



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
**DEBATES**

**1st Session**

**9th Assembly**

Official Report

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1979**

**Pages 1 to 18**

Speaker The Honourable Robert H. MacQuarrie, M.L.A.

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Mr. Moses Appaqaq, M.L.A.  
Sanikiluaq, N.W.T.  
(Hudson Bay)

Mr. Joe Arlooktoo, M.L.A.  
Lake Harbour, N.W.T.  
(Baffin South)

Mr. James Arreak, M.L.A.  
Clyde River, N.W.T.  
(Baffin Central)

Mr. George Braden, M.L.A.  
Box 583  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
(Yellowknife North)

Mr. Thomas Butters, M.L.A.  
Box 1069  
Inuvik, N.W.T.  
(Inuvik)

Mr. Tagak Curley, M.L.A.  
Rankin Inlet, N.W.T.  
(Keewatin South)

Ms. Nellie Cournoyea, M.L.A.  
Box 1184  
Inuvik, N.W.T.  
(Western Arctic)

Mr. Mark Evaluarjuk, M.L.A.  
Igloodik, N.W.T.  
(Foxe Basin)

Mr. Peter Fraser, M.L.A.  
Box 23  
Norman Wells, N.W.T.  
(Mackenzie Great Bear)

Mr. Arnold J. McCallum, M.L.A.  
Box 454  
Fort Smith, N.W.T.  
(Slave River)

Mr. Bob MacQuarrie, M.L.A.  
Box 2895  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
(Yellowknife Centre)

Mr. Bruce McLaughlin, M.L.A.  
Box 555  
Pine Point, N.W.T.  
(Pine Point)

Mr. Richard Nerysoo, M.L.A.  
Fort McPherson, N.W.T.  
(Mackenzie Delta)

Mr. William Noah, M.L.A.  
Baker Lake, N.W.T.  
(Keewatin South)

Mr. Dennis Patterson, M.L.A.  
Box 262  
Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.  
(Frobisher Bay)

Mr. Ludy Pudluk, M.L.A.  
Box 22  
Resolute Bay, N.W.T.  
(High Arctic)

Mr. Robert Sayine, M.L.A.  
Fort Resolution, N.W.T.  
(Great Slave East)

Mr. Nick Sibbeston, M.L.A.  
Box 560  
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.  
(Mackenzie Liard)

Mrs. Lynda Sorensen M.L.A.  
Box 2348  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
(Yellowknife South)

Mr. Donald Stewart, M.L.A.  
Box 1877  
Hay River, N.W.T.  
(Hay River)

Mr. Kane Tologanak, M.L.A.  
Coppermine, N.W.T.  
(Central Arctic)

Mr. James Wah-Shee, M.L.A.  
Box 471  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
(Rae-Lac La Martre)

### OFFICERS

Clerk  
Mr. W.H. Remnant  
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X0E 1H0

Sergeant-at-Arms  
Major D.A. Sproule C.D. (SL)  
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X0E 1H0

Clerk Assistant  
Mr. Pieter de Vos  
Yellowknife N.W.T. X0E 1H0

Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms  
Captain H.J. Mayne C.D. (Ret'd)  
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X0E 1H0

### LEGAL ADVISOR

Mr. Stien Lal  
Yellowknife, N.W.T. X0E 1H0

TABLE OF CONTENTS

13 November 1979

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	1
Election of Speaker	2
Commissioner's Address	3
Replies to Commissioner's Address	6
Questions and Returns	14
Notices of Motion	15
Orders of the Day	17

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1979

The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories was convened in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, at two-thirty o'clock p.m., on Tuesday, November 13, 1979, for the second session, 1979, this being the first session of the Ninth Assembly.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. MacQuarrie, Mrs. Sorensen, Mr. Braden, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Sibbeston, Mr. Sayine, Mr. Nerysoo, Ms. Cournoyea, Mr. Curley, Mr. Noah, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Arlooktoo, Mr. Arreak, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Appaqaq, Mr. Tologanak, Mr. Fraser, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Stewart, Mr. McCallum

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Let us pray. Almighty God, from Whom cometh all wisdom and power, we, the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories in session assembled, humbly beseech Thy blessing on our deliberations, to the end that, inspired by Thy divine wisdom, and setting aside all prejudices, private interests and partial affections, we may work to the benefit, welfare and happiness of the people, and to Thy glory. Amen.

A PROCLAMATION

TO ALL PEOPLE of the Northwest Territories, GREETINGS.

BY VIRTUE OF the power invested in me, I hereby summon the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories to meet for the transaction of business in the Katamavik Room of the Explorer Hotel, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, at the hour of two-thirty o'clock on the afternoon of Tuesday, the thirteenth of November, 1979.

ALL MEMBERS OF the said Legislative Assembly are required to take notice of this summons and assemble accordingly.

THE PROCLAMATION GIVEN UNDER my hand and the Seal of the Northwest Territories on the twelfth day of October, 1979, in the twenty-eighth year of Her Majesty's reign is hereby revoked.

GIVEN UNDER my hand and Seal of the Northwest Territories at Yellowknife, this second day of November, 1979, in the twenty-eighth year of Her Majesty's reign.

