

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

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PROBLEMER DAY CENTRE AWARDED TO EDMONTON FIRMS

OTTAWA - DECEMBER 20/66 - CONSTRUCTION WILL SOON START ON THE PROBLEMER DAY COMPLEX - A MODERN PLANNED TOWN CENTRE WITH BUSINESS, RECREATION AND SHOPPING FACILITIES FOR HEDDER COMPLEX WITH PATIOS AND A SIX-STORY APARTMENT BLOCK.

THE PROPOSAL OF A CONSORTIUM OF EDMONTON FIRMS SOLAR CONSTRUCTION CO LTD., COOPERATIVE HOLD EVERGREEN LTD. AND BATCHELIER HENDERSON HAS BEEN ACCEPTED IT WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY BY NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT MINISTER JEAN CHRETIEN.

MR. CHRETIEN POINTED OUT THAT THE PROBLEMER COMPLEX BRINGS A NEW SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC APPROACH TO NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT. "URBAN MOMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE" MR. CHRETIEN SAID. "WE MAKE SURE THAT APARTMENTS AND TOWN HOUSES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BOTH ESKimos AND NON-Eskimos AT PROBLEMER" "THERE WILL BE NO DISCRIMINATION" MR. CHRETIEN EMPHASIZED "AND THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THE THEATRE, SWIMMING ALLEY, SWIMMING POOL, SAUNA AND TENNIS COURT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL. THE ESKIMO AND NON-Eskimo RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY WILL ALSO HAVE A VOICE IN THEIR MANAGEMENT" THE MINISTER SAID.

IN JUNE THE DEPARTMENT INVITED PROPOSALS FROM PRIVATE ENTERPRISES FOR TWO SITES TO BE DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MASTER PLAN AND TERMS OF REFERENCE PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT. FIVE PROPOSALS WERE RECEIVED.

THE CONSORTIUM WILL BUILD A CIVIC SQUARE COMPLEX (SEE ARTIST'S SKETCH) A SYSTEM OF MODULAR PRE-CAST CONCRETE UNITS DEVELOPED BY BATCHELIER-HENDERSON WILL BE USED FOR THE TOWN CENTRE BUILDINGS. THE ON-SITE MANUFACTURE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE PRE-CAST UNITS WILL PERMIT THE USE OF LOCAL LABOUR FOR ALL PHASES OF CONSTRUCTION AS WELL AS FOR THE LONG-TERM OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE BUILDINGS.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL LEASE THE SITE TO THE DEVELOPERS FOR A 20 YEAR TERM AT THE END OF WHICH THE RENTAL BUILDINGS (APARTMENT BLOCKS, OFFICE AREA AND 120 HOUSING UNITS) REVERT TO THE GOVT FOR 20 YEARS. THE ENTREPRENEURS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATION, LEASING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE BUILDINGS. THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE HOUSING FOR ESKIMOS AND PUBLIC SERVANTS BY LEASING ACCOMMODATION FROM THE ENTREPRENEUR AND SUB-LETTING TO OCCUPANTS THE EQUIVALENT OF A GUARANTEED RENTAL SCHEME. THE VARIOUS GOVT DEPARTMENTS HAVING OFFICES IN PROBLEMER DAY WILL ALSO RENT OFFICE SPACE IN THE COMPLEX.

"WE ARE WILLING TO SHARE THE RISK OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR" MR. CHRETIEN HAS STATED. "THE RESULTS OF SUCH DEVELOPMENTS WILL BENEFIT ALL CANADIANS."

PROBLEMER DAY CENTRE - PROSPECTIVE

THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE PROBLEMER DAY COMPLEX ARE:

- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TOWN CENTRE
- Tying TOGETHER OF EXISTING SCATTERED SETTLEMENTS
- THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FULLY INTEGRATED COMMUNITY
- THE PROVISION OF URGENTLY DEFERRED HOUSING WHICH WOULD BE ALLOCATED ON THE BASIS OF NEEDS
- THE EXTENSION OF WATER AND SEWER SERVICES THROUGH THE COMPLEX TO AN UNSERVICED AREA
- THE ATTRACTION OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT CAPITAL TO THE NORTH
- THE TRANSFER TO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE OF FUNCTIONS NOT NORMALLY A GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY (CATERING AND THE PROVISION OF TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATION)

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM OF BUILDINGS WITH MODULAR PRECAST CONCRETE UNITS ARE:

- LOCAL ROCK CAN BE USED AS AGGREGATE REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF MATERIAL WHICH MUST BE SHIPPED INTO THE SETTLEMENT
- THE MANUFACTURE OF COMPONENTS OVER COVER CAN CONTINUE THROUGH THE WINTER WHEN OUTDOOR CONSTRUCTION IS DIFFICULT
- CONCRETE IS MORE DURABLE AND FIRE-PROOF THAN MATERIALS PREVIOUSLY USED
- THE MODULAR FORM REINFORCES BOTH VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL EXTENSION TO THE BUILDINGS WITHOUT DISRUPTION OF THE GENERAL APPEARANCE

THIS MULTIFLEXIBILITY WAS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN THE SELECTION OF THE SCHEME AND REFLECTS A NEW ATTITUDE TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH. IN THE ENGLAND TWO DECADES A NEW SPIRIT OF NORTHERNER WILL EMERGE. YOUNG, WELL INFORMED EDUCATED AND TOWN ORIENTED.

NEW SOCIAL SYSTEMS WILL BE ESTABLISHED WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE CONSTANT CHANGE AND KEEP PACE WITH THE EVOLUTION OF THE COMMUNITY. SIMILARLY A RIGID TOWN PLAN THAT CONSTRAINS THE INDIVIDUAL MUST GIVE WAY TO CHANGING, FLEXIBLE PLANS THAT CAN ADAPT TO THE PHYSICAL NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND FREE IT FROM THE PROBLEM THAT THREATENED OLDER CITIES: ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, TRAFFIC CONGESTION, NOISE OVERLOADING AND THE APPARENT EVILS OF DISEASE, PETTY CRIME AND VIOLENCE.

THE PROBLEMER TOWN CENTRE FURNISHES THIS NEW PHILOSOPHY FOR THE NORTH.

BUILDINGS CAN EXPAND OR CONTRACT, INWARD OR OUTWARD OR IN LENGTH. THEY CAN BE JOINED OR OVERLAPPED. THE MODULAR FORM ALSO ALLOWS FOR THE DEMOLITION AND REPLACEMENT OF A BUILDING OR PART OF THE BLOCK WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO THE BUILDING AS A WHOLE. SIMILARLY THE INTERIORS OF THE BUILDINGS ARE EQUALLY FLEXIBLE WITH GREATER POSSIBILITIES FOR ADDITION OF SPACE.

IN THE RESIDENTIAL SECTOR OF THE TOWN THE APARTMENTS AND TOWN HOUSES WILL PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF ACCOMMODATION IN CONTRAST TO THE SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING BUILT IN THE PAST. THEY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO BOTH ESKIMO AND NON-Eskimo FAMILIES WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WILL ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ESKIMO AND NON-Eskimo FAMILIES AND RESIDENTS OF PROBLEMER DAY WILL HAVE A VOICE IN THEIR MANAGEMENT.

THE INTRODUCTION OF MULTIFAMILY DWELLING REDUCES SERVICING COSTS PROVIDED FOR A MORE THICKLY POPULATED COMMUNITY AND CONCENTRATED AND THE HIGH DENSITY OF POPULATION NEAR THE TOWN CENTRE.

THIS IS A LARGE-SCALE PROJECT EVEN BY SOUTHERN STANDARDS.

- 26,000 SQUARE FEET OF OFFICES
- 6,000 SQUARE FEET OF PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL SPACE
- 45 MODULAR UNITS WITH RESTAURANT AND LUNCHEONETTE
- 300 SEAT THEATRE, SWIMMING ALLEY, SWIMMING POOL, SAUNA AND TENNIS COURT
- 152 APARTMENT UNITS (50 EACH IN TOWER AND 50 IN BR)
- 70 3 AND 4 BED TOWN HOUSES

THE APARTMENT AND THE TOWN HOUSES WHICH ARE INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN ARE LOCATED ON THE INSIDE OF THE COMPLEX ADJOINING A LARGE CENTRAL PARK WHERE CHILDREN MAY PLAY SAFELY DISTANT FROM THE TRAFFIC ON THE NEW KING ROAD SURROUNDING THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT.

THE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE IS RIGID. MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF THE HOUSES READY FOR OCCUPANCY BY THE END OF 1969 AND THE BALANCE OF THE COMPLEX COMPLETED BY JULY 1971. THE PRINCIPALS OF THE CONSTRUCTION FIRMS ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEY CAN MEET THEIR TARGETS. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE EXPERIENCE GAINED ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE MACKENZIE AND THE HIGH ARCTIC OIVERS THEM EASILY INTO THE PROBLEMS WHICH WILL BE ENCOUNTERED IN PROBLEMER DAY. THEY WILL COUNT ON THE EXPERTISE OF THE ENGINEERING (NORTHERN) DIVISION, TECHNICAL SERVICES BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT WHO ARE OVERSEEING THE PROJECT.

MARCEL VOLZ - DISTRIBUTION OFFICER, DEPT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

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