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SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 4-38

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SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 4
(First Session, 1969)

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

DISPOSITION

| Tabled | To Committee | Accepted as Read | Accepted as Amended | Deferred (to Session) | Rejected | Noted not Considered |
|---------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| 14-1-69 | 17-1-69 | 17-1-69 | | | | |

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

At the 37th Session, Council adopted a motion requesting the Education authorities to carry out the planned program of providing correspondence courses for Northwest Territories residents who need them.

The Education Division of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development advises that they have an active correspondence Course Program in effect in the Northwest Territories which helps round out the Education service and eliminates inequalities of opportunity. It provides courses for members of the following groups who need them and can profit by this type of instruction.

(1) School Pupils

- (a) Any student registered in school who requires instruction in a subject not available to him or her in terms of the regular instructional program or because of timetabling difficulties may under the guidance of the principal, and with the approval of the Regional Superintendent of Schools take work by correspondence courses.
- (b) Any student who would normally enrol in one of the regular schooling programs but who does not have access to school because of place of residence, illness or for some other valid reason may apply for correspondence instruction. It is the responsibility of the Regional Superintendent of Schools to be aware of the circumstances and feel that the student can profit from the course or courses.

(2) Classroom Assistants

Classroom Assistants work part time assisting the classroom teacher and the remainder of the time on academic upgrading. If the studies they are pursuing are not being taught in a classroom in the school during the time allotted to them for study, correspondence courses are provided for them and guidance by the staff is provided if necessary.

(3) Adults

This group includes out-of-school youths as well as adults. They can apply for correspondence courses in elementary and secondary subjects or academic upgrading in preparation for vocational work.

(4) Vocational

A resident of the Northwest Territories may receive correspondence instruction in any vocational or technical subject, which his employer deems appropriate or is required in an apprenticeship program and is approved by the Superintendent of Vocational Education. In some cases residents are trained or partially trained for special projects which are being set up by the Department.

- (5) Residents of the Northwest Territories who are hospitalized or incarcerated may receive correspondence instruction.

General Conditions

1. To be eligible for correspondence courses a person must be a resident of the Northwest Territories.
2. The Correspondence Instruction Program for each Region is under the direction of the Regional Superintendent of Schools who gives educational guidance to applicants.
3. School pupils and classroom assistants are subject to guidance by principals or teachers in the selection of their correspondence courses.
4. In order to receive credit for courses, the student must meet the requirements of the issuing agency. These are quite practical and designed to assist the student. For instance the Extension Departments supplying the courses limit the number of courses a student may take at one time. This prevents him or her taking on more work than can be handled.

Cost of Correspondence Courses

1. In the case of school pupils and classroom assistants, the cost of all approved correspondence courses including books is paid by the Department.
2. The Department pays the total cost of correspondence instruction for indigent residents.
3. Adults and out-of-school youth who are residents of the Northwest Territories and who successfully complete an approved correspondence course, have the cost of the course and books paid by the Department.
4. The cost of correspondence courses and books for residents of the Northwest Territories who wish to upgrade themselves academically in preparation for a Vocational program, is borne by the Department.
5. Residents of the Northwest Territories who take approved Vocational correspondence courses which are recommended by their employers have the cost paid by the Department. The same is true of Vocational correspondence courses which are taken in preparation for work on a Departmental project.
6. Residents of the Northwest Territories who are employees of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development normally pay up to 50% of the cost of approved correspondence courses (Section 76:6 Personnel Manual). In the Mackenzie District these people pay the full cost at the time of enrolment and are reimbursed up to 50% if they are successful.
7. The Department pays for correspondence courses and books for residents who are hospitalized or incarcerated.

For several years now, adult applicants for correspondence courses in the Mackenzie District have been required to pay for their own courses provided they are not indigent. When they have successfully completed the course, they are reimbursed the full amount. This has been found to be a satisfactory arrangement as it gets away from the heavy expense involved whereby any one can ask for a correspondence course without any cost whatever where intentions are anything but serious. In the past, before implementation of the present policy, literally hundreds of people applied for correspondence courses but only a small number ever completed them with the result the Department was put to a very heavy expense to no avail.

The present policy works very well and while it does not discourage those who have serious intentions, it does exclude the possibility of abuse, as was the case in the past.

Sources of Correspondence Courses

1. The Alberta Department of Education supplies most of the correspondence courses for the Mackenzie. Three kinds are purchased: elementary, secondary, and vocational.
2. The Manitoba Department of Education supplies the correspondence courses for the Keewatin Region. This year courses are being taken in Language, Literature, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.
3. The Ontario Department of Education supplies correspondence courses for subjects of Grades VII, VIII and IX in the Frobisher Region.
4. Vocational correspondence courses, of necessity, must be obtained from a variety of sources in Canada and the United States.

In connection with the program two items are worthy of consideration:

1. Making sure that the availability and rules concerning correspondence courses are well publicized among the indigenous people of the Northwest Territories.
2. Elimination of the inconsistency created by the stipulation that residents who are employees of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development must pay up to 50% of approved correspondence instruction.

In summary, the overall picture of implementation of the correspondence instruction program is one in which every effort is made to offer maximum opportunity to anyone eligible to receive this instruction and capable of profiting by it. General conditions are specified in order to keep the program effective and useful.