(Signed) John H. Parker, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

Would you please be seated? I have been instructed by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories to inform this Assembly that he is not prepared to address it until the Speaker of this Assembly has been chosen according to law. Is it the wish of this House to proceed at this time with the election of the Speaker?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

ITEM NO. 2: ELECTION OF SPEAKER

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr. McCallum.

Motion 1-79(2): Election Of Speaker

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Clerk:

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for High Arctic, that Mr. Robert H. MacQuarrie of the electoral district of Yellowknife Centre do take the chair in this House as Speaker.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: It has been moved by the Honourable Member for Slave River, seconded by the Honourable Member for High Arctic, that Mr. Robert H. MacQuarrie of the electoral district of Yellowknife Centre do take the chair of this House as Speaker. Are you ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion 1-79(2), Carried

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: All of those in favour of the motion please indicate in the usual manner. Down. The motion is carried.

---Carried

I, therefore, declare Mr. Robert H. MacQuarrie, the Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Speaker of this House.

---Applause

Mr. McCallum, could I call upon the mover and seconder, Mr. Pudluk, to please escort the Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie to the Speaker's chair?

Speaker's Opening Remarks

SPEAKER (Hon. Robert H. MacQuarrie): Before beginning the proceedings of this Assembly, ladies and gentlemen of the Assembly, I would like to acknowledge the very great honour which you have bestowed upon me by choosing me to be your Speaker. I cannot help but be very conscious of the great responsibility that has been laid upon my shoulders, particularly to ensure that the debates of this Assembly are conducted in accordance with the Rules that have been set by this Assembly. I hope to prove worthy of the trust that you have placed in me, recognizing of course that I may not always be competent to do so in a most satisfactory manner, in which case I ask for the indulgence and assistance of this House. I will of course try to measure up to the standards, fairness, sensitivity and patience which was set by my predecessor in this position, Mr. David Searle.

Introduction Of Assembly Officers

On behalf of the Members of this Assembly I would like at this time to claim all the traditional rights and privileges which are reserved to assemblies which follow the Commonwealth parliamentary tradition. At this time I would like to introduce the officers of the Assembly to the Members and to the public. These are the people who will be helping us during our deliberations. First of all the Clerk of the House, Mr. W. H. Remnant. Please stand. Thank you. The Clerk's Assistant, Mr. Pieter de Vos. The Legal Advisor, Mr. Stien Lal. The stenographer, Mrs. Dianne Fleming.

In addition we have Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. David Sproule; Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Harry Mayne and, in addition, especially since my vocation was deemed to be a school teacher and I have been a teacher during all of my adult life, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the youth of the territories by introducing to the Members and to our guests this afternoon the Pages in the Assembly. To my right Derek Elkin, to my left, Claire Rennie. Towards the back of the Assembly on my right side, Angela Remarchuk and on the other side, Melody Henderson. At the table is Laurel Pilling. These are the Pages who are working today and then there are six others who will assist us during other days of this session. Please stand along the wall. Starting from this end, Lona Collins, Christopher Blewett, Laurie Jalbert, Charmaine Mulders, Yasemin Heyck and Scott Mockford.

#### Recognition Of Distinguished Visitors

I would like also at this time, in accordance with my prerogative as Speaker of the Assembly, to take note of distinguished visitors who are with us today in the gallery, particularly and I would ask each of these people to stand so that they can be given a welcome by this Assembly, Mr. Dave Nickerson, Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic.

---Applause

We have also Chief Superintendent Buttler of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

---Applause

And the Chief Territorial Judge, Jim Slaven.

---Applause

Of course I am certain there are many other distinguished people in the gallery and we cannot take note of you each individually. Mr. Clerk, will you please determine whether the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is ready to address this Assembly? I have just learned that the Member of Parliament for Nunatsiak is also here, Mr. Peter Ittinuar, my apologies.

---Applause

#### ITEM NO. 3: COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER PARKER: Please be seated. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, it is an honour and a privilege for me as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories to welcome you to this first session of the Ninth Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

It is of interest to note that this numbering system for assemblies was commenced in 1951 when the first elected members took their places on council beside the appointed members who held the majority. There were three of them at that time: Mr. Merv Hardie of Yellowknife, Mr. James Brodie of Fort Smith and Mr. Frank Carmichael of Aklavik. The number of members and the proportion of elected members have grown over the years, with a wholly elected council of 15 being achieved in 1975 and now a legislature of 22 Members. These last two changes have been particularly significant as they mark the political coming-of-age of the Northwest Territories.

I extend to each of you my congratulations on being elected and my warmest good wishes for success in your endeavours in this legislature. May you also derive great enjoyment from your service here.

You are to be commended for taking part in the political process and for taking a visible and public position on issues in the North, thereby demonstrating your concern and your intention of playing an active role in meeting those concerns.

We are also indebted to those persons who presented themselves as candidates but were defeated at the polls. They too demonstrated their interest and commitment to the territories. The election process depends on candidates coming forward to provide all residents with choices among persons holding various views and convictions. Therefore, both successful and unsuccessful candidates are vital to the health of our political system.

I welcome back eight Members of previous assemblies, two of whom served with distinction as Executive Committee members. Your past experience in government and in the legislative process will be of great value to your colleagues and to the people of the North.

