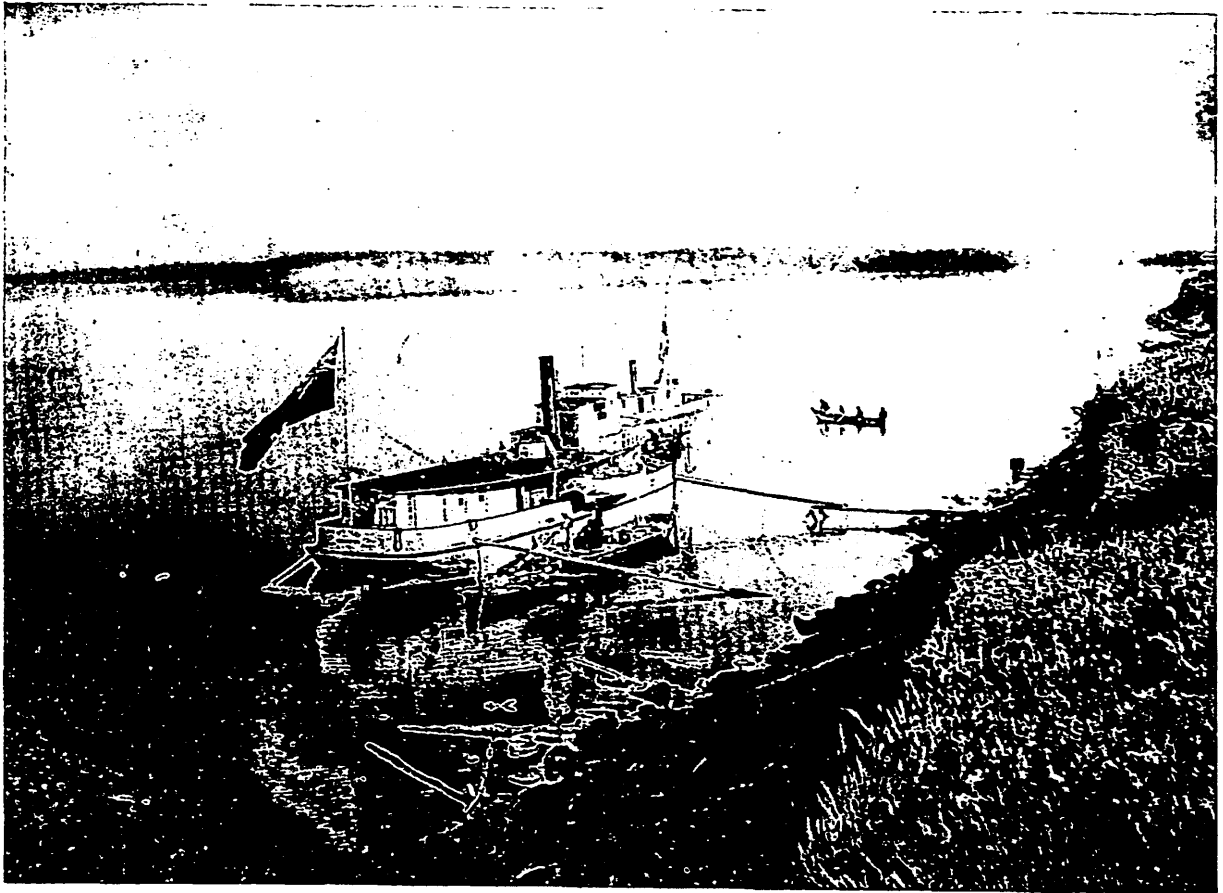


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
7TH COUNCIL, 44TH SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 6-44

TABLED ON FEBRUARY 1, 1971



Seventy years ago, the Hudson's Bay Co. steamer "Wrigley" stops at Fort Simpson at the junction of the Mackenzie and Liard Rivers to drop supplies to northerners who have never dreamed of hovercraft or jet planes.



an address by the Commissioner of the
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
Stuart M. Hodgson
at the opening of
THE FORTY-FOURTH SESSION OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
being
THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SEVENTH COUNCIL
OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

YELLOWKNIFE

Monday, February first 1971

It is my privilege to extend to each of you, warmest and most sincere greetings on this, the first day of the Forty-fourth Session of the Council of the Northwest Territories. It is a particular pleasure for me to welcome those Members of the Seventh Council of the Northwest Territories who take their seats for the first time, following the December twenty-first Territorial election. To those members who come to us by appointment of the Governor in Council, we are deeply honoured that the wealth of your knowledge and the depth of your integrity has been extended to us to assist in the wise government of these Territories. To those former Council Members who have returned for a further term of office, I trust the experience gained in past Sessions of Council will be shared by you among your new colleagues to the end that all of us may carry out those duties allotted to us in a way that causes this Council to be considered worthy of the people whom we represent.

