

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
6TH COUNCIL, 36TH SESSION

RECOMMENDATION TO
COUNCIL NO. 4-36

TABLED ON FEBRUARY 7, 1968



January 31, 1968

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

RC 4:36
Tabled on Feb 7, 1968

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 4

(First Session, 1968)

PROPOSED NEW LICENSING SYSTEM FOR HUNTING AND TRAPPING

DISPOSITION

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

PROPOSED NEW LICENSING SYSTEM FOR HUNTING AND TRAPPING

In accordance with the instructions of Council, the Game Management Service has continued its program of consultation with holders of General Hunting Licences concerning the system of separate hunting and trapping licences that was submitted to Council at its 33rd session. The Service is using press and radio for dissemination of information, but because these facilities do not provide adequate opportunity for discussion, it is concentrating on personal contact as the most effective means of carrying out the program.

Amongst the trappers of the Mackenzie District, the proposal to establish this new system is now a frequent topic of discussion. Because of the lack of trained Game Management personnel, the Arctic District has been somewhat neglected. It is difficult to explain the necessity for the change by written communications to the Eskimo trapper, and confusion has resulted from explanations given by other government personnel in the District. This winter some discussion took place between Keewatin Eskimos and Game Management staff, and it is believed that further opportunities will occur during the coming months.

As expected, both positive and negative reactions were received. Generally, full-time trappers with limited opportunity for wage employment favour and, in some instances, request the change, while holders of General Hunting Licences, particularly those in the Mackenzie District who are in full-time employment, are strongly opposed.

Because of the hereditary provisions of the General Hunting Licence system (the ambiguity of Section 2(b) (iv) of the Game Ordinance regarding the status of an Eskimo woman married to a non-Eskimo should be noted), the number of licence holders can be expected to increase significantly over the next several years. This will compound an already poor situation with respect to good game management practices. A change to the proposed new system of licensing would eliminate these contentious factors.

The Commissioner therefore recommends that:

1. No change be made in the present licensing system for now, but that the Game Management Service continue its policy of education and discussion of the various facets of the proposed new system with the holders of General Hunting Licences;
2. The proposed new system provide concessions toward the return to trapper status of former General Hunting Licence holders should these persons become unemployed.