For the remaining 14 Members this session marks a new experience. There will be frustrations during your term of service, but they will be overshadowed by the sense of purpose which you will feel here and by the advances and successes which you will achieve as you work with your colleagues to provide good government for the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to offer you my personal congratulations on your election to the important and time-honoured post of Speaker of the legislature. I pledge my support and that of the administration to you throughout your term of office. The traditions and practices of this Assembly have been developed carefully and tested through usage here and in much older assemblies. It is your responsibility to both guard and enhance those practices.

#### Responsibility Of Executive Committee Members

One of the first tasks of this legislature is the selection of Executive Committee Members, up to seven in number, who will then manage individual departments and accept responsibility for those departments in this House. The acceptance of responsibility by elected Members in this fashion for the actions of the government is one of the foundation stones of responsible government. Executive Committee Members will act collectively to set policies and change or institute programs in response to directions received from the legislature.

The Executive Committee must grapple with the underdeveloped economy of the Northwest Territories and with funding levels for our administration which fall short of the current rate of inflation. The real culprit in our problem with our finances is the rapidly increasing price of oil -- which also results in similar escalation in electrical power costs. This is a problem we share with all other parts of our country.

The tremendous area under our jurisdiction and the cultural diversity of its people call for greater recognition of regional needs and aspirations. I am sure that all Members and in particular the Executive Committee will wish to address this important subject.

#### Responsibility Of Individual Members

Individual Members carry the heavy responsibility of bringing to this Assembly the views and concerns of their constituents and equally important, returning to their constituencies to report on discussions held in the House and actions resulting therefrom.

The powers of this legislature are considerable, whether derived from acts and ordinances or established by custom and precedent. If these powers are exercised wisely and with a good understanding of the workings of our country as a whole, then I am confident that the federal government will transfer to this Legislative Assembly ever increasing powers. These powers, however, must be earned through the demonstrated acceptance of responsibilities and this includes the acceptance of increasing financial responsibilities. Our revenues through various forms of taxation and recoveries must keep pace with our ever rising requirements for program money. Acceptance of this concept is a prerequisite for responsible government.

#### Principal Elements Of Our Political Power Base

I made reference earlier to the territories great physical size and cultural diversity. These are the principal elements of our political power base. Consider these facts:

The majority of our people are of native ancestry;

We span five of Canada's largest provinces and touch British Columbia and Labrador at either end;

The strategic Northwest Passage lies within our territorial waters;

We have mines in production in the Mackenzie and Baffin regions, and possess an important potential for uranium production in the Keewatin;

Oil and huge reserves of natural gas have been found and will be needed in years to come by an energy-hungry world;

We have wilderness areas and water resources which make us the envy of many of the world's countries.

These are the realities on which our political power is based and which someday will be translated into tremendous economic strength.

A further reality which we must recognize is our tiny population when viewed in the context of the rest of our country. We must be careful not to be lured into non-viable political divisions which would weaken our voice and destroy our power. We need each other. Our strength is in unity.

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing this legislature is to build on the solid administrative and legislative base already in place, to modify where necessary and to manage these structures of government so that we can take full advantage of the strengths of which I have spoken.

#### The Role Of Commissioner

My role is to facilitate change, to assist in the process of transfer of power from appointed officials to elected representatives-- in short, to help the people of the territories to achieve responsible government. The pace of change must be compatible with the abilities and aspirations of the majority of our residents. This legislature must lead, but it dare not move too far ahead of its constituents or it will lose their support.

By working together in a spirit of co-operation, we can accomplish our goals. I am confident that the challenge of providing good, solid, yet enlightened government for all territorial residents can be met -- and met in a fashion which will protect and enhance our unique and varied northern lifestyle. I pledge my own efforts and offer the full co-operation of our administration to meet that challenge. Thank you very much.

---Applause



MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. Just before we proceed with our remaining business, and I had meant to do this earlier and forgot it but the Honourable Member from Inuvik, Mr. Butters, contacted me today and expressed his apology for not being able to be here. He had been requested to return to his constituency by constituents and was then unable to get out of Inuvik last night because of planes not flying. He intends to come as quickly as he can. In addition I am sure some visitors in the galleries are wondering as to how long we intend to go on this afternoon. May I say that it will not likely be to 6:00 o'clock, unless some Member decides to upset what we had earlier agreed upon which is of course their prerogative.

What we intended is to stand down a number of items on the agenda to hear two replies to the Commissioner's Address and to receive some questions and some notices of motion. So, I would expect -- unless other business arises -- that the proceedings may go on for another hour to an hour and 15 minutes, something like that. I cannot say for sure but that is what it is likely to be.

Returning to the orders of the day, the next item is Item 4, election of Deputy Speaker and chairman of committees of the whole, and of deputy chairman of committees of the whole, and of course if it is with the agreement of the Members could we stand that item down? Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, notices of motion for first reading of bills. I believe there are no bills to be presented and is it agreed that we stand that item down?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, tabling of documents.

Item 7, replies to Commissioner's Address.

ITEM NO. 7: REPLIES TO COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

I understand the Honourable Member for Mackenzie Liard will introduce the motion of appreciation. Mr. Sibbeston.

Mr. Sibbeston's Reply And Motion Of Appreciation

MR. SIBBESTON: Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to move a motion of appreciation for the opening Address of the Commissioner, John Parker.

(Speaks in Slavey). No translation.

