

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
6TH COUNCIL, 39TH SESSION**

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TABLED ON JUNE 17, 1969

Duncan Pryde
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

TD # 3-39 Box 135, Ft Smith
Tabled on June 17, 1969
June 2/69

Dear Duncan,

Just to let you know that I'll not be able to be at your wedding "The Event of the year" next week. I'll be on my way south to join the Continuing Education Division of the University of Calgary on the 15th of June — so alas, I must send my regrets.

There is just no way that anyone that is community development - Adult Education oriented can survive within this Educational system. The setup is geared to Classrooms, teachers, and curriculum within the school setting. If I kept to nice neat evening programs, everyone would be happy. Unfortunately, I happen to believe that people must be involved in looking at their lives and the forces determining the direction their lives are taking and then structuring themselves to bring about to more equitable conditions. This is what democracy is all about — and I believe its very much a concern of Adult Education. I think the kind of thing we tried to do with Goulton's Manual has real significance, as does Frontier College. Yet these two programs have met with unbelievable resistance. Why was the Goulton's Manual report held up for over two months? It's an excellent report and should have received wide circulation. It's to the Commission's credit that he eventually decided to release the report, much

to the dismay of some Civil Servants within the Educational Dept.

Frontier College is an excellent program, yet the resistance this is receiving is unbelievable. Our two pilot projects in Smith & Resolution did wonders for many of the participants. Frontier College is willing to send teams to 13-14 different settlements ^{in the N.W.T.} and manpower will not only foot the bill, but will pay the students a living wage as well. If 75% of jobs are to go to Northerners we better start with a crash program to upgrade and prepare people for employment. The Vocational Division, in fact, are saying "we must concentrate on the youth, there's nothing that can be done for the older, welfare oriented heads of households". I say crap, ~~we~~ have no right to wipe out a generation, the very generation that are the parents of the youth that the Voc. Ed. Division are so keen on. Just look at the jails, the correctional institutes, the magistrates courts and see what's happening. Pretty sad. But what alternatives have these kids. I talked to a "leading" young Metis the other day, a product of this Educational system. His assessment! "I'm better because I've got more white blood than Treaty Indians". God, here's a young intelligent kid who is a "success" and he's ashamed of being Indian (part).

At a meeting two weeks ago, to discuss the future of Frontier College, the Regional Directors of Education were gathered to evaluate and make judgements on the success/failure of Frontier College. We invited several Indian people (much against the wishes of some of the Gov't people) to sit in. I couldn't believe the naive, uninformed, stupid questions that these top education decision makers were asking. These high paid experts just aren't equipped to cope with the special Educational Needs of Natives. They are nice people, but certainly not knowledgeable about the Indian and Eskimo, yet they are the leaders - the ones who will bring lightness to these shores.

So I'm leaving. Really ^{being} being forced out. Talk to Echo Lidster about the details. I've already gone on far too long. This little note started out as an apology as to why I couldn't be at your wedding. It ended up as a soul bearing session. Feel free to use any of these views as you see fit. Like:

- What special qualifications do the Regional Supt. have to develop policies affecting Indians & Eskimos?
- Why was the Gault, -Mannell report held up?
- Will Frontier College get the go ahead?
- Will Adult Education continue to be under School Supt? (totally ineffective as change oriented programs were hell out of Administration)

May I wish you and Georgina all
the happiness possible and wish you
continued success in your "swinging" efforts
to swing some significant change up here.

yours truly

Tony Karch

P.S. New daughter born yesterday. That makes
the score even, 2 boys, 2 girls. I'm delighted.

JK.