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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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(Second Session, 1967)

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES  
IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

DISPOSITION

| Tabled       | To Committee | Accepted as Read | Accepted as Amended | Deferred (to Session) | Rejected | Noted not Considered |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------------------|
| <u>14.XI</u> | <u>15.XI</u> | <u>15.XI</u>     |                     |                       |          |                      |

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

In November 1964, the Council of the Northwest Territories approved the establishment of a public library service to make books and reference materials freely available to all Territorial citizens. At the next session, it was decided to locate the service's headquarters at Hay River, where the library building would be the Territories' major centennial project. In 1965, Miss Patricia L. Smith was appointed Director, and in 1966, two clerks from Inuvik and a cataloguer joined the staff. On November 10, 1966, An Ordinance to Provide Public Library Services In The Northwest Territories was enacted by Council.

The headquarters building, designed by Bittorf-Wensley, architects of Edmonton, will cost \$297,000 and will provide 8,600 square feet of usable space. \$250,000 of this cost is being provided by the federal government through a Centennial Grant. It is expected the building will be completed by January 1, 1968, but the staff is already in Hay River doing preparatory work before the opening.

The Territorial Government will provide the major portion of funds for both capital and operating costs of the Public Library Services. During Centennial year grants of up to \$29,000 were made available to four communities in the Northwest Territories, but up to this time only Inuvik and Frobisher Bay have taken advantage of this offer for libraries. Future capital funds will have to be provided through the regular Territorial appropriations. Funds for operating the headquarters library at Hay River will come from the Territorial Government, with municipalities in which public library services are provided sharing in the operating costs. Libraries that do not come into the Territorial Library System will continue to receive grants for purchase of books as in the past.

The following will be provided by our Public Library Services:

1. Reference services, including a concentrated central reference collection at Hay River, as well as local reference collections in the public libraries of the larger centres;
2. A pool of books, magazine files and other materials from which member libraries can borrow. Some can be retained to build up permanent collections and others returned after use through the Travelling Libraries service;
3. An Open Shelf service (direct service by mail) to individuals in communities in which libraries have not yet been established;
4. Training of local librarians in reference work;

5. Special services to children;
6. General advisory services to library groups;
7. Operation of a central service unit at headquarters to provide clerical, professional and business services, including book purchases and cataloguing, for member libraries.

A Telex system will be established to help ease the problem of inter-library communication within the system, and to enable its headquarters to obtain information and additional material from the National Library and other major libraries. There will be an initial installation at Hay River, and negotiations will be carried forth to link this with installations already in operation at other centres.

Some communities have already compiled collections of books and established their own libraries. These may be incorporated into the Territorial system. Books already purchased will not be taken away from these local libraries (although it is hoped they will be loaned freely to other libraries when requested).

The system's headquarters will be fully (and professionally) staffed. Sub-distribution centres at such places as Inuvik, Rankin Inlet and Frobisher Bay will need to be established as local stocks increase; these will also require professional staff. Volunteers may take care of smaller community libraries, but they will receive guidance and training through the Public Library Services and will be responsible to the Director with respect to the technical operation of the library (recording of membership, circulation and periodicals, maintenance of the book collection, provision of reference services). Although any resident of the Northwest Territories will be able to borrow books in any community in which there is a member library, it is hoped that the close and active participation of local groups will help these libraries maintain their local character.

The initial phase in the development of this service could be completed in 10 years or less. General collections at public libraries in larger centres are expected to comprise 10,000 volumes, including local reference collections. The central reference collection at Hay River is expected to contain 2,000 volumes. Approximately 18,000 volumes will be used for Travelling Library exchanges and the Open Shelf service. Altogether, it is hoped that 70,000 books will be out in the Territories, either as temporary or semi-permanent collections, and that the service as a whole will include 100,000 volumes. The following 10 years may see an expansion of this service which should make 200,000 volumes readily available to the citizens of the Northwest Territories.