Mr. Speaker, I was just saying that when I was running for this Legislative Assembly and I was going around with people in the communities, I told them that one of the things I would do when I became elected was I would speak in Slavey at the Assembly here and I said this because I think it is important to show and to tell people that where I come from most of the people speak Slavey and the Dene people are well and alive in the Mackenzie and Liard valley. I also said too that people like ourselves who are native or come from native people, sometimes we find it difficult to speak in a situation like this where we are away from our environment in a sense, away from our people, but there are things that have to be said and somehow or other I do believe we do get the strength to say what has to be said. I just wanted to say too that in viewing my speech today you may wonder whether I was representing only the Dene people. I did want to say to you that that is not so. Whereas most of the people who voted for me were Dene, there were many white people who voted for me and I said that I get along well with white people, I married one. My wife is non-native and we get along most of the time. I just wanted to make that clear.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am certainly glad to be back here after having been away for four years. When I was here last there were ten elected members and four appointed and the Commissioner used to sit up there where you are, Mr. Speaker, and watch over us. So, progress has certainly been made. During the past four years I have lived three years in Yellowknife and one year in Fort Simpson. Being away from government and the Legislative Assembly has given me an opportunity to observe things from the outside.

#### The Constituency Of Mackenzie Liard

I would just like to talk briefly about my constituency. The area I represent comprises the southwest part of the Northwest Territories. Fort Simpson is the biggest town in my area and it is where I was born and presently live. Most of the people in my area are Dene people and most of the non-native people live in Fort Simpson and Tungsten. The major economic activity in my area is the construction of the Liard highway from Fort Nelson to Fort Simpson and the native people are involved in this, training and working through the Hire North project. One of the major concerns of my constituents centres around the eventual completion of the Liard highway and the opening of the whole Liard valley. The Liard valley, as some of you may know, is rich in minerals. Already there is a gas pipeline from Pointed Mountain there, it is rich in forests and agricultural lands. It also has the world famous Nahanni National Park.

The concern of the people is that when the highway is completed and the whole Liard valley opens up, that they too want to be involved in any development that occurs. In this regard it has been suggested already by some of the community leaders that a Liard valley authority be established, and this authority would plan, co-ordinate and control any development in the valley with a view to ensuring that native people participate in the development.

Another matter which is of particular concern to people in Fort Simpson and Wrigley is the oil pipeline which Imperial Oil is planning to build or it is suggested it ought to build from Norman Wells to Zama, Alberta. This matter was debated by myself and two other candidates when we were involved in the past Legislative Assembly election and the general consensus is that Imperial Oil can build a pipeline if it can ensure that people in the area, particularly native people, benefit in terms of jobs due to construction and afterward during the maintenance operation. There was also concern that there be some agreement in lieu of there being a future native land claims settlement for the people and the view that has been expressed to me is that if we can get these kinds of concessions we would be agreeable to the pipeline but if not then we would oppose it.

#### The Concern About Alcohol

Another area that is of concern, mostly to the people in Fort Simpson, is mainly that of alcohol. In the last few years there have been approximately 30 people who have died in Simpson alone as a result of the abuse of alcohol. I do believe that the people there are coming face to face with the problem and I think it is a matter of time before there will be a plebiscite and people will then decide whether to restrict or totally prohibit alcohol in the community.

So, while there are a certain amount of problems in my area there is also a lot of hope and I am committed to live in Fort Simpson for the next four years and spend almost full time in helping them in any way I can.

Now, dealing with other territorial-wide issues -- and I do not want to dwell too much on the past -- but I would like to give you my observations of the past few years. In my view the last four years have been traumatic years for the people of the North. During this period we have had the Berger Inquiry and its decision, I believe in 1977. We have had the growth of native organizations and the formulation of their aboriginal rights claims. They have also had a Legislative Assembly for the first time which is fully elected with a majority of native people who tried to legitimize themselves as the only true representative group in the North. More recently we had the Drury commission or the Drury inquiry to determine once and for all who, why and where the government of the North should go.

### In Praise Of The Berger Inquiry

Now, as to the Berger Inquiry, I do not want to revive the debate but I do want to say that in my view Mr. Berger was one of the few white persons who came North and really listened to the people of the North and eventually based his decision on the views of the majority of the people he heard. The test of any man's decision I think is to see the result of the effect of the decision years later and it has been a number of years now since the decision has been made and in my view, in my area anyway, the majority of people, both Dene and white, are happy with Berger's decision. Native people at the time that the question of a massive or giant pipeline was being discussed and proposed were not ready for such a massive project and the present case of development with the construction of the highway is sufficient and people can stand that amount of development, but no more.

Now as to the course of native organizations and formalization of their aboriginal rights claims and settlements, the past few years have been trying I think for all native people and some of the difficulty has been the result of native people themselves and I cite as an example the unfortunate philosophical headquarters fight by the Metis and the Dene. While the people in the communities generally live contentedly together, the headquarters it seems fought and threatened to split people in the communities. Fortunately I do believe that this fight has ended and I understand now that the Metis Association is prepared to permit or allow the Dene Nation to negotiate on their behalf and I as a Metis support this position. After all, any aboriginal rights that people like myself have really derived from our Dene ancestry -- why not let the Dene people or nation see what they can get back from the federal government on our behalf?

