

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
5<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, 34<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 23-34**

**TABLED ON MARCH 9, 1967**

Sessional Paper 23-24  
Tabled on March 9, 1967



February 28, 1967

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for release before  
tabling during the  
34th Session of  
Council.

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 23  
(First Session, 1967)

### REPORT ON THE PROPOSED NEW LICENSING SYSTEM

#### DISPOSITION

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Noted not Considered
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REPORT ON THE PROPOSED NEW LICENSING SYSTEM  
Re: Item For Action No. 136

A proposal to replace the present General Hunting Licence by separate Trapping and Hunting Licences in order to reserve the right to trap fur bearing species to persons who depend largely on game resources for their livelihood and to regulate the kill of big game animals by a new stamp system, was submitted to the Territorial Council at its 33rd Session in the fall of 1966 at Resolute Bay.

Considerable discussions resulted from this submission because of fundamental principles at stake. Although the necessity of such a drastic change was understood, it was decided that the Superintendent of Game undertake a comprehensive program of education, consultation and discussion with holders of General Hunting Licences and report back to the Council Session in March.

In compliance with Council's instruction, the program of consultation and discussion with holders of General Hunting Licences was considerably expanded. As a first step, advantage was taken of the C.B.C.'s generous offer to make their facilities available for broadcasting the proposed new system in English, Indian and Eskimo and to explain the main implications as well as the principal purpose during an interview. The more important factors of the new system are being repeated from time to time by the C.B.C.

The local newspapers were furnished with copies of the radio interview to provide them with factual background information. "The Drum", an Inuvik weekly newspaper, devoted considerable space to bring the proposed change to the attention of the northern residents and invited questions and comments from persons affected by the pending fundamental change in traditional hunting rights. In addition, the Editor directed several specific questions to the Superintendent of Game which might help to create a better understanding, a prerequisite for an unanimous acceptance of the new licensing system.

All Game Officers have been well informed since the planning stages of the proposals, and as a matter of fact, the necessity as well as the implication of abolishing the present general hunting licence had already been discussed at the Game Officer Conference in February, 1965. Since that time, Game Officers were notified on the development of more concrete plans. Copies of all correspondence in respect to the proposal under study were forwarded to them in order to assure their full understanding. Furthermore, Game Officers were asked to determine the opinion of the trappers and other holders of General Hunting Licences. As the reaction of northern residents to this change was almost unanimously favourable, a submission to Council recommending that the General Hunting Licence be abolished and substantiated by separate Trapping and Hunting Licences was made during the Territorial Council Session.

Further to Council's wishes, Game Management Officers were asked to embark upon an intensified program to discuss the new licensing system during Trappers' Council Meetings, with trappers and the general public.

Reports received from the Mackenzie District Game Officers indicate that with the exception of the Inuvik Trappers' Council and of the Rae Indian Chief all persons with whom the proposal was discussed were in favour of the proposed amendment.

Considering that five out of the seven members of the Inuvik Trappers' Council are full-time employed, it should not be surprising to encounter a different attitude than that expressed by Councils elsewhere. The timing of the Rae discussion was relatively poor as most of the trappers were out on their traplines.

In May, 1966, the Superintendent of Game had the opportunity to discuss the then pending proposal with the Indian Advisory Council at Fort Smith. Out of the total of some 12 Indians present only one person abstained from voicing a definite opinion. During the summer of 1966 the Superintendent of Game had opportunities to contact several of the Indians who had been present at that meeting and to discuss the proposal again. The attitude of the Indians thus contacted had not changed. This should indicate that they fully understood the implications involved.

A paper explaining the details of the proposal as submitted to the Territorial Council has been widely distributed to Area Administrators and R.C.M.P. Officers in settlements without a Game Management Officer. Their co-operation in explaining the new licensing system in their settlements as well as in forwarding any questions to the Fort Smith office was requested.

Special effort will have to be made this summer to inform all the people of the Eastern Arctic and Keewatin about the proposed new licensing system and to obtain their views. The Eastern Arctic and Keewatin was included in the distribution of the above paper but it is obvious that considerable personal contact with the people is needed to obtain the desired results. An additional Game Officer will be available in Baker Lake this spring and one of the temporary staff being taken on strength, will have to give considerable time to this project. This increase in staff should do much to give the needed contact with people in their settlements and allow the discussion which we would like to have.

No assessment of public opinion towards the new licensing system can be made at this time. A clear indication of the views of all the people who will be affected, will have to be available before any legislation can be prepared to implement the proposed changes and this will take some time yet. A further report will be made at the next Council Session.