

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

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Tabled on June 19, 1969

June 9, 1969

Mr. S. Hodgson

Commissioner of the N.W.T.

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

BRIEF ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PRESENTED BY THE PARENTS OF
FORT SIMPSON TO THE COMMISSIONER AND COUNCIL OF THE N.W.T.

Being understood that now that the Territorial Government has taken over the Education of pupils in the North West Territories, we, parents of Fort Simpson, wish to express to that Government our confidence and trust and our co-operation with them.

However, we are concerned about the statement made by Mr. Duncan Fryde, two years ago, referring to education. It was an open door to "secularization" - that is, Religion is to be removed from schools; in other words: telling Christ to get out. If the New Government is to endorse such a policy, we regret to say that such a move will show us the true colours of our Government.

We feel that we lived in a Christian Country, and credit is to be given to the Federal Government which made it a historical fact to recognize the religious belief in matters of education.

Then, we strongly request, that the Government of the N.W.T. will respect this tradition and will make a point of honour to cooperate with the parents who are concerned with 'man's whole life'.

That is to say that,

1. Every man has a right to education.
2. A "Christian" worthy of the name is entitled to a "Christian Education" where it can be had.
3. Parents, have a solemn obligation to educate their children, an obligation which involves the Church and the Government, the first primarily for the spiritual and the latter primarily for the material. In this matter, parents are free to follow their conscience; and set up their own school board and receive Government support in doing so. (According to the N.W.T. School Act.)

4. Religious affiliation be considered when placing teachers in our school.

It is in no way our intention to create discrimination or segregation in placing teachers. But we consider that it is only fairness that the Principal and the majority of teachers in any school be of the same faith as the majority of the pupils.

5. We expect the Government and the Churches to combine their efforts to help us parents to reach the goal of a decent life and a happy home.

We parents, too often find ourselves and our children in an unhealthy and morally unsound environment due to the disorder and licence of the present world which reflects in our community.

Science and technology nowadays seem to be the "New religion". New freedoms legislated and new "morals" emerging in the last decade could be a very positive development for man- his choice of his activities, values, etc.. have much fewer restrictions. These freedoms could be good only if man also accepts the responsibility that is associated with his choices.

Many adults find this new freedom perplexing - they accept the freedom but disregard the responsibility. Do not children then need extra guidance in morals, changing social values, and in the handling or coping with a changing world? Anticipated long term results that would arise if present patterns of social change are not improved can only cause grave concern and apprehension. For example, if young girls increasingly bear children out of marriage as is becoming the pattern, what then is the future of society?

Therefore for these many reasons, we as parents and taxpayers feel that religion must be kept in the schools. 'What benefit is it to man if he gains the world (or the moon or the stars) but loses his own soul?'

6. The present arrangement of timetabling religion to the last hour needs to be changed. An average of a half hour daily can be timetabled for religious education and arranged to the mutual convenience of the parents, the community and the school.
7. Finally, the question of religious education can be left as a local option so that each community acting through town councils, hamlet councils, band councils and or local school boards will decide what will be taught and how it will be taught in their schools.

We, the undersigned, are in agreement with
the attached brief:

* W. J. Maxard.	* J. Hardisty
Monard	Mrs J. Hardisty
Bella Trindell	Rose Brauning
D. Campbell	Henry Lafferty
Pat Villeneuve	Cecilia Lafferty
Kenneth Brauneil Trapp	James Lafferty
May Louise Tonka	Margaret Lafferty
Daphne Hardisty	Margaret Jacobson
Marie Hardisty	Margaret Lafferty
Theodore Trindell	Babe Lafferty
George Modest.	Edward Villeneuve
M. Carroll.	Marie Villeneuve
Le. O. O. O.	John Woodall
David P. Nereyana.	Hardisty
Albertine Rodk	Kate Hardisty
Emougiase	William Lunde
Celine Lafferty	S. W. Selvids
Abbie	* X Mrs. L. Villeneuve
Mike Lauthie	* X Mrs. L. Villeneuve
	Mrs. Violet Mahanna
	Sarah Spruwell

Louisa Jones

J. Madras

L.F. Schneider

Adeline Hardisty

Alberta Rivelle

Eva Browning

Selma Torko

Kate Gayer

Kate Liberton

George Pearson

June Mepheron

X Annie Mepheron

Mrs. Lucy Mepheron

Charles Butcher

Blanche Gorman

George Mepheron

occasional

Gilbert Chas

Corinne Grossette

~~Corinne Grossette~~

Mrs. Alphonsine Gayer

Mrs. Margaret Lewis

Mrs. Florence Smith

Mrs. Gabriel Sabourin

Mrs. Bella Sabourin

Mrs. Louise Menard

E. J. Bond

Joseph Demoyou

Margaret X Demoyou

Julie X Demoyou

DEVISE Demoyou

X

Baptiste Demoyou

Henry X Demoyou

Bella X Demoyou

Josephine Gayer

Bernard Michel

David Michel X

Mary Anne Costanzo

Kate Gayer

Margaret Michel

(Mrs) Susan Button

U Button

Chas. B. Gayer

Celine Campbell

Margaret Grossette

Anna Neumier

Valerie Charlebois

Marianne Gray Owen

J. Carroll

Joe Villacorne

Mrs. Elizabeth Heron

Alice Tancle

Alta Greene

Evelyn Antoine

Alvina

Florence Hardisty

John T. Smith

Gabriel Luzon

St. Pauline Trolat

Mary Luzon

St. Lawrence Cote

Emma Wagner s.g.m.

Yvette Nathan s.g.m.

Sarah Peulony

Therese Provost s.g.m.

O. Wateryk

Corinne Brville

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Therese Jettre s.g.m.

X Elisabeth Antoine

St. Bernardine Rousseau

Charles Cholo

M. Claire Hamelin

Fernande Marcenda s.g.m.

Charlotte Williams

Luigi Anna

Christine Horesey

Leif J. A.

Doris Anderson

Margete Hamahan

Judith Pedersen

Albert Horesey

Sten Kingdahl

Maip Lafferty

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Elizabeth Lafferty

B. J. Denton

Agnes Hill

Robert Mungier

Annie X Makemi

Laura Jagan

Elizabeth Michel

John Michel