As most of you will know, in June 1970, the Parliament of Canada passed amendments to the Northwest Territories Act which allowed the number of elected members to Council to be increased from seven to ten, and the number of appointed members reduced from five to four, and an amendment permitted Council to lower the voting age to nineteen years. In effect, the amendments mean that more people had

a say in who should represent them in Council, and more Council Members who are directly responsible to the people have the opportunity to express and uphold the wishes of their constituents at Council Sessions.

For Northerners from Frobisher Bay to Inuvik, from Fort Smith to the Lincoln Sea, the year 1970 has been a memorable one. It was a year in which Northerners participated in, and contributed to, the celebration of our Centennial. It was a year which saw the transfer of administrative responsibility for the eastern Arctic from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in Ottawa to the Government of the Northwest Territories. It was a year when the whole world seems to have followed the example of Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family, their Excellencies Governor General Michener and Mrs. Michener, and Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, to honour us with their presence. It was a year of consolidation and organizational refinement within the administrative framework of Government. A year we can look back upon with a very real sense of accomplishment and pride. But in doing so, we cannot afford to become complacent about our achievements, nor can we slacken our efforts to bring about social and economic improvement for all our people.

I would like for a moment to quote the words of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Jean Chretien, at a special Session of the Council

of the Northwest Territories in Yellowknife, in November 1969: "When the task of establishing the Territorial Public Service is accomplished, and when Local Government will have developed further in the Northwest Territories -- and I am hopeful on the basis of initial progress that this will occur before the passing of too many more years -- we should be able to move toward a further extension of Territorial Government and Executive responsibility and control."

The Minister's words indicate that it is the intention of the Government of Canada to extend to the Northwest Territories those responsibilities it proves itself capable of handling.

If it seems to some that the Federal Government's approach is overly cautious, it is well to remember that the transfer of responsibility for our administration from Federal to Territorial jurisdiction has been described as the "most massive" transfer of administrative functions ever to take place in Canada in so short a time.

Since the arrival in Yellowknife on September 18, 1967, of the nucleus of what is now the Public Service of the Government of the Northwest Territories, four titanic administrative tasks have been faced. The first was the setting up of a Territorial Public Service, capable of carrying out the second and third

tasks -- those of accepting from the Federal Government the responsibility for the operation of provincial-type programs and services formerly provided from Ottawa, and then putting them into operation in the Mackenzie District by January 1, 1969.

It was to a large degree dependent upon the success the Northwest Territories Government displayed in carrying out the administration of the Mackenzie, that decision was made to extend to us our fourth major task -- responsibility for the government of the Central and Eastern Arctic.

Obviously, we were able to prove that we were capable of handling the responsibilities handed to us, and in November 1969 the Honourable Mr. Chretien announced that partition of the Northwest Territories, or turning any part of them over to the adjacent provinces, would not take place.

The Government of the Northwest Territories, following guidelines laid down in a preconceived plan for the transfer of administration of the Baffin and Keewatin Regions, assumed full responsibility for the government of the entire Northwest Territories on April 1, 1970.

And while the Territorial Public Service went about the business of organizing itself in such a way that assured the effective administration of the largest

single jurisdiction on the North American continent, the Minister's second proviso to eventual increased Territorial autonomy -- the development of Local Government -- has not been ignored.

Just as the Federal Government displayed a desire to bring government in the Territories closer to the people it served by establishing the seat of administration in Yellowknife, so in its turn, the Territorial Government has set about the decentralization of administration at headquarters by increasing authority in the four Regions. On September 1, 1970, recommendations of an internal committee on Territorial Government organization were approved by the Executive, and changes were brought about which will further decentralize authority -- this time from the regional level right down to the local level.

Changes see the title of Territorial field officers altered from Area Administrator to Settlement Manager. A Settlement Manager, the chief administrative officer to an elected Council, will replace Territorial Government Area Administrators as the process of local government evolves. This has already taken place in communities in the Mackenzie, and with the rapid advancement of educational and sociological aspects in the Keewatin and Baffin Regions, emphasis this year will be placed upon bringing this about there.

