

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

RECOMMENDATION TO
COUNCIL NO. 5-38

TABLED ON JANUARY 13, 1969



January 2, 1969
CONFIDENTIAL-
Not for release before
1st reading during the
38th Session of Council

Recommendation to Council 5.38
January 13, 1969

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 5
(First Session, 1969)

SALE OF CARIBOU MEAT
TO HOSTELS AND INSTITUTIONS

DISPOSITION

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Noted not Considered
			10-1-69			

SALE OF CARIBOU MEAT TO HOSTELS AND INSTITUTIONS

At the 37th Session of the Territorial Council, Recommendation No. 5 proposed that the sale of caribou meat to hostels, institutions and similar organizations be instituted. Promotion of such sales was recommended as a means of supplying food more acceptable to the native residents of such institutions, and of increasing the cash income of the hunters concerned.

Despite the present classification of caribou as a "species in danger of extinction" and the inherent problems of adequately controlling the possible over-utilization of the Territorial herds, it is considered that the very real advantages of the proposal outweigh the possible disadvantages. Legislation to authorize such sales has been drafted, therefore, for consideration by Council at the current session.

Factors influencing this decision were as follows:

1. Caribou meat is much preferred by the native residents of Territorial institutions.
2. The Mackenzie, or western herds will stand additional harvesting.
3. An increased rational harvest will help to improve the depressed economy of individual indigenous groups and settlements.
4. The allowable annual harvest of each herd, and of the resultant meat sales, can be adequately controlled.

If the proposed legislation is approved, the following administrative control procedure will be developed and implemented:

1. Depending on the availability and harvest capacity of caribou herds in the proximity of settlements, a quota, sufficiently large to be of economic significance, will be allotted to the settlements concerned.
2. This quota will be determined by use of the latest Canadian Wildlife Service reports, and of Territorial statistics of actual kills.
3. The allotted quota will be valid for commercial utilization only. It will be over and above the domestic requirements of the native people.
4. In order to ensure the control of numbers of caribou to be taken, the right to sell meat will not be granted to individuals but to communities, or associations representing the majority of residents of any given community.
5. The Game Management Service, will plot the seasonal movements and location of the caribou herds in order to advise the hunters when a profitable hunt may be made.
6. The Game Management Service will be responsible for determining the market availability and for ensuring that caribou meat can be sold without delay at a fair price.

7. The Game Management Service will organize and supervise all hunts to ensure: the proper handling of meat, the availability of economic transportation, the collection of biological data and the efficient collection of by-products.
8. Depending on the quantity of caribou to be taken, settlements will select a group of available hunters to procure the allotted quota.
9. Profits realized through the operation will be divided between the community and the group of hunters selected. The latter will be guaranteed a fair share of the proceeds for their special efforts.
10. The Territorial Government will make suitable arrangements for financing and for assisting the individual communities in handling the funds resulting from the sale of caribou meat.
11. The Territorial Government will make cash advances to hunters for food, packing material etc. in a manner similar to that now in effect for the fur marketing program. Apart from advances which will be fully repaid on the final sale of meat, no other financial assistance is proposed.
12. The program will be gradually and systematically expanded, commencing in the Mackenzie District for which authentic survey data are available, and where freezer requirements are not critical. Based on experiences gained in the Mackenzie, the program would then be expanded to include all parts of the Northwest Territories for which management and market considerations would make it practical.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Commissioner, therefore, recommends that the sale of caribou meat to hostels and similar institutions be legalized under the general outline as presented above. These proposals will provide adequate control at all times, and will simultaneously result in a substantially increased income for the indigenous people.

Amended