

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
6TH COUNCIL, 38TH SESSION

RECOMMENDATION TO
COUNCIL NO. 1-38

TABLED ON JANUARY 13, 1969

7-10



December 20, 1968.
 CONFIDENTIAL-
 Not for release before
 1st reading during the
 38th Session of Council

Recommendation to Council 1-38

Tabled on January 13, 1969

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO.1
 (First Session, 1969)

SUBSIDIZED TRAVEL FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

DISPOSITION

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Noted not Considered
13-1-69	22-1-69	22-1-69				

SUBSIDIZED TRAVEL FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

The Northwest Territories Medical Association has proposed expansion of the present medical travel regulations in respect of persons required to finance more than two return trips for members of their family for medical treatment in one year.

Existing regulations respecting subsidized travel for medical reasons state:

(5) Subsidization of Air Travel Required for Medical Reasons (Effective April 1, 1965)

- (a) A resident suffering from a disease other than Cancer, Tuberculosis or Mental Disease is entitled to subsidization of medically necessary air travel expenses which are in excess of \$60 single fare or \$120 return fare to the nearest centre at which suitable treatment is available. Prior approval from the Zone Director is required before such expenses are incurred. Under normal circumstances the patient will pay the first \$60 or \$120 direct to the air company but if he has no funds immediately available, the Federal or Territorial Government (depending on financial responsibility) may pay the total cost of transportation and seek reimbursement of the \$60 or \$120. A resident who is certified as socially or medically indigent by a Welfare Officer would not be expected to reimburse the Government.

Period of residence required for non-Indian non-Eskimo resident --- 3 months

Period of residence required for Registered Indians and Eskimos --- Nil

- (b) Federal Government Personnel (Civil Servants), Department of National Defence, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Territorial Government personnel or their dependents are not entitled to free transportation at Territorial Government expense as their Departments will issue the necessary warrants on the recommendation of a doctor.
- (c) Camp employees, who, under the terms of Section 2 of the Northwest Territories Public Health Act, are entitled to have necessary medical transportation paid by their employers are excluded from this subsidy.
- (d) Employees who are entitled, under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, to free transportation in respect of accidents or disease arising out of and in the course of their employment, are excluded from this subsidy for any such accident or disease.

The Northwest Territories Medical Association Proposal

The Northwest Territories Medical Association has requested that further consideration be given to families who have to evacuate a member or members to hospital on a number of occasions each year for treatment. The Association suggests that any family which has had to finance two return trips for approved medical evacuations (\$240.00) within a calendar year should have any further approved evacuations fully subsidized out of public funds. They request that approval be given to the Northern Health Service to subsidize in full these approved evacuations, with the same exceptions as listed in (b), (c) and (d) of the existing regulations, and that evacuations for orthodontic or dental treatment and plastic surgery be excluded also.

Recommendation

The Commissioner, therefore, recommends that this proposal by the Northwest Territories Medical Association be approved, whereby, the Northern Health Service subsidizes, in full, any further approved evacuations for medical reasons when the family unit has financed two approved return evacuations (\$240.00) within the same calendar year. The same exceptions as listed in (b), (c) and (d) above will also apply to this extension of services and evacuations for orthodontic or dental treatment and plastic surgery will not be included.