

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

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 21-34

TABLED ON MARCH 9, 1967

Sessional Paper 21-34
Tabled on March 9, 1967



February 27, 1967.
Confidential - Not
for release before
tabling during the
34th Session of
Council.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 21
(First Session, 1967)

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
TRAPPERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

DISPOSITION

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Noted not Considered
9.III.67	22.III.67					

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
TRAPPERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT
Re: Item For Action No. 135

In compliance with Council's request to design a single meaningful Trappers' Assistance Program applicable to all trappers of the Northwest Territories, the Northern Administration Branch submitted a comprehensive resource utilization program to the 33rd Session of the Territorial Council at Resolute Bay.

Council accepted the program and requested that the Administration conduct the necessary studies in order to implement the program as soon as possible.

Recommendations in the Resource Utilization Program

For Council's convenience, the specific recommendations pertaining to administrative, operational and educational aspects of the Program are as follows:

A - Administrative Aspects

As the Territorial Government has assumed responsibility for the administration of a single Trappers' Assistance Program to assist all trappers to use to the maximum the renewable resources of the Northwest Territories, Council was advised that the following action would have to be taken to implement the Program:

- (i) To establish the total annual cost for the efficient administration of the Program;
- (ii) To establish the criteria to be applied in determining each trapper's need and the total amount of assistance to be made available to each trapper requesting assistance;
- (iii) To establish the criteria for forgiving advances not repaid by trappers;
- (iv) To determine the administrative level on which the Program is to be administered;
- (v) To arrange for additions to the Game Management Service, in order to administer the Amalgamated Trappers' Assistance Program;
- (vi) To provide for efficient training programs for Game Management Officers.

B - Operational Aspects

Approval in principle has been given for the Game Management Service to conduct studies into the following new areas of assistance to trappers for the purpose of placing implementation proposals before Council at a later date:

- (i) An inventory of fur and game potential in the Northwest Territories;
- (ii) Introduction of a program of habitat improvement and fur stock rehabilitation on areas where over-trapping and inadequate trapline management have depleted resources;

- (iii) Providing of initial transportation to service base camps with supplies and to bring out furs at prime market periods and transportation of trappers by aircraft charter or otherwise to or from traplines where special conditions warrant such action.

C - Educational Aspects

Approval in principle has been given for the Game Management Service to prepare studies for Council's consideration at a later date on the need for and feasibility for long-range programs in the following areas:

- (i) Provision of technical advice to assist trappers to work out long-range trapping plans and efficient harvesting methods utilizing the principles of cyclic abundances;
- (ii) A study of existing regulations to eliminate "holiday trapping" during peak periods by fully-employed persons with General Hunting Licences (a needless encroachment on the persons who trap full time);
- (iii) Instruction in resource management and harvesting including resource protection and habitat improvement and proper handling of pelts;
- (iv) Introduction of trapping as a subject in northern schools so that young potential trappers will not lose touch with the industry. In addition, provision must be made for the families of the trappers to remain behind in the settlements or alternatively provision must be made for the children to live in a residence while both parents are on a trapline.

Progress on Recommendations

The Administration wishes at this time to advise Council briefly of the progress on individual recommendations.

A - Progress on Administrative Aspects

- (i) The Game Management Service is now re-assessing the actual financial requirements, and a realistic estimate of the total cost involvements could be submitted at a future Council Session.
- (ii) The establishment of criteria is presently under study. A detailed criterion will be submitted.
- (iii) To the next Session of Council for consideration and approval.
- (iv) In realizing that the former administrative structure was inadequate, the Game Management Service was reorganized in June, 1966. Due to the fact that it is difficult to direct one single Game Management Program from the office of the Game Superintendent, two Game Management Officers will direct and supervise the program on a regional level from Yellowknife and Inuvik. At present, the supervision of the Fort Smith Regional Program is handled in the office of the Game Superintendent, where a further decentralization of purely administrative and biological functions is being studied.

- (v) Unfortunately, staff estimates in 1967-68 have already been approved by Treasury Board. • However, the Director of the Northern Administration Branch has approved the hiring of two Game Officers (12 months) and one Biologist (approximately 2 1/2 months) under the authority of Section 88 of the Financial Regulations in order to assist implementation of the Program.
- (vi) Every attempt has been made to provide for the efficient training programs for Game Officers. One of the main functions of the contract Biologist (mentioned under v) will consist of carrying out in-service-training programs with special emphasis on habitat improvements, capturing, tagging and/or marking of mammals, collecting biological data as well as aging of animals and birds. In 1966, one Game Management Officer attended a seven-week special wild-life course at the Ontario Ranger School at Dorset. It is hoped that a second officer will be accepted this spring. The Superintendent of Game when on field projects also takes every opportunity to provide officers with additional biological training.

B - Progress on Operational Aspects

As is evident, the Game Management Service cannot actively embark on any of the three specific recommendations. Accomplishments in this particular instance depend on the availability of funds and personnel. But prior to the 1966-67 trapping season, all Game Officers were instructed to collect all pertinent information on unutilized areas, prevailing abundances and/or scarcities of fur bearing animals, transportation requirements to such areas, other resource utilization possibilities (e.g., fishing, big game animals and any other aspects of a comprehensive program which could provide year-round employment). In addition, officers were asked to discuss freely the program with as many trappers as possible to acquaint them with the purposes of the program and interest them in it.

Their reports are presently being evaluated to determine the extent of each survey required and to decide on priority. When funds for this work can be made available, the Game Management Service will commence these investigations.

C - Progress on Educational Aspects

- (i) At the present time it is not possible to embark actively on a program of providing technical advice to assist trappers in working out long-range plans. This will depend on future needs and special circumstances, which are not known now. For meeting future demands in this respect, the need for a Special Projects Officer was foreseen and a new position requested. This new position was approved in December, 1966 and the Administration is endeavouring to obtain the services of a qualified person.
- (ii) When recommending separate hunting and trapping licences at the 33rd Session of Council, the elimination of "holiday trapping" was one of the major considerations and was designed to protect those persons who depend on game resources for their livelihood. The new licensing system if accepted will provide the main instrument for dealing with this problem.

- (iii) As mentioned under C (i) the Special Projects Officer will work primarily on this phase of the program in which all Game Officers must participate to the fullest. In-service-training, as is evident, must necessarily be stepped up to provide our officers with basic knowledge. In order to improve further the efficiency of the Game staff, it is proposed to recruit graduates of Technical Institutes specializing in Resource Management whenever possible. The two contract Game Officers mentioned under A (v) from the Saskatoon Technical Institute will be a first step in obtaining qualified staff and in increasing the opportunities for in-service-training of the present Game staff.
- (iv) Preliminary discussions with the Education Division revealed numerous problems pertaining to introduction of trapping as a subject in northern schools. There are indications that this may not be feasible immediately due to tight time schedules, inexperience of teachers in this subject and other related factors. Several Game Officers experienced in trapping have, in co-operation with the local teachers, embarked upon trapping courses on weekends (Fort Simpson, Fort Resolution, Yellowknife, Fort McPherson and Fort Smith). Based on the experiences gained, such projects will be refined and expanded whenever possible.

Further discussions with Education and/or Welfare are needed to deal with the care of families or children of trappers who remain behind in the settlements when one or both parents are on the trapline.