The re-organization also brought about the establishment of area service offices at key communications and transportation centers within the regions. Such offices are already in operation at Cambridge Bay, Yellowknife and Fort Simpson in the Fort Smith Region. Other area service offices will be set up in the future.

Other major steps in the process of decentralization saw the transfer of control of funds allocated for community local government programs to Settlement Councils, and a concerted effort to increase the use of private services in support of Territorial Government programs.

Efforts toward decentralization are geared to the rapid rate of development of local government. The year-end reports, which appear in detail in the Annual Report, reveal a year of marked progress, a year which can be counted as a fitting start to the Northwest Territories Century Two, and a further step toward ultimate Territorial Government and Executive responsibility and control.

Although a variety of studies having bearing upon northern problems were carried out last year, transportation and communication remain the most vital elements in the efficient administration of government in the North. Because of this, both these areas remain the source of continuous study.

Nineteen seventy saw an independent in-depth study into the pros and cons of construction of a bridge across the Mackenzie River at Fort Providence. The result of study indicated that construction of a bridge would result in direct savings amounting to \$400,000 a year -- at the present level of economy -- and would serve to stimulate economic growth to the extent that savings could conceivably reach three-quarters of a million dollars a year within a few years time.

In the early part of the year, extensive trials and experiments into the use of jet aircraft transportation in the Arctic were carried out. From a technical, operational and economic point of view, tests proved quite successful. From the point of view of the administration, they served to point up that the provision of fast, point-to-point aircraft transportation over long distances is not only desirable but necessary.

As a result of the experiments, the Territorial Government has entered into a six-month contract which will bring about jet air transportation between the Mackenzie, Keewatin and Baffin Regions.

In addition to transportation and communications studies carried out internally, the Territorial Government played a major role in instigating two national conferences on the subjects. As a result

of the communications conference, combined with private meetings between the Territorial Government Executive, federal department communications specialist and the common carriers, notable improvements have been made, and will continue to be made, to the provision of telephone, radio and telex communication in the North. In the Keewatin, where radio reception ranges from non-existent to sporadic, efforts are being made to bring about more satisfactory service.

The Arctic Transportation Conference held particular promise for improved service in the North. At the end of the conference, Transport Minister Jamieson announced that his department would set up a special Arctic Transportation Agency, guided by goals set at the Arctic Transportation Conference. Mr. Jamieson said that the Agency would be situated in the North, and would be staffed by persons with knowledge of, and experience in, the North.

As I mentioned earlier, the Government of the Northwest Territories considers transportation and communications just about the most vital elements to efficient administration in the North. Both these areas have received extensive attention in the past, but mostly on the basis of immediate need or imminent crisis. While this has served as a stop-gap measure, it is evident that the time has come when the whole problem posed by inefficient or ineffectual

communications and outmoded or 'traditional' transportation has to be dealt with in an educated and on-going manner.

To bring this about, I would like to announce the formation within the present government structure, of a special projects group which will be charged with pinpointing transportation and communications problems and finding solutions to them.

The group is not a large one. Headed by former northern newspaper publisher and Centennial General Manager Jim Whelly, two transportation and communications experts will operate under the direction of the Executive.

Another area which has received a great deal of deserved attention is the employment of native northerners in business, industry and commerce in the North. While rapidly improving academic, technical, vocational and occupational education is producing ever-increasing numbers of native graduates, the provision of suitable jobs in sufficient numbers remains a problem.

Oil and mineral exploration and development companies in the high Arctic and Mackenzie River valley are making increased efforts to train native northerners for the anticipated activity boom which everyone is convinced is coming. This happy situation is not as

apparent in the eastern Arctic, where exploration crews continue to bring southern-hired labour -- sometimes unskilled -- into areas where local residents could better do the job.

But it is not just "outside" interests that are a little apathetic toward the Advisory Committee on Northern Development's target, which would see the employment of seventy-five per cent northern residents in northern jobs by 1977. Both Governments -- Federal and Territorial -- could do better.

Territorially, an internal committee was set up to look into increasing the employment ratio of native northerners in all departments of Territorial Government.

In keeping with this Government's conviction that those who are charged with responsibility for making rules and laws for people to live by should be thoroughly aware of how their decisions will affect all the people, it has been a practice of this Council to hold at least one of its Sessions in centres other than Yellowknife.

