

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
5TH COUNCIL, 34TH SESSION**

**RECOMMENDATION TO
COUNCIL NO. 2-34**

TABLED ON MARCH 9, 1967

Recommendation to Council 2.34
Tabled on March 9, 1967



January 25, 1967

Confidential - Not
for release before
tabling during the
34th Session of
Council.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 2
(First Session, 1967)

OLD AGE ASSISTANCE

DISPOSITION

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

OLD AGE ASSISTANCE
Re: Item for Action No. 51 . . .

The last Session of Council adopted a motion for the payment of Old Age Assistance to be based on medical evidence, at least until such time as the evidence as to years was sought out.

The Old Age Assistance Act and Regulations make no provision for accepting medical evidence of age until attempts to obtain documentary evidence have been completed. Thus the Territorial Government cannot grant Old Age Assistance on the basis of medical evidence until documentary evidence is obtained.

The Old Age Assistance Act and Regulations make provision for medical evidence, as well as any other evidence that is available, to be taken into account in determining the age of an applicant after a reasonable search for documentary evidence has been made and has failed. In the great majority of cases the existence of documentary evidence can be determined within a month of receipt of the application and a delay of more than two months would be most unusual. Experience in obtaining medical evidence for Disabled Persons Allowance has shown that medical evidence cannot be obtained more quickly.

Although the Territorial Government cannot change the criteria of eligibility for Old Age Assistance, it may introduce a new program in which medical evidence can be considered before documentary evidence is sought. The new program would not be Old Age Assistance and the costs would not be shareable with the Department of National Health and Welfare.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commissioner therefore recommends:

- (1) that the Territorial Government not develop a program of its own;
- (2) that the present criteria for payment of Old Age Assistance, as provided by the Old Age Assistance Act and Regulations, be accepted.