta., to Expo 67 at Montreal. Training for the big show began in 1965 with a test run in Ontario waters following Champlain's route of 1615. Two territorial teams participated. In 1966, the training program was run in two sections, one along the Fraser River system to Vancouver and Victoria and the second from near Montreal to New York City. Each jurisdiction was allowed one team only.

In 1966 the Territorial team was a mixed Indian-Eskimo crew from the Mackenzie Delta and it found the competition from the provincial paddlers stiffer than last year.

Commemorative Tree and Shrub Planting

In the spring of 1966 a number of shrubs and small trees were obtained for planting on school grounds in the Mackenzie Valley, including Tuktoyaktuk, Nahanni Butte, Hay River, Fort Simpson and Fort Smith. This program is confined, of necessity, to the Mackenzie District and even there the climatic conditions present many planting problems.

Community Improvement and Rural Beautification

This program, which depends on voluntary efforts, has had a mixed reception, varying with the enthusiasm of the local community leaders. Nevertheless, the annual spring clean-up is getting more emphasis in most communities through leadership from the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Civic authorities, community associations and branches of National Service Clubs are being urged to push this program.

Youth Participation

School Involvement Program

The Northwest Territories will take advantage of the Centennial Commission's School Involvement Program, for use by teachers everywhere. This comprehensive project is designed to reach the youth population and stimulate the interest of family units in Centennial events.

A teacher's manual suggests how school programs can be organized, and contains suggestions monthly Centennial observances in the classroom, the home and the community. Reference and other resource materials are provided to guide the teacher in school activities related to Canada and Centennial Year.

Supplementary aids include a Centennial newspaper in the format of 1867 and a Centennial Calendar as a daily reminder of national, regional and local Centennial observances. This material will be distributed soon.

Athletic Program for School Children

A program of standard athletic tests developed by the Centennial Commission with the help of experts in physical education, is directed at mass participation in the fitness program by school children, aged six to eighteen years. Achievement in these tests, comprising a total of 4 (3 compulsory and 1 of 3 optional tests) will be recognized by the issue of embroidered Centennial badges in several colours. The teachers will play a major role in the fitness program. They will coach participants, arrange testing and maintain records.

Teachers have been alerted to the program and most have received some material, with more to follow shortly.

Centennial Medallions

A bright alloy medallion commemorating the Centennial of Confederation is to be issued in 1967 to every school child in Canada in Grades 1 to 13. General distribution will commence shortly, using scheduled and courtesy airmail services, and the ceremonial issue to individual students is planned for next spring on a day yet to be selected and possible standardized throughout the country.

National Programs for Communities

Interfaith Projects

Canadian churches of almost every denomination, through the Canada Interfaith Conference, have endorsed a number of Centennial projects of which the proposals for reciprocal church visits, interfaith services and combined choral groups appear most appropriate for northern conditions and have the support of the Territorial Government. Many of the churches in the North have responded encouragingly.

Symbolic Projects

The suggestion that Centennial Year be proclaimed at midnight, January 1, 1967 and also on July 1, 1967 by "Fires of Friendship" and "Wild Bells", has been generally adopted. Many northern communities and stockpiling inflammable rubbish or acquiring fireworks to give Centennial Year a bright and warm welcome, and most settlements will also ring church or school bells.

Gifts to Public Libraries Program

Under this program the Centennial Commission, in co-operation with the provinces and territories, will give to Canadian Public Libraries Canadian books in English and French or the arts, social sciences, and humanities. Working with a budget of \$150,000, it is proposed to allot \$10,000 to each province and territory, with the balance distributed on a per capita basis. Libraries benefiting under this program will choose books from a master list being compiled now in collaboration with the provinces and territories by a special Selection Committee.

Scripts for Centennial Plays

Teams of nationally known playwrights have written historical pageants in English and French for indoor and outdoor presentation, to be staged as part of local community Centennial observances. Copies of the final scripts are to be distributed within the next few weeks.

Hospital Training

The Territorial Government is participating with provinces and a Montreal hospital specializing in child care in a two-year Centennial project to train young girls as nursing specialists. Three young girls from the Mackenzie District are receiving instruction.

Isolated Communities Program

This program is proposed by the Centennial Commission to provide entertainment to those isolated communities in the territories and provinces not covered by the special touring programs. Consideration is being given to sending small entertainment troupes on regional territorial tours from convenient northern bases, such as Frobisher Bay, Churchill and Cambridge Bay. The problems of transportation and selecting suitable entertainment are being studied. One possibility is tours by popular concert parties or variety shows but the size of the companies available is an important limitation on any tour plans.

The Centennial Commission has a small budget for this total program which will provide some help with the costs.