### The Eighth Legislative Assembly

Now as to the legislative assembly of the past four years I believe that that assembly will go down in history as the most contrary and misunderstood assembly in the Northwest Territories. Again I do not want to be negative or harp on the past, but I think something must be said. It seems on every major issue during the past few years the legislative assembly went opposite to the people's feelings in the communities. Take the Berger Inquiry, while the people in the communities opposed the pipeline the assembly here in Yellowknife appeared to support it and were often very critical of Mr. Berger. Take constitutional development -- while most of the people in the communities suggested varying forms of native governments, this assembly strove for and pursued further powers to an entrenchment of this non-native government. It follows also the case of COPE, Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, where it seems the workers for COPE and the leaders for COPE out in the field were trying very hard to get an agreement with the government and the representatives in this assembly would invariably raise issues and oppose it.

Another matter is that of game or wildlife. While all the native organizations wrote and attempted to pressure this assembly to not pass the Wildlife Ordinance, this assembly eventually did pass the Wildlife Ordinance.

Further to all of this the legislative assembly, in attempting to legitimize itself, attempted to discredit the native organizations saying that they were the only true representatives of the people and in turn the native people on the past assembly tried to portray themselves as rational native leaders and in doing so tried to portray native people who were working for native organizations as irrational and even radicals. All I can say is if you believe in the democratic process -- many of these past members are no longer with us.

### The Present Legislative Assembly

Having said that, it brings me to this Legislative Assembly. I do believe that this Assembly truly reflects the geographic, cultural and political diversity of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, some of us come to this Assembly as members and supporters of various native groups in the North. I for one support the Dene Nation and many of the principles that it stands for. The fact that we have run for and have become elected to this Assembly really does not necessarily mean that we ascribe to or are now ardent supporters of this government and have turned our backs on the native organizations. No, rather I see our election and involvement in this Assembly and government as a test of this Assembly and a test of this government. I can say without hesitation that whereas the Assembly does represent the people of the North, this government, this Northwest Territories government does not represent at the moment the people of the North. Whereas the majority of the people in the North are native, this government is neither Inuit nor native -- Dene, in its composition.

My own efforts for the next four years will be directed at trying to somehow make changes in the government so that in the four years and in future years people in the communities, the Dene people in my case, can say that yes, this is our government and fully identify with it and I say that any failure to accomplish this will not be our fault. It will rather be the fault of the non-native people who do not wish to make way for native people and I must say though that in the past few days, last week, we have had the opportunity to talk with Mr. Parker, the Commissioner, and I can say that I am satisfied that he is open to change and that I am optimistic that some of the things that I talk about will become possible in the next few years.

### Changes Necessary In the Government

What are some of the changes which will make this government more acceptable to native people? In dealing with this fundamental question I am pleased that a Legislative Assembly committee on unity will be formed within the next few days and many of us who have become elected recognize the political dissension in the North and many of us want to do something about it. When this committee is established, it is proposed that the Members will meet with all the native groups in the North to determine what form of government is most acceptable to them and see in part whether their aspirations can be met within the present territorial government system.

Mr. Speaker, the Dene Nation and the Inuit Tapirisat have already indicated their interest in meeting with the Assembly and have requested that, as an initial sign of good faith, we reject the constitutional development paper put forth by the past assembly and I believe that the majority of Members are prepared to comply with this request and you will likely see a motion either today or in the next few days to that effect.

Dealing with the more immediate changes which can be made to this government, while I was writing and thinking of what I would say today, it occurred to me that I should not say the government should do this or the government should do that. It occurred to me that theoretically we, the Assembly here, should be able to say, "This government will do this -- period. This government will do that" and in saying this the Executive Committee and government administration, if they are responsible and function properly, should carry out what we say. It is also a fact that native people are a majority on this Assembly now and there will be a number of native persons on the Executive Committee so all of this should make it possible for some of the changes which I propose to tell you very soon.

During the next Assembly session I will introduce a motion to instruct the Department of Renewable Resources to initiate a program of training wildlife officers so that at the end of two or three years all wildlife officer positions in the North will be filled with persons of native ancestry. In dealing with Mr. Simmons last week I have already requested him to obtain costs and what would be involved in setting up that program. It seems that of all the areas of government the area of wildlife management is one which is closest to the people and we ought to look seriously at the present program and the duties and qualifications of wildlife officers.

#### Native People In Higher Levels Of Government

Once this program is established I would propose to look at other areas of government; education, local government, the court system, and propose that similar action be taken. I propose to introduce a motion at the next Assembly session dealing with native people already working in this government which will be aimed at getting native people in higher levels of government.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most serious downfalls I think of this government thus far is the failure to attract native people, particularly at the high levels of government and this motion will attempt to deal with that. I propose to also review the Office of Native Employment that has been established to see whether it is effective and, if not, then to propose some other scheme which could be more effective. The idea is to move native people already in government up the ladder faster than what is presently going on.

Another matter which I propose to deal with, although it does not deal directly with government, is that of setting up some kind of a body, call it a task force or a commission, and this would consider and review the names of all government buildings, schools, perhaps even the museum, to see whether northern names and perhaps native names can be given to a lot of these government buildings and this body could also consider changing some of the names of major rivers and any geographic landmarks and in addition -- I just throw this out as a consideration for other Members, that perhaps the time has come in our history to consider a new and original name for the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, although names of things and places may not seem important, it is important because names say an awful lot about the history of an area or country. In the North many of these geographic landmarks, lakes, rivers, have names, or native names and yet these places are invariably given non-native names. This says a lot to show that during the past, and to an extent now, non-native people are dominant and I find it personally repulsive that the biggest river in our area, the Mackenzie River, is named after a person who came into the North years ago and in Slavey we call it Deh cho, and other people along the river have their own names and I think it would be nice and good if some northern, perhaps native name, could be given to a river like that. So, I look forward to these changes in the next few years.

