

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

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 2-36

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SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 2
(First Session, 1968)

SETTLEMENT SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT AND GRADE ADDITION PLAN

DISPOSITION

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

SETTLEMENT SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT AND GRADE ADDITION PLAN

At its 35th session, Council adopted a motion requesting the preparation of a report setting forth commitments for the implementation of the settlement school development and grade addition plan, describing in detail what will be accomplished by 1970. A report prepared by the Education Division sets forth the situation for the 1967-68 academic year and the construction plans which have been made for the years 1968-69 and 1969-70.

Present Situation, 1967-68

The following Mackenzie District communities have grades VII and VIII:

<u>Community</u>	<u>Enrolment</u>	
	<u>VII</u>	<u>VIII</u>
Aklavik	14	9
Fort Franklin	6	6
Fort McPherson	21	-
Fort Resolution	9	11
Fort Simpson	36	29
Fort Smith	91	55
Hay River (Secondary School)	34	34
Hay River (Seperate School)	19	14
Inuvik	68	66
Norman Wells	3	1
Pine Point	10	12
Tuktoyaktuk	6	5
Tungsten	4	1
Discovery	3	-
Yellowknife Public School	48	46
Yellowknife Separate School	32	25

Eastern Arctic communities in which grades VII and VIII are provided:

<u>Community</u>	<u>Enrolment</u>	
	<u>VII</u>	<u>VIII</u>
Frobisher Bay	8	6
Chesterfield Inlet	10	7

Grade limits in Eastern Arctic schools may be extended to the end of grade VIII, if requested, by correspondence courses:

Eastern Arctic communities where grades VII and VIII are given by correspondence or special arrangement:

<u>Community</u>	<u>Enrolment</u>	
	<u>VII</u>	<u>VIII</u>
Arctic Bay	1	-
Igloodik	1	-
Pangnirtung	-	1
Resolute Bay	2	-
Port Burwell	2	1
Eskimo Point	2	-
Whale Cove	1	-
	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>

Construction Plans, 1968-69

Baker Lake: Construction will begin on a two-classroom addition to the school with completion scheduled for 1970. It is expected that Baker Lake will be able to justify an extension of the grade limit to include grade VII and VIII classes by that date.

Cambridge Bay and Coppermine: The first steps toward the provision of educational facilities up to the grade VIII level have been realized with the completion of new schools in both communities. Additional construction phases are scheduled to begin in 1970 at Coppermine and in 1971 at Cambridge Bay. Besides additional classroom accommodation, the proposed additions include Industrial Arts and Home Economics facilities so that a full grade VII and VIII school program may be offered as soon as the enrolments are large enough to justify classes for these grades. Because of the few pupils involved (an estimated total enrolment of forty-three in grades VII and VIII in Coppermine in the three-year period of 1967-70; only two are expected to be under fourteen years of age) and the existing educational problems, it is felt that the program should be deferred until 1970 and 1971. For the next few years, most pupils in these grades will be overage and should attend larger centres for special courses and a general broadening of experience. However, provided both parents and children understand the limitations of the available facilities and the possible educational handicaps involved, pupils at the grade VII and VIII level, particularly pupils of normal age for these grades, will now be accommodated in the local schools at their parents' insistence.

Pine Point: Grade VII and VIII pupils must now be taken by bus to Hay River for compulsory classes in Home Economics and Industrial Arts. In 1968-69, construction of additional classroom facilities and facilities for Home Economics and Industrial Arts programs will begin. A complete grade VII and VIII program can then be offered in Pine Point.

Construction Plans, 1969-70

Holman Island: Construction will begin on a three-classroom school plus Industrial Arts and Home Economics addition to the two-classroom school. This is the first year of a two-year construction program. The addition will provide facilities for the extension of the local school program to include grades VII and VIII. The inclusion of these grades, of course, is contingent upon an enrolment large enough to justify the employment of an additional teacher.

Pangnirtung: A two-classroom plus Industrial Arts, Home Economics and Gymnasium addition is scheduled for completion in the settlement of Pangnirtung in 1969-70. If the enrolment in that school can justify the inclusion of grades VII and VIII, the Department is prepared to provide this instruction.

New Rae School: A fifteen-classroom school with Industrial Arts and Home Economics facilities is planned for the new townsite of Rae. This school is expected to come into operation by 1970 and will provide facilities up to and including grade VIII for Rae and area children, who must now go to Fort Smith to receive instruction in these grades. There are several children from the area who are overage; special courses for pupils in this category will continue in the Sir John Franklin School at Yellowknife.

With regard to the construction lag in the Eastern Arctic, the Department is seeking Treasury Board approval for the provision at Frobisher Bay of secondary-vocational facilities to serve the District. Concurrent with arrangements for Frobisher Bay, an extension of the instruction program to grades VII and VIII is planned in smaller Eastern Arctic schools where there are sufficient enrolments. At the same time, the possible phasing out of Departmental operations in Churchill will influence school construction in the Keewatin region particularly. The final implementation to this planning is not expected before the 1970's.

Factors such as age-grade retardation, the availability of teachers, limitations of school organization and of teacher load, the necessity of giving priority to elementary school construction projects and financial limitations must be given careful consideration in each

case. While it is agreed that parents should be able to choose between enrolling their children in their local schools and sending them to larger centers where full grade VII and VIII programs can be offered, the relative merits of their choice must be made very clear. In the meantime, everything that is possible within the accepted guidelines will be done to accommodate parental requests for the provision of grade VII and VIII instruction in local schools.