The flurry of activity brought about by Centennial Year put a tremendous strain upon the physical facilities of most communities, and upon time of all who were involved in it. Because of this, all

three Sessions of Council during 1970 took place in the Yellowknife capital.

Sessions were held in January, June and July, and it was July twenty-fourth that the Sixth Council of the Northwest Territories was prorogued for the final time. On August third, the Sixth Council was dissolved to allow for a Territorial election in late December.

During the three Sessions, thirty-one Bills were prepared and presented to Council. Many of them were designed -- by amending and updating current legislation -- to improve the efficiency of the administration of Government. Others directly reflected Council's concern with the well-being of the Territories and the people who live here.

One of the most important pieces of Legislation passed during the year was the Medicare Ordinance, which authorized a plan for the purpose of providing needed medical care to residents of the Territories. As a result of this Legislation, a Territories-wide Medical Care Plan will come into effect April first.

In late November 1969, Justice Minister John Turner announced the Federal Government's decision to transfer certain matters relating to the

administration of justice from the Government of Canada to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

During the past year, preparation was made for the transfer of the Territorial Court staff and the Magistrate's Court, and for assumption of responsibility by the Northwest Territories for Justices of the Peace. This made necessary the passage of several new Ordinances, together with an amendment to the Northwest Territories Act.

In addition, the Department of Legal Affairs was reorganized to include in its establishment twelve Federal employees who previously administered the Territorial and Magistrate's Courts in the Territories.

In the year ahead, it is intended to involve the people of the Northwest Territories in the administration of justice at the local level through our Justice of the Peace and Legal Aid programs. The intention is to give local, non-professional people sufficient training and direction to enable them to hold positions and assist in the administration of these programs, thus enhancing the social-legal development of Territorial settlements while improving the administration of justice at the local level.

While the Government's medium for recounting in full the activities of administrative government is its annual report, it has been custom for me in my annual address to Council to dwell to some degree upon the progress of administrative government, as well as outlining major administrative plans for the coming year. This is particularly true of those areas of the administration that have responsibility for functions which affect people -- areas such as education, welfare and the development of industry and local government.

Our Department of Industry and Development has completed the first full year during which it had responsibility for the entire Northwest Territories. The advances that have been made in terms of immediate development and long-range planning are significant.

The new-found interest the North has fallen heir to has brought about a fresh prosperity to our arts and crafts industry. Handicrafts continue to be one of the major sources of income for many northerners. Handicraft centers were opened at Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson, Yellowknife Indian Village and Spence Bay. Canadian Arctic Producers, the southern marketing agency for Territorial arts and crafts producers, was financed during the year and an improved system of marketing is being developed.

This year, a major effort will be made to improve the viability and productivity of the Indian handicraft industry.

Co-operative associations were incorporated at Coral Harbour and Spence Bay last year. There are now twenty-seven co-operatives and two credit unions in the Northwest Territories, with a membership which totals more than one thousand and a gross income in excess of two million dollars. At the next Session, Legislation will be introduced for your consideration which would bring about the creation of a Territorial Co-operative Federation. This is the next logical step in the development of our co-operatives, which are proving to be such an important economic and social aspect in the lives of native people.

The Territorial commercial fishing industry has enjoyed another year of growth. During 1970, the total value of the landed catch reached one-and-a-half million dollars -- up forty-two per cent over the previous year. As well as the main commercial fishery operated on Great Slave Lake, other commercial ventures were carried out at Lac La Martre, Cambridge Bay, and three lakes in the Keewatin. A fish handling plant was built at Cambridge Bay, and a modern packaging plant is under construction at Hay River. Since the establishment of the Territorial Fishermen's Loan Fund in 1969, loans totalling \$188,600 have been made to

sixty-seven fisherman operating in the Great Slave Lake area. This program is to be extended to other areas where commercial fishing is practical.

Forestry production also rose substantially, reaching five million board feet. This trend is expected to continue, and it is hoped the year ahead will see the start of a Territories-based prefabricated housing industry. The Northwest Territories Grade Stamping Agency, which was set up in 1969, has been accepted as a member of the Canadian Lumber Standards Industry Committee. Five mills in the Territories are now producing graded lumber acceptable for all Federal and Territorial construction projects.

In 1971, administration of the Northwest Territories portion of the Eskimo Loan Fund will be taken over from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Transfer of the Indian Economic Development Fund to Territorial control is also being sought.

