

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
6<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, 36<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**RECOMMENDATION TO  
COUNCIL NO. 2-36**

**TABLED ON FEBRUARY 7, 1968**



January 29, 1968

CONFIDENTIAL -

Not for release before  
tabling during the 36th  
Session of Council

RC 2-36

Tabled on Feb 7, 1968

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 2.

(First Session, 1968)

RECORDING OF COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS.

DISPOSITION

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

RECORDING OF COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS

At its 35th session the Council of the Northwest Territories instructed the administration to study alternative methods of recording its proceedings with the objective of producing a more concise and less expensive record.

Council also directed that a poll be conducted to determine

- (a) the amount of interest shown by the public of the Northwest Territories in the full details of what is said at Council sessions; and
- (b) the extent to which the present debates are read by the public.

Administrators in both districts and other persons consulted believe that the principal public interest in the Debates results mainly from the concern of various pressure groups with specific portions relating to their special interest. Interest in the Debates as a whole is thought to be limited to a very small minority of Territorial residents. The Administrator of the Arctic, for example, reported a requirement for 65 copies in his District. After recent sessions approximately 400 copies have been distributed free in the North and in southern Canada. However, sales to the general public after each session seldom exceed 25 copies.

A detailed outline of the procedures used and proposed to produce and distribute the Debates of Council during the 35th and 36th sessions and actual, where possible, or estimated costs of each follows:

A. - 35th session (10 1/2 sitting days)

I - Contract Costs

- (1) Firm of court reporters (3 reporters, 2 typists and 1 machine operator) to record proceedings of Council and print daily transcript (including meals, accommodation and transportation). \$ 9,047.50
- (2) Firm of Court reporters to print edited debates for distribution to public 9,084.30

II - Administrative Costs

- (3) Editorial Clerk and temporary assistant to prepare manuscript for printing debates 1,529.79
- (4) Shipping costs:-
  - (a) Debates from Ottawa to Yellowknife 937.50
  - (b) mailing from Yellowknife to public 2,725.00

TOTAL \$23,324.09

B. - 36th session (14 sitting days)

I - Contract Costs

- (1) Firm of court reporters (2 reporters, 3 typists and 1 machine operator) to record proceedings of Council and print daily transcript (including office rental, meals, accommodation and transportation). \$12,933.00
- (2) Commercial typing service to produce manuscript for printing of debates (includes office rental, meals, accommodation and transportation). 11,121.00

II - Administrative Costs

(3) Editorial Clerk and temporary assistant to prepare manuscript for printing.	2,295.00
(4) Government printing unit to produce edited debates daily.	1,867.00
(5) Temporary employee to mail edited debates daily to public (includes postage).	2,740.00
(6) Purchase of stationery and other supplies.	<u>3,258.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$34,214.00</u>

The cost figures for preparing the Debates of the 34th Session held in Ottawa in March, 1967, although it lasted for 23 sitting days, were proportionately lower. This was because there were no transportation, accommodation or meal expenses in respect of contract staff.

The permanent employment of two court reporters was proposed as an alternative to the present practice of employing a court reporting firm to produce the daily transcript. A salary of \$10,000 each was suggested. To attract qualified employees to northern employment a salary of \$12,500 would probably have to be offered. The provision of housing and employee benefits would bring the cost of each reporter to \$18,000, a total of \$36,000. If the same procedures being employed for the 36th session were used in future the cost of bringing in court reporters could be eliminated but offsetting costs would be encountered. Using the figures for the 36th Session the results can be shown as follows:

\$34,214	-	total estimated cost for the 36th session
<u>12,933</u>		less cost of court reporting firm
\$21,281		
		plus costs of a 3 temporary typists to
		prepare transcript masters and temporary
		printer
<u>2,880</u>		
24,161		
1,684		plus accommodation, meals and transporta-
		tion for typists
<u>\$25,845</u>		

To this figure must be added a major portion of the cost of the permanently employed court reporters. This alternative, therefore, does not effect any savings.

Three possible alternatives are set out in the following paragraphs. The cost figures are for a three-week session of Council. It should be noted that administrative costs are for continuing functions and therefore cannot be substantially reduced.

A.

I - Contract Costs

(1) Firm of court reporters (2 reporters, 3 typists and 1 machine operator) to record complete Council proceedings and produce 1 record copy of transcript (includes meals, accommodation and transportation).	\$12,933
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II - Administrative Costs

(2) Editorial Clerk and temporary assistant to prepare from transcript manuscript for printing of draft daily summary to contain complete text of Commissioner's Opening Address, members' replies thereto, questions,	
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motions, returns and committee reports;  
and following checking of drafts by  
members to prepare manuscript for final-  
summary.

2,295

- (3) Government stenographic unit to type manuscripts for draft and final daily summaries (includes proof reading) 800
- (4) Government printing unit to produce 35 copies of draft summary and 400 copies of final summary. 1,215
- (5) Temporary employee to mail final summary to public daily (includes postage). 1,826
- (6) Purchase of stationery and other supplies. 2,176

ESTIMATED TOTAL

\$21,245

B.

I - Contract Costs

- (1) Firm of court reporters (2 reporters and 1 typist) to record Commissioner's Opening Address, members' replies and all other material which members request be recorded; and to produce masters for printing of transcript to be checked by members (includes rental of office space, meals, accommodation and transportation costs). \$ 7,385

II - Administrative Costs

- (2) Editorial Clerk to prepare from transcript and members corrections, manuscript for printing of edited report. 1,560
- (3) Government stenographic unit to type manuscript of edited report (includes proof reading). 535
- (4) Government printing unit to produce 35 copies of transcript and 400 copies of edited report. 1,215
- (5) Temporary employee to mail edited report to public daily (includes postage). 913
- (6) Purchase of stationery and other supplies. 1,088

ESTIMATED TOTAL

\$12,876

C.

I - Contract Costs

- (1) Firm of court reporters (2 reporters only) to record all proceedings of Council in formal session only (includes meals, accommodation and transportation costs). \$ 5,990

II - Administrative Costs

- (2) Editorial Clerk to prepare from transcript and members corrections manuscript for printing of edited report. 1,560
- (3) Government stenographic unit to type manuscripts of transcript and edited report

(includes proof reading).	800
(4) Government printing unit to produce 35 copies of transcript and 400 copies of edited report.	1,215
(5) Temporary employee to mail edited report to public on completion of reports for each week of session (includes postage).	800
(6) Purchase of stationery and other supplies.	<u>950</u>
ESTIMATED TOTAL	<u>\$11,325</u>

Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends that proposal C be adopted. To ensure that all significant matters raised in committee of the whole are included in committee reports chairmen will be given an opportunity to withdraw from the chamber to prepare their reports from their secretaries' notes before being called upon to report in full.

In implementing this proposal, if adopted, the administration will ensure that:

- (a) portable dictating equipment is available in the Council chamber at all times for the use of members who may wish to record portions of discussions in committee of the whole; and
- (b) two stenographers are available in the Council chamber throughout sitting hours for the use of members.