

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
6TH COUNCIL, 37TH SESSION**

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 4-37

TABLED ON JUNE 27, 1968



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*Sessional Paper 4-37
Tabled on June 27, 1968*

SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 4
(Second Session, 1968)

HOSTEL MANAGEMENT

DISPOSITION

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

HOSTEL MANAGEMENT

At its 36th session, Council requested that the Northern Administration Branch of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development report on the following aspects of hostel management:

1. Diet in hostels and readjustment of catering finances toward the purchase of a more substantial portion of local meats and fish;
2. Use of local boarding homes for high school students;
3. Maintenance of pupils in separate residences.

1. Diet in Hostels

It has been departmental policy to encourage the administrators of the various pupil residences to make use of whatever local products are available to them: apart from the desirability of providing foods to the pupils which would be familiar to them, the use of local meat and fish is a means whereby local initiative can be encouraged. The Department has had to insist, of course, that the quality of the products be sufficiently high to meet the standards of nutrition set by the Department of National Health and Welfare. This latter department, which sends a dietitian to each pupil residence every year, recommends any improvements to diet which would appear desirable. One of their recommendations over the years has been that all local meats and fish must be properly cooked to reduce or eliminate the risk of carrying any undetected infection occurring in the meat or fish in its raw state. With this provision, the Department has used local products: for example, the Fort McPherson residence has used only local fish. The main problem in this area has been that at certain times of the year local products are unavailable or the quality is poor, and in many locations the prices do not compare favourably with Edmonton prices. The Department will, however, again remind its administrators that they are to use as much local produce as possible. No readjustment of catering finances is necessary because adequate amounts are included in the budget and the selection of food is made locally.

2. Use of Local Boarding Homes

The Department agrees in principle to the suggestion that more emphasis should be placed on the use of local boarding homes for high school students rather than on the expansion of pupil residences. There is, however, very little surplus accommodation in private houses in communities where secondary schools are now established, and regardless of the amount allowed for boarding pupils, this situation would not be completely remedied. It is reasonable to assume that there are a limited number of suitable families who would be prepared to accommodate students if the rates were higher than at present. If a judgment on the desirability of using the local boarding method of accommodating students in order to effect economies in the program is to be made, these economies would be effected only if sufficient homes were found in a settlement to permit the closing down of one of the large residences. If the result of encouraging local boarding will be simply to reduce the enrolment at a large residence, very little, if any, economies would be effected, because the cost of operating the residence would rise in terms of per pupil cost.

Boarding rates must be kept in line with the rates paid under the Child Welfare Program in the North, Indian Affairs Branch programs and our Vocational programs. The Welfare Services rate for foster home care of children over 14 years of age is \$2.50 per day and is now being reviewed. (There is justification for their rates being higher than the rates for students.) The Indian Affairs Branch pays rates across the country which vary from \$65 to \$85 per month, depending on the local conditions. We have found that \$80 to \$85 per month is the usual rate paid for vocational trainees in private homes in various cities across the country.

The Department is prepared, therefore, to recommend a rate of \$2.75 per day for children over 14 years of age. This rate compares favourably with those quoted above.

3. Maintenance of Pupils in Separate Residences

The table below gives the per pupil cost in each of the large pupil residences:

Year 1966

<u>Residence</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Average Enrolment</u>	<u>Cost Per Pupil Per Annum</u> \$
Fleming Hall, Fort McPherson	100	84	2,069
Lapointe Hall, Fort Simpson	150	149	1,705
Bompas Hall, Fort Simpson	50	48	2,998
Breynat Hall, Fort Smith	200	182	1,008
Grollier Hall, Inuvik	250	219	1,511
Stringer Hall, Inuvik	250	297	1,299
Turquetil Hall, Chesterfield Inlet	80	82	1,076
Akaitcho Hall, Yellowknife (1966-67)	200	172	1,803
Churchill (1965-66)	250	206	1,301

For the most part, the difference in cost in places where there are two residences under separate management is caused by the difference in enrolment.

The difference in costs is not great at Inuvik and what difference there is can be attributed to the higher enrolment at Stringer Hall. At Fort Simpson there is a significant cost differential, but within two or three years or possibly sooner, the need for two separate residences at Fort Simpson is expected to disappear and Bompas Hall will probably cease operation as a pupil residence.

There are no plans for uniting the residences at these locations.

Separate residences were established and are maintained by formal agreements with the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches; these agreements cannot be altered or terminated by either party unless 12 months notice is given in writing. When responsibility for the education function is assumed by the Territorial Government, new agreements may be negotiated; these negotiations would provide an opportunity to make certain changes, but they cannot take place until January, 1969, and there would have to be mutual agreement between the parties concerned for the termination of the present agreements and the signing of new ones with the Territorial Government. The Commissioner may be the legal "successor" in respect of these agreements; an opinion on this matter has been requested.

Thus, it would be very difficult to take any rigid position on the questions raised by the suggestion that separate residences be united under one roof and under one management. This probably could not be accomplished except by the complete takeover of the operation of all pupil residences by the Territorial Government.

It is a matter that must be thoroughly discussed at the highest level before any position is established; no action has been taken and no such action is immediately possible.