Two industrial projects were initiated in the Eastern Arctic during 1970, and both are progressing well. A knitting plant was established at Frobisher Bay and a small weaving industry at Pangnirtung. At Fort Providence, fiberglass water tanks for the Territorial housing programs were produced for the first time in the Northwest Territories. Results were good and production will continue.

Programs for non-resident hunting of buffalo and sports hunting of polar bear, as approved by Council, were initiated during the past year.

Buffalo sports hunting, controlled by an outfitter from the Fort Smith area, was extremely successful. The program will be continued in 1971. Sports hunting of polar bear took place on a small scale at Sachs Harbour and Resolute Bay, with the respective Community Associations acting as outfitters. It is planned to conduct similar hunts in the same two settlements for one more year, before considering any expansion of this program.

While much of the success of the 1970 tourist year can be attributed directly to the effectiveness of the Territorial Centennial program, there is also strong indication of the increasing public awareness of the Northwest Territories as a travel destination.

During the year, the number of visitors here rose to eighteen thousand -- double that of 1966. Direct visitor inquiries to TravelArctic increased by 118 per cent over last year, and the number of inquiries at travel shows doubled.

The year saw the opening of three new camp-grounds -- at Fort Providence, Fort Smith and the border entry point at 60th Parallel.

Construction commenced on campgrounds at Yellowknife and at Fort Simpson. Surveys for potential campsites along the Northwest Territories highway system will continue in the months ahead in anticipation of the ever-increasing flow of tourist traffic.

Expansion of the private sector of the tourist industry continued at a steady pace last year, with the instigation of a grants program designed to promote tourism at the community level. In addition to this, grants are now available to aid in the construction of visitor accommodations in northern native communities.

One of the most popular forms of vacation travel in the South these days is the package tour, and it seems its success is spreading north. During 1970, some twelve hundred people visited the Northwest Territories as part of well-promoted package plans.

Four of the largest tour operators in the world have indicated they are interested in operating into the Northwest Territories. It is significant to note that the enthusiasm and enterprise expressed by tourist entrepreneurs to the South is shared by some of our own businessmen.

I am thinking in terms of a recent announcement to the effect that this summer should see the operation of tourist cruises along the length of the Mackenzie, and perhaps, the instigation of what "Time" Magazine described last month as "the most exotic trip available until there are twenty-one day excursions to the Moon" -- flights by Twin-Otter to and from the North Pole.

Of significance to trappers is the Fur Marketing Service, which is now operating in most of our communities. The Service makes advance payments to trappers wishing to send their product to southern fur auctions. A system of repayable loans to trappers is being continued to enable them to purchase adequate supplies and equipment at the beginning of the season.

During the year, the Department of Industry instigated or enlarged upon training programs which are designed to enhance our game management and guide programs.

The first phase of a three-year Game Management Officer apprenticeship program was initiated, and elementary courses in guide training were held. Training courses were carried out at Coppermine,

Fort Franklin, Aklavik and Fort Simpson. Further courses are scheduled for communities in Baffin and the Keewatin.

In recognition of the importance assigned by Council to the wise utilization of our wildlife resources, I am pleased to report that funds have been provided in the Estimates for a new program of hunters' assistance. If approved, financial and physical assistance will be made available for organized hunts by groups hunting on behalf of their settlements.

The evolution of local government in the Northwest Territories was appropriately marked on the first day of our Centennial year. At that time, Yellowknife became the first city, Inuvik became Canada's most northerly town and Tuktoyaktuk was incorporated as the first hamlet north of the Arctic Circle.

And throughout the entire year, our Department of Local Government concentrated its efforts upon developing the type of local autonomy which should eventually lead to full autonomy for the Northwest Territories.

Although our endeavors toward local autonomy are more advanced in the Mackenzie than they are in the Keewatin and Baffin Regions, these areas have not been neglected. As a matter of fact, major efforts have been made to encourage local government in the

Eastern Arctic, and the number of Territorial Government employees performing Municipal services in Baffin and the Keewatin has dropped considerably as we pursue our program of turning over these services to local people, co-operatives and private companies. In the Mackenzie area, seventeen communities have already contracted with local people to provide municipal services.

In the year ahead, Local Government's development division forecast a marked increase in the number of Settlement Councils that will be set up. They forecast too, a marked increase in the number of Settlement Councils which will incorporate as hamlets. Mechanics which will allow hamlet status at Frobisher Bay and Fort Rae are already in process.