Changes In The Assembly Necessary

Mr. Speaker, the final matter I wish to deal with is that dealing with formality and the practice of this Assembly. I believe it is necessary to make changes even in this House and I think changes could be made which could better reflect native practices and cultures of people of the North. I believe that some of the practices such as the Aide-de-Camp and the Sergeant-at-Arms are not necessary and I feel they do not really have a useful function. All they do in a sense, or to an extent, is create awe and to an extent overwhelm some people. Certainly they do not have any meaning or symbolism for native people of the North. The idea would be to create an Assembly which all people in the North can identify with and feel comfortable in rather than be intimidated or overwhelmed by it.

So, in closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to state again that I come to this Assembly with hope for a better government for the people of the North, particularly the Dene people who are the majority of the people in my constituency. The changes I have suggested perhaps may not seem like a great deal but if they are carried out I think they could add and set a direction which this government can go.

Mr. Speaker, I sense an enthusiasm among the Members, I sense an openness amongst Members and Commissioner Parker and I look forward to the next four years at the end of which we can really feel we have accomplished something.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Before moving along I would remind Members before they speak to tilt their microphones so your words can be picked up fairly easily. I believe the Honourable Member for Keewatin South wishes to second the motion of appreciation on the Commissioner's Address. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley's Reply And Motion Of Appreciation Seconded

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and honour to second this motion that this Assembly express its appreciation to the Commissioner's Address. The Honourable Members who have been elected, even if they are people I have not seen before, to them I give my thanks and especially Mr. Speaker, thank you very much, you have been elected as Speaker for the next four years. I want you to know that my fellow Inuit Members from my district give you and the pupils present, our best wishes for the next four years that you are Speaker. Also allow me to express my sincere appreciation to each and every one of my supporters in Keewatin South who sent me here today to express their views and priorities and to my opponents who will continue to work in equally important responsibilities in public affairs.

As a newcomer coming to this legislature I might be viewed as one, by some Members, who wants to change the amount of work put together by previous legislatures in one day. May I assure you, Mr. Speaker, this is not what I had in mind but rather I will from time to time present this Assembly direct proposals for change that would better reflect the needs of the people in the North, particularly the Eastern Arctic.

I share the Commissioner's concern with the great physical size and cultural diversity of the Northwest Territories. For the first time in history this legislature is now truly represented by all ethnic compositions of the northern population. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I expect you to be given fair and equal representation from all Members of the Assembly.

I would ask you to be reminded of the previous mistakes of other assemblies, but I feel as one who has direct experience as a minority Inuit Canadian, full representation was never given and therefore those people are denied their rights

to participate in the development of the Northwest Territories. Take for example the all important document on constitutional development in the Northwest Territories. In this did the previous legislature formulate the position of the whole Assembly? Now unfortunately we are experiencing a certain amount of distrust in the communities, the native organizations and the government in the part of the land I represent, but I wish to assure the public that they are welcome to present their concerns and positions to the Assembly regardless of differences which we as Members may have with them. So, they too may share like you and me the belief that this is truly the responsible and great institution that we want it to be.

#### Responsible Government

Mr. Speaker, I wish to deal with the subject of responsible government for a moment. Considering the fact that my constituents are in the majority, the Inuit Canadians, the decentralization policies of this government seems to mean control for regional and local government, but often this is a direct conflict with the communities in the Eastern Arctic. We can pick any department -- say the Departments of Renewable Resources or Public Works. The policy of this administration to decentralize, or the policy of devolution, has not been interpreted or understood by local communities and it has not worked. Decentralization of government operation means to take responsibility and management of program areas to local government or local agencies.

You see, Mr. Speaker, unless communities are given power to propose, manage and enforce programs such as economic, local public works or wildlife affairs, we just do not understand what responsible government means. I intend to work during these next four years in respect of local government and to give it major control for all programs, particularly in areas related to public works, economic development and game management and enforcement.

#### Concerning Financial Cutbacks

Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring the matter of recent administration announcements on financial cutbacks to the Commissioner. I hope he will be informed about this. I wish to submit to him that this was an irresponsible act to do so just before the new Executive Committee was chosen by this Assembly. Surely to wait a few weeks longer would not have put this Assembly in such a drastic predicament with its constituents. Once again the main victims of this action are the more unfortunate Members of our work force in the North. Teacher assistants within the Education department seem mostly affected, permanent residents who live in remote communities. It is a shame to have made such a decision during this year being the Year of the Child which completely contradicts the spirit of enthusiasm of the many children in this land and this world.

Other unfortunate victims of this administration's financial cutbacks are the trappers of the Northwest Territories, the small men, particularly the Eastern Arctic, being affected drastically by reducing the only major incentive grant from 15 per cent to five per cent. The administration may very well have a justification for doing so, but the cost of living and rising prices on capital expenditures as well as the cost of trapping equipment has risen ten per cent from last year alone. Even though the cost of furs has risen considerably in the last few years, a trapper in the North is still left far behind when it comes to an equitable cost ratio in terms of his expenses and profits in relation to his total fur harvest. You can be assured, Mr. Commissioner, the effects of your policy will result in significantly reduced incomes for hunters and trappers. Therefore, I assure you that I will seek to modify this policy as soon as time permits.

