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SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 2
(First Session, 1969)

ARTS AND CRAFTS BUDGET

DISPOSITION

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Noted not Considered
	<i>31-1-69</i>	<i>31-1-69</i>				

ARTS AND CRAFTS BUDGET

At the 37th Session, Council adopted a motion requesting the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to reorganize financial priorities so that the arts and crafts budgets in the North can be fully reinstated and gradually increased according to local productivity demand.

The Department realizes Council's concern over the limitations placed on arts and crafts projects because of insufficient funds. The arts and crafts budget, however, has been increased from \$695,000 in 1967/68 to \$984,000 in 1968/69; an increase of \$289,000, most of which is being directed towards the expansion of development programs in the smaller communities. The importance attached to this program by the Department is evidenced by the fact that the budget calls for a further increase in 1969/70 which hopefully can be retained in spite of current financial restrictions.

To use these funds to the best advantage there is a need to balance budgets, staff and the development potential of the various communities with one another. There is no point in providing a \$20,000 budget to a settlement where there is little possibility of establishing staff or where the residents are not in a position to benefit as fully from an arts and crafts program as those in another community. In allocating the current year's budget, District Administrators have attempted to take this into account and arrange for the largest budget to go to the settlements where there is the greatest development potential and where facilities exist for the establishment of a full time arts and crafts officer.

The Department has encouraged groups of producers in the smaller settlements to become independent and operate on their own budgets by means of loans from the Eskimo Loan Fund. This policy has resulted in the establishment of nine independent producing groups in the Eastern Arctic, in the past year.

A small budget is retained in each of the settlements concerned to carry out experimental and development work. As projects become viable, funds are re-allocated to areas of greater need. In the case of some larger projects, the Department has been overly optimistic with regard to an early turn-over to co-operatives with the result that it has been necessary to continue substantial expenditures on these projects for a period of several years.

Test Project - Wakeham Bay

A test project has been initiated this year at Wakeham Bay, to gain a better idea than now exists, of the size of the "development" dollar outlay required to appreciably reduce Social Assistance expenditures on behalf of unemployed employable people.

Last summer \$10,000 was made available to the Arctic District Industrial Section to develop an arts and crafts program at Wakeham Bay. An arts and crafts project was deliberately chosen as it seemed to offer the broadest range of opportunities for local adults of both sexes to participate. An attempt is to be made to spread the \$10,000 as evenly as possible among the population and to direct expenditures into wages rather than capital. The project has two parts to it, namely:

- (1) a primary resource development function (i.e. mining and transportation of native soapstone as well as the gathering of other primary materials such as whalebone); and
- (2) the production of arts and crafts.

The community of Wakeham Bay was chosen for several reasons:

- (a) many of the local people already have skills in the production of arts and crafts and are interested in this kind of work;
- (b) soapstone and other primary materials are to be found close by and do not need to be purchased;
- (c) the community is small and this is an advantage in attempting to establish controls and weigh variables;
- (d) the staff situation there is stable and this will help to assure a greater measure of consistency particularly in the administration of Social Assistance; and
- (e) many of the recipients of Social Assistance in that community are employable and lack only jobs.

The project will run for several months (long enough to give some picture of the effects of seasonal variations on game and other sources of income). The results will be assessed at the end of that time. Arctic District Headquarters staff will provide direction and help solve unforeseen problems as they arise. A standardized form (Appendix "A" attached) is used to collect information on each family (or single adult individuals) engaged in the project.

The Department is looking forward to the results of the project and has agreed to inform the Territorial Government of the outcome.

The Department also wishes to assure Council that the adjustment of arts and crafts budgets, to provide the most effective assistance to the most people, is a constantly recurring task and will continue to be so until all settlements are in a position to finance and operate their own programs.

APPENDIX "A"

WAKEHAM BAY
HANDICRAFTS PROJECT

Family head-	Income this month	\$ _____
Name-	Wages	\$ _____
Disc. No.-	Handicraft sales	\$ _____
Family constellation -	Fur sales	\$ _____
No. of persons aged - _____	Social Assistance	\$ _____
0-5 _____	Other sources	\$ _____
6-11 _____		
12-16 _____	Month _____	
over 16 _____		

Availability of Country food for this family-

Good

Fair

Poor