Major construction carried out in the settlements by the development division last year saw completion of the airstrip at Pelly Bay to the extent that it is now capable of handling Hercules aircraft. Road construction was carried out in fifteen communities; water and sanitation improvements took place in sixteen and fire prevention installations took place in ten. Upgrading of this type occupies an important place in this Year's development program.

An idea of the rapid growth that is taking place in some communities in the north can be gauged from the fact that assessment values in the municipalities has

risen from twenty-eight million dollars in 1967 to almost forty million dollars last year. This has brought about a heavy demand for services. The municipal affairs division of the Department of Local Government made just over one million dollars in repayable debenture loans available to the municipalities during 1970. The loan money was used to finance capital projects such as sidewalk construction, water and sewage extensions, street lighting, fire fighting equipment and the like.

Last year, the Territorial Government assumed Administrative responsibility for the Northern Rental Housing Program in the eastern Arctic. At the end of December, we had responsibility for 2085 units under this program. Under the Territorial Rental Housing Program, 106 units have been constructed in the Mackenzie since the program went into operation in 1969.

Construction under the National Housing Act Public Housing program was heavy last year, with work concentrated in Hay River, Inuvik, Yellowknife and Pine Point. In addition to this, a seventeen-unit senior citizens home was completed in Yellowknife, and a similar complex with eight units is presently under construction at Fort Smith.

This year, our housing objectives include the provision of increased public housing at Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik, single persons' bachelor

apartments at Hay River and senior citizens accommodation at Inuvik, Hay River, Fort Simpson and Fort McPherson. Under the Northern and Territorial Rental Housing Programs, 165 units will be provided in a number of communities.

High construction costs and low-ceiling first mortgage loans resulted in slow activity in the Territorial Mortgage Program. To revitalize this program, Legislation will be put before you which would amend the Low Cost Housing Ordinance by increasing the ceiling on first mortgage loans.

During 1970, direct responsibility for the administration of public lands in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Rae and Edzo was transferred to the Territorial Government by Order-in-Council. Frobisher Bay, Fort Smith, Hay River and the smaller settlements will follow.

The administration is very conscious that recreation and the meaningful use of leisure time plays an important part in the sociological development of the north and its peoples. Local Government recreation division programs and facilities were developed last year to the extent that it has been necessary for municipalities to employ full recreation directors. Grants have been made to assist in the costs involved. More than a quarter of a million dollars was made available for this under the Community Centers Grants program.

One of the Education Department's main accomplishments during the past year has been its success in increasing the involvement of local citizens in all aspects of our educational program. In many communities, advisory committees on education have been formed. The increased number of native people employed as classroom assistants has brought us to the stage where there is hardly a community which does not have a native representative taking part in our educational program.

Adult Education and Vocational Education programs have been greatly expanded both in number and course content, with the year highlighted by the rapid growth of the Adult Vocational Training Center at Fort Smith. Within the past two years, the scope and size of the school has expanded from a single-course training program which occupied twenty-four students to a complex which offers eight individual courses to over one hundred students.

The Northwest Territories Government continued its program of financial assistance for higher education. Last year one hundred thirty-five students received Territorial grants. As well, in order to provide higher education for persons not eligible under the Student Grant Program, ten \$1,500 bursaries were awarded.

There were several significant steps in the direction of development of school curriculum. Efforts in this area have concentrated quite heavily on elementary curricula material designed to meet the needs of children of various backgrounds, but initial work has already been done on more ambitious programs, ranging from aviation education to home economics. Of importance, is the increased attention that is being given to the introduction and use of native languages in school programs. This is being done not only for instructional purposes, but for the sociological and cultural benefits which attend the recognition of the child's first language. A program encompassing Eskimo language and culture will be introduced this year at Churchill Vocational Center.

The Northwest Territories has the fastest growing school population in Canada. Since the 1967-68 school year, the school population has risen more than thirty per cent. This year, there are 10,311 pupils in Territorial schools. Almost sixty per cent are either Eskimo or Indian children.

With a pupil population growth which far outstrips our neighbours to the South, it is difficult to keep abreast with school construction needs. Two major developments will be completed this year. One is the fifteen-room school and one hundred-bed pupil residence at Edzo. The other, a sixteen-classroom and ten-occupational room high school at Frobisher Bay. As

well, a three hundred-student addition, with full attendant facilities, will be added to the Yellowknife Public School and a fourteen-room school will be built in Hay River. Construction of a new school at Fort Good Hope will start this year and several additions to existing facilities are planned in a number of settlements.