### Problems In Air Transportation

Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to this Assembly's attention the urgent and pressing problem that the Keewatin region is facing with regard to air transportation. As you know the only major mode of transportation for the public in the North is by means of air carriers. The Keewatin region is faced with the possibility of unfair and unacceptable doubling of the cost of air fares and I believe a 30 per cent increase in freight rates if Transair succeeds in transferring its commercial air services to Calm Air International Limited through the air transport committee some time this year. Representations are being made by major organizations in the region including the Chamber of Commerce Association to intervene in opposition to the transfer of air services to Calm Air International Limited from Transair.

I am informed that the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and the Inuit Development Corporation are jointly in this intervention to oppose this application, which would be extremely prejudicial to the public interest in the region, because the proposed transfer of licence would be a major development in the area and would affect our lives and create unfair increases in fares and freight rates. I intend to introduce a motion to this Assembly opposing the application. Air transportation is a vital link to any development and must be taken seriously by everyone, including this Assembly. To remain silent would be irresponsible neglect of the public who expects the Assembly to protect them.

### Decisions Of Eastern Arctic Members

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned earlier that I would propose direct action that would reflect the needs of the public. I wish to announce to the Assembly and to you, Mr. Commissioner, the decisions made by the Members of the Nunavut region or north of the tree line, concerning the membership of the Executive Committee:

- a) that we will not accept membership within the Executive Committee at this time;
- b) we recommend to the Assembly that it recommend five Members to the Executive Committee at this time;
- c) that two positions be reserved for Ministers without portfolio to be filled later as Members from the Eastern Arctic gain more experience about the role of the Executive Committee Members and about the parliamentary mechanics of this Assembly;
- d) that we have decided and appointed shadow ministers, consisting of six of the Members, for the following departments -- the Department of Education, Economic Development and Tourism, Renewable Resources, Health and Social Services, Local Government and Justice and Public Services.

Mr. Speaker, we wish to assure the Assembly this in no way suggests any attempt to divide or split the House or the Assembly, the caucus will vote as a party but rather it is formed to ensure that the Members of the Executive Committee or the Minister responsible for each department are functioning and forming policies that are in the best interest of the public and to the remote regions.

Mr. Speaker, may I further assure you since the membership of this legislature is now quite a large number with 22, I feel strongly that the accountability to the public must be maximized. To leave the accountability of each department only to the Ministers or the administration would be in fact irresponsible.

A further point that I wish to make at this time is the communication problem that the Members of the Executive Committee will have with the Eastern Arctic. The language barrier will make it difficult for Executive Committee Members of this Assembly to consult or understand at all the remote areas and special needs of our constituents. Therefore the shadow cabinet will ensure that he or she consult, at the earliest opportunity, our views on all policy matters during and between sessions. Executive Members should feel free to consult shadow ministers if they want direction.



Mr. Speaker, I submit that the points I raised will support the desire of Mr. Commissioner and the Assembly, that Members accept direct responsibility and that they will ensure that this administration and the Executive Committee acting on behalf of the people of the North are serving even the remote regions effectively and successfully as a responsible government.

#### The Nunavut Proposal

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to this Assembly the Nunavut proposal of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. Inuit Canadians are known to be friendly and full of pride with respect to their land and resources. Many of you have seen the series of films such as Tuktu or others that depict the nature of Inuit Canadians, their land and resources. The conclusion I normally feel is a sense of pride and vigor, the determination to survive in their land. Mr. Speaker, this is exactly what the term "Nunavut" means to Inuit Canadians.

This Assembly must be forced to face these issues squarely and deal with the proposals which the people from the Eastern Arctic or their organizations put forward. To ask less would only result in a lack of leadership in this Assembly. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that this House take a long look at the Nunavut proposal. Not only should we agree with the proposal but be prepared to deal with the other possible political structures or divisions of the Northwest Territories with a positive attitude.

Mr. Speaker, this Assembly must be assured that Eastern Arctic people strongly support the Nunavut proposal of a new territory being formed which would give them a responsible government. There exists today the sense of isolation with communities, with Yellowknife being the headquarters of the Government of the Northwest Territories. The isolation of many communities may very well show this Assembly the fact that it has no choice but to consider dividing the territories into two with equal status and powers of government.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to debate this possibility and with your approval, Mr. Speaker, I now proclaim the taming of the East and I thank you for your time. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: If there are no other replies at this time we will return to replies tomorrow and move to Item 9 on the orders of the day, questions and returns.

#### ITEM NO. 9: QUESTIONS AND RETURNS

Do any of the Members have written questions that they would like to submit to the administration? Written questions? Mrs. Sorensen.

Question W1-79(2): Contract Violation, Department Of Education

MRS. SORENSEN: I have a written question, Mr. Speaker. I am asking it on behalf of yourself. Is the Department of Education in violation of a signed contract agreement by virtue of its present restraint on the hiring of substitute teachers? If so, how does the administration justify its conduct? If not, what explanation does the administration offer to those who allege a contract violation.

