

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
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GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

28-1-70

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Tabled on

Jan. 29, 1970

While a final decision will not be made to establish the current Experimental Teacher Education Program on a permanent basis until the entire project is reviewed in March at a general evaluation conference to be held in Yellowknife, attended by delegates from the University of Alberta, the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, principals, teachers - including representatives of those who are presently in the Experimental Program, and other members of the Department, we wish to outline in general terms what we presently consider will be the nature of the program if it is decided to enrol a second group of students. In this connection it should be said that there is much evidence available which indicates that the Program has achieved many of its original objectives. Needless to say, another indication of its worth will be the response, in terms of applications, for next year's proposed program. We would ask, therefore, that the contents of this information bulletin be brought to the attention of young people who meet the minimum qualifications and who might be interested in applying.

As a result of a meeting held in Fort Smith in the fall of 1967, chaired by Mr. B. C. Gillie, and attended by representatives from the University of Alberta, the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, and others, it was decided to proceed with an experimental teacher training project which would have as one of its principle objectives the provision of "access and encouragement to young Indian, Eskimo and Metis students of the Northwest Territories to enter the teaching profession". Shortly thereafter information about this proposal was circulated throughout the District. As a result of a recruiting program early in 1968 nearly forty applications were received. Following a review of applications and references, interviews were held with twenty-six candidates, sixteen of whom were ultimately chosen to enter the program which was established under Mr. A. J. Dyer's direction in an annex of Sir John Franklin School, Yellowknife. The students, who lived in private homes, followed a syllabus which included practice teaching,

methodology sessions in mathematics and communication arts, as well as senior matriculation subjects. One student left the course in mid-year; the others, having completed the first phase of the program, proceeded to the University of Alberta where they attended lectures in Biology, Anthropology, and method courses in Social Studies and Science. Two students did not meet the standards of the initial phases; the other thirteen were granted a Northwest Territories Provisional Teaching Diploma and were assigned to regular classrooms in Territorial schools in the Mackenzie District. At time of writing eleven students from the original group are continuing in their classroom assignments; some of whom may elect to sit special oral examinations in native languages for matriculation credit in the spring of 1970. At the end of the present school year, those wishing to continue will have the opportunity to enter the third phase of the program which involves further academic and professional courses to be given at the University of Alberta during the summer of 1970. Further phases of the program give them the option either to return to teaching in the Territories and continue their training by summer sessions or to enrol in full-time university programs.

Those students in the program presently in charge of classes in the Territories are listed below along with their school and grade assignments:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Sept. 30/69 Grade & Enrolment</u>	
Miss L. Burrows	Cambridge Bay Terr. Cambridge Bay	I	- 26
Miss A. Decoine	Kugluktuk Terr. School, Coppermine	I	- 23
Mr. W. Tripe de Roche	Rae Territorial School Fort Rae	IV	- 22
Miss C. Kenny	Rae Territorial School Fort Rae	I	- 20
Miss S. Charlie	Tuktoyaktuk Terr. School Tuktoyaktuk	III-IV	- 23
Mr. R. Overvold	Sir Alexander Mackenzie Terr. School, Inuvik	IV-V	- 18
Mr. P. Silastiuk	Moose Kerr Terr. School Aklavik	IV-V	- 22
Miss M. Nahanni	Elizabeth Ward Terr. Sch. Fort Providence	B.E.-I	- 24
Miss M. McDonald	Peter Pond Terr. School Fort Resolution	V	- 16
Miss M. Sabourin	Peter Pond Terr. School Fort Resolution	III	- 25
Miss M.A. McLeod	Princess Alexandra Terr. School, Hay River	II	- 29

An abridged as well as a more current version of the original proposal for the Experimental Teacher Education Program is given below as a guide to those students applying for next year's program. It should be noted that the conclusions of the evaluation conference scheduled for March may modify or expand the material in the sections.

General Objectives

1. To continue to provide access and encouragement to young Indian, Eskimo and Metis students of the Northwest Territories to enter the teaching profession.
2. To demonstrate to young students of Indian, Eskimo or Metis background that they can perform effectively in the teaching profession and thus encourage greater numbers to enter teaching.
3. To demonstrate to all indigenous people that "education" is not the sole prerogative of the white man - that it is not something which must be brought to them from another world which is closed to them.
4. To capitalize on the cultural and linguistic affinity these young people will have for students from a similar background.
5. To continue to provide a "pool" of northern teachers in order to overcome the growing criticism that our system constitutes a "parasitic growth" on the already inadequate supply of teachers trained in the south for southern schools.

Specific Objectives

1. To select and train a second group of twelve students for teaching in the Territories, so as to provide a more gradual and hence easier transition from student to teacher than that offered by the normal procedures and programmes.
2. To have this group composed of students with apparent aptitude for and a keen desire to assume the teaching role, but who appear unlikely to achieve this because the normal pace is likely to be too great an obstacle.
3. After training, to provide them with access to the teaching staff of the district on a provisional or temporary basis,

in selected classrooms where they would act either as teachers or teacher interns.

4. To require such students to continue their studies during the summer vacations so that they will eventually reach the status and certification of fully qualified teachers within a stipulated but reasonable length of time.
5. To continue an evaluation of the effectiveness of the members of this program as they work in the classrooms so that further criteria can be established to guide the future development of the project.

Selection of Students

1. Maximum of twelve to be included.
2. Selection to be made by consultation between students, parents, counsellors, teachers, principals, and superintendents, using the following as a guide:
 - (a) Demonstrated interest in and aptitude for teaching.
 - (b) Completion of Grade XI by students on the Senior Matriculation programme.