During 1970, the Department of Social Development concentrated on updating policies and procedures to ensure their relevance to changing conditions in the North.

A comprehensive review of food costs in all communities was translated into proposals for bringing social assistance allowances into line with current costs. The estimates Council will be asked to approve for 1971-72 make provision for an upward adjustment in rates. The social assistance estimates, if approved, will also allow an increase in the monthly income an individual or family will be allowed to earn without a reduction in the amount of social assistance they may receive.

During the past months, the Department has had an extra-departmental committee examining and preparing a report on all aspects of the Corrections Program. The report will be tabled before Council as soon as it is available.

In the past year, the Juvenile Training Center at Fort Smith sheltered some twenty boys and girls whose average age is fourteen. There is evident need that the building which has housed the center needs replacement, and Council will be asked to approve capital estimates for this project to be carried out this year.

The Territorial Alcohol Education Program concentrated its services in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Fort Smith, Hay River and Frobisher Bay. Program staff took on additional responsibility because of evidence of drug abuse problems in Yellowknife. The addition of a community alcoholism worker late last year will enable the program to devote more attention to communities along the Arctic Coast and in the Central Arctic. Committees of concern in larger communities continue to be an invaluable aid to the alcohol education program.

By the end of 1970 -- three months before the termination of the fiscal year -- the Department of Public Works reported that all its totally-planned work programs for the year were ninety per cent complete, both on schedule and within budget.

Maintenance work was carried out along the Mackenzie Highway System and in Wood Buffalo Park. New road construction was carried out on the Fort Resolution Highway and in several settlements in the Mackenzie

Valley. Construction took place on emergency airstrips at Fort Franklin, Lac La Martre and Snowdrift, and surface improvements to the Fort Providence airstrip were completed.

A number of important building projects were completed in Mackenzie District. Work is underway on major school and hostel construction projects at Edzo for completion this year, and work will commence toward the completion in 1972 of the Hay River School complex.

In the Baffin and Keewatin Regions, construction was carried out by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, whose program more or less paralleled that of the Mackenzie District. Responsibility for the 1971 construction program in the eastern regions will be assumed by the Territorial Government on April first this year.

Several functions previously performed by the Federal Government were transferred to the Territorial Secretary's Department during the year.

The Workmen's Compensation function was transferred in total, with the responsibilities being assumed by our labour division. Plans to move staff and operation of the Edmonton Workmen's Compensation office are being formulated, but the actual transfer of staff from Federal to Territorial status has already taken place.

Maintenance of Band lists and payment of Treaty monies was another area of activity which was transferred to the Territorial Government.

In other areas of activity in the Territorial Secretary's Department, Registration of Companies and Societies maintained a steady level throughout the year. Sixty companies were incorporated and three hundred extra-Territorial companies were registered.

Libraries were opened in Rankin Inlet and Frobisher Bay during 1970. Plans are both these libraries will become branches of the headquarters library, serving the communities that surround them. A proposal for the development of community libraries will be presented during the coming year.

During the early part of the year, a re-organization of our Treasury Department was carried out by Assistant Commissioner Gilchrist.

A new computer facility -- the first of its kind north of the 60th parallel -- was installed to more adequately handle the rapidly increasing workload encountered by Treasury. Some indication of the extent of expansion experienced by Treasury is reflected in the growth of the Government's annual budget -- from \$21 million in 1968 to \$74 million last year, and an anticipated

\$92 million during the current year. In addition to our \$92 million dollar budget, we will act as agent for the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on the construction of Northern Rental Housing and highways at an estimated expenditure of three million dollars.

At this time, I would especially commend Mr. Gilchrist for the tremendous task he performed in carrying out so well the double duties and responsibilities of the offices of both Territorial Treasurer and Assistant Commissioner.

At the end of December last, there were 1,734 persons employed by the Government of the Northwest Territories, 490 of them school teachers. A complete review of staff positions was carried out toward the end of the year and hiring was "frozen" until at least October this year, when a further review is to be undertaken. It should be noted that the number of positions approved for the administration of government programs in the Northwest Territories is 1,951, and, at the commencement of the year, we were operating with 217 less staff than is our limit.

During the year, collective agreements were negotiated which cover the terms and conditions of employment and pay structure for all Territorial teachers and public servants.

Toward the end of the year, a resident Territorial Fire Marshal was named, replacing the former Territorial Fire Marshal who was a member of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development staff.

Resident fire inspectors were established in the Keewatin and Baffin Regions. Two new fire halls were designed, one at Fort Providence, the other at Fort Resolution. Fire fighting equipment was purchased and installed for several communities in the Mackenzie and eastern Arctic.

A major re-organization took place last year in our Information Services unit, which was re-organized to provide a more efficient and effective service to the public, news media and government. To assist in bringing this about, two separate but integrated divisions were formed, and responsibility for the Government's printing unit was transferred to Information Services. Emphasis during the year ahead will be upon increasing our news and information services to Indian and Eskimo communities.

One of the major projects of the publication division of Information Services is the production of the Commissioner's Annual Report. The report will be tabled later this afternoon. This year we have decided to take a major step forward in the publication of annual reports and have produced a

hard-covered, colourful and informative report which we believe people will be proud to keep in their libraries. I think we are already leading the way in this field, and that others will follow, as they see the benefits which are derived from having a report which can be kept as a reliable reference book, rather than glanced through and forgotten. We also plan to produce a companion piece to the Report on an annual basis. The second book will concentrate on special aspects of northern life and development.

Last spring, you may remember, I was fortunate to be invited to visit our northern neighbour, Greenland. At that time, I became convinced that much could be gained from exchange visits between officials of that country and senior representatives of the Northwest Territories administration. It has now been arranged that Mr. H. A. Meyer, head of Technical Services of the Government of Greenland, will be coming to Yellowknife shortly for a six-month period and will be working closely with our Department of Public Works. Mr. Meyer will be studying our administration closely and following his visit here, it is hoped to send one of our senior employees to study some aspect of the Greenlandic administration at Godthaab.

This, then, completes a review of the highlights of programs carried out by the Territorial administration last year, and notes some of the plans we have for the year ahead.

From it all, you will gather that the early pace which we set ourselves is not inclined to lessen this year. To aid us in the efficient operation of several areas of administration, certain Boards and Commissions have been appointed.

I am pleased to announce the formation of the Northwest Territories Liquor Control Board. Under the Liquor Ordinance, a four-man Liquor Control Board is called for. One member of the Board is the Superintendent of the Northwest Territories Liquor System, and I would like to announce officially the appointment of Mr. T. C. Robinson to the membership of the Board. Joining him in the same capacity will be Mr. Robert D. S. Ward of Yellowknife, a recently-retired Sergeant of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the Right Reverend Bishop H. G. C. Cook, Bishop of the Mackenzie.

The remaining appointment is, of course, the important one of Board Chairman. In selecting a Chairman, I was most anxious to seek a person resident within the Northwest Territories, and one who is prepared to devote a great deal of time to carrying out the duties of this position. Such a person has been decided upon, and I take great pleasure in announcing the appointment

of Yellowknife businessman Mr. Joseph A. Severn as Chairman of the Northwest Territories Liquor Control Board.

The Report of the Liquor Board of Inquiry indicates strongly that the Board should give special cognizance to, and be open to advice from, representatives of the Indian and Eskimo people. I am pleased to name former Territorial Councillor Chief John A. Tetlich of Fort McPherson, and Mr. Simonie Alainga of Frobisher Bay, to act in an advisory capacity.

During the latter part of last year, administration of the Territorial Hospital Insurance Service was moved from Ottawa to Edmonton. The Territorial Hospital Insurance Board has been re-organized, and I am pleased to announce that under the Chairmanship of Assistant Commissioner Clarence W. Gilchrist, a Board consisting of Dr. W. H. Frost, of the Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa -- former Chairman of the Board, and the Reverend Ken Gaetz of Hay River, has been set up.

Territorial Councillor Tom Butters served with honour as a member of the Commissioner's Award Committee. His election to the Territorial Council means that Mr. Butters will be unable to serve on this Committee. In his place, it is my pleasure to announce the appointment of Mr. John Goodall, a former Territorial

Council Member who served us with distinction as a Member for some twelve years.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. James Arvaluk of Frobisher Bay to the Higher Education Advisory Board. His appointment gives representation on the Board to the Eastern Arctic and is in keeping with our policy of including native representation on various boards and committees.

At this time it is also appropriate to acknowledge the appointment of Inspector Hugh A. Feagan as Honorary Aide-de-Camp to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Inspector Feagan is appointed to this position in the place of Inspector Nixon who, with dedication and distinction, served as the first