MR. SPEAKER: I am just reminded by the Clerk of the House that during formal proceedings whenever you speak, whether it is to raise a question or notice of motion, that you should stand. That is according to the Rules of the House. Do you have another, Mrs. Sorensen?

MRS. SORENSEN: No.

MR. SPEAKER: If that could be delivered to the Clerk of the House. Are there any other written questions at this time? The Honourable Member from Frobisher Bay.

Question W2-79(2): Northern Police Force

MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, since the motion in the seventh session of council in 1972 asking that the administration prepare a paper outlining ways and means by which a northern constabulary service might be developed in the territories and since the motion of my predecessor in January, 1979, again requesting investigation of the possibility of establishing a northern police force, what progress has the administration made in this direction? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Further questions? We will then move to Item 9, oral questions. Of course there is no government Member in the House at the present time to answer, so we will have to stand that item down.

Item 10, petitions.

Item 11, reports of standing and special committees.

Item 12, notices of motion.

ITEM NO. 12: NOTICES OF MOTION

The Honourable Member from Rae-Lac la Martre.

Notice of Motion 2-79(2): Constitutional Direction For The N.W.T.

MR. WAH-SHEE: Yes Mr. Speaker. I wish to give notice that on Thursday, November 15th, I will move the following motion:

WHEREAS the eighth assembly of the Northwest Territories legislative assembly has prepared a document entitled "The Position Paper on Constitutional Development in the N.W.T." dated March, 1979;

AND WHEREAS this position paper should rightly be considered the constitutional direction for the Northwest Territories proposed by that assembly;

AND WHEREAS Members of the Ninth Assembly have expressed reservations and questions about the position proposed by the previous legislature;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Assembly not be bound by the content or substance outlined in the previous assembly's position paper. Further, this motion recognizes the significance of the North's constitutional development and stresses that the Assembly will in future give due consideration to all proposals for constitutional development, including the one prepared by the eighth assembly.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member from the Mackenzie Delta.

Notice Of Motion 3-79(2): Previous Assembly's Position, Land Claims

MR. NERYSOO: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice on Thursday, November 15th, I will move the following motion:

WHEREAS in October, 1978, the eighth assembly of the Northwest Territories legislature approved four principles concerning the settlement of native claims in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS these principles should correctly be considered as the position of the previous assembly;

AND WHEREAS certain Members of the present Assembly have expressed reservations about the principles and their application in the Northwest Territories legislature and government;

AND WHEREAS it is the intention of this Assembly to develop new principles relative to the settlement of land claims;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that this Assembly not support nor be bound by the principles relating to the settlement of native land claims established by the eighth legislative assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further notices of motion? The Honourable Member from Keewatin South.

Notice Of Motion 4-79(2): Commercial Air Services, Transair Versus Calm Air

MR. CURLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice on Thursday, November 15th, I will move the following motion:

That this Assembly express to the air transport committee its opposition to the application made by Transair Limited to transfer its commercial air services to Calm Air International Limited and that this Assembly encourages other carriers to bid on air services for the Keewatin region if any licence changes are made.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further notices of motion? The Honourable Member from Hay River.

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, is it your desire that the motion be read in its entirety? Do you wish the motion to be read in its entirety or can we just give the intent of the motion?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Stewart, the Rules require you read at least the full text of the resolution portion and the preamble is not necessary.

Notice Of Motion 5-79(2): Financial Assistance For Oil

MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Now therefore, I move that a committee be established at this session to make representation to the Northwest Territories administration and the federal government, presenting relative facts, costs and resulting chaos that will result if immediate financial assistance is not forthcoming to bring these costs of oil in line with the North's capability to pay.

I have another, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed.

Notice Of Motion 6-79(2): Support Of Pipeline, Norman Wells To Southern Canada

MR. STEWART: Again without the "whereas" clauses:

Now therefore, I move that this legislature support the building of a small-diameter pipeline from Norman Wells to southern Canada providing local employment is guaranteed and environmental protection is in place.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there further notices of motion? There being no others we will move along to Item 13, motions, and of course if there is a motion it would require unanimous consent to proceed.

Item 14, introduction of bills for first reading. There are no government bills and I think no Private Member's Bills.

Item 15, second reading of bills. There are none.

Item 16, consideration of business in committee of the whole.

Is it agreeable to the Members that I could shortly recognize the clock?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: First I would like to remind Members there is a caucus meeting at 7:30 tonight in Katamavik Room A. Mr. Clerk, are there any further announcements you are aware of? I would ask the Clerk of the House then to read the orders of the day for tomorrow.

ITEM NO. 17: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Orders of the day, November 14, 1979, 1:00 o'clock p.m., at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Election of Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees of the Whole; and of Deputy Chairman of Committees of the Whole
3. Continuing Replies to Commissioner's Address
4. Oral Questions
5. Questions and Returns
6. Petitions
7. Tabling of Documents
8. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
9. Notices of Motion
10. Motions
11. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
12. Introduction of Bills for First Reading
13. Second Reading of Bills

14. Consideration of Business in Committee of the Whole

15. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Recognizing the clock I will now declare that this House stands adjourned until 1:00 o'clock p.m., November 14, 1979, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

Available from the  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories,  
Yellowknife, N.W.T. at .50¢ per day, \$5.00 per session and \$12.50 per year.  
Published under the Authority of the Commissioner  
of the Northwest Territories