N.B. - Students who show quite definitely they are capable of completing their work by the "normal" pattern should not be selected for this course.
 - (c) Students of Indian, Eskimo or Metis background should be given preference in the selection process.
 - (d) Competency in English.

The Programme - (First and Second Phase)

Academic - Social Studies 30 and English 30

- N.B. Under new regulations instituted by the Alberta Department of Education in co-operation with the University of Alberta, it is possible to substitute courses of a somewhat different content in place of the regular "30" courses. In this way material more

directly applicable to the programme in northern schools could be introduced for the student teachers. One example at course adjustment is the provision of matriculation credit for an Athabaskan language or Eskimo.

These courses would be taught on the semester basis so that students might be free from the school timetable for extended periods of practice teaching.

Professional

Courses designed to develop essential concepts and skills in:

- (a) Language Arts, including English as a Second Language
- (b) Elementary Mathematics
- (c) Elementary Science
- (d) Elementary Social Studies
- (e) Principles of Teaching

It should be noted that students will probably be expected to attend the University of Alberta during the summer of 1970.

Practice Teaching

The entire period of training would see time spent in demonstration and practice classrooms in the Elementary Schools of Yellowknife or Fort Smith, as well as some other Territorial Schools. This part of the programme would be worked out between the "Teacher Education Staff" and the principals and teachers of the elementary schools concerned and would be supervised by both.

Social and Cultural Development

Students in the programme would be provided with opportunities to visit and observe social and cultural environments different from their own by planned and supervised trips to contrasting communities and to the southern centres of Canada, such as Edmonton. It is also planned to have these students live under conditions providing greater freedom and requiring

more personal responsibility than that usually provided for Senior High School students.

Location of Course

The course will be given in Yellowknife.

Course Standards to be Achieved

To be successful in this training programme students are required to:

- (a) Secure a passing grade in the English and Social Studies "30" courses on the Alberta Departmental Examinations or approved substitute courses.
- (b) Perform at an acceptable level in all phases of the professional programme throughout the training period, as judged by the faculty teaching the group. Those who show consistent inability to reach such standards would be advised to change to some other programme if something suitable could be found, or would not be awarded a Provisional Teaching Diploma at the termination of the course.
- (c) The practice teaching performance of these students will be carefully appraised as the course proceeds and a clear demonstration of good teaching potential as agreed upon by the co-operating teachers and course faculty, will be required for those to be granted diplomas.

Staff

The programme will be under the general direction and supervision of Mr. A. J. Dyer.

Diploma for Successful Students

Students who complete the course with acceptable standards will be awarded a N.W.T. Provisional Teacher's Diploma, valid for not more than five years and entitling the teacher to accept a position in the schools of the Northwest Territories. They would be rated as having Junior Matriculation plus one year training and would be paid according to the category so stipulated on the current teacher's salary scale.

Appointment of graduates to teaching positions

The successful students who graduate from this programme would be appointed to regular teaching positions in medium sized or larger schools of the district in elementary, where they would be under the supervision of competent and experienced principals and receive the assistance of experienced and capable teachers. Care would be taken to assure their placement in locations where their cultural, and if possible, linguistic advantages may be best applied.

In-service Training

During the first year that these students are in regular classrooms provision would be made for them to receive special guidance and assistance by teacher consultants, superintendents and other available competent staff members, so that their work will be subject to careful and continuing support. This is especially important as a means of preventing them from slipping into bad teaching habits which would soon prove to be a serious obstacle to their success as professional teachers. Seminars and work shops for these "provisional teachers" would be held during their first teaching year, to provide them with opportunities to discuss their difficulties and strengthen their professional competence.

Continuing Education for Holders of Provisional Teachers Diplomas

1. The course records of each student participating in this programme are reviewed with Alberta Department of Education officials and the staff of the Educational Faculty at the University of Alberta in Edmonton before permitting his or her entry to the programme. This review is to establish beyond reasonable doubt that it would be possible for the student to continue his University Education and that he or she would not be confronted with some academic barrier at a later date.
2. During the five year life of their Provisional Diploma these teachers are required to complete their Senior Matriculation plus one year professional training. This would be the equivalent of the Junior E certificate still held by many Alberta teachers. Their diploma could then be extended for a period sufficient to enable them to continue to teach and further their university training to the point where they could qualify for the Alberta Standard E Certificate.

3. Many of the "100" courses provided at the university would be suitable for completion of Senior Matriculation. This would provide students with the requirements for entry to the regular university programme and could be taken at the summer session. It would be necessary for students on this programme to attend summer session three of the first four summers after receiving their N.W.T. Provisional Teachers' Diploma in order to complete the requirements for up-grading within the five year life of this Diploma.
4. Upon completion of their Senior Matriculation standing students then proceed to take the necessary courses for the additional professional training needed to meet Alberta Standard E Certification. Arrangements have been made with the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta whereby some of the professional work done by these students in obtaining their diplomas counts toward their professional requirement on the regular teacher education programme.

Financial Assistance

Such financial assistance as may be necessary is provided each student. All costs, of course, fees, accommodation and travel, are paid for by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Applications

Application forms may be obtained from Territorial High School Counsellors, the Supervisor of Continuing and Special Education at each Regional headquarters, or from Mr. R. J. Carney, Chief of School Programs, Department of Education, Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife. Completed applications should be submitted no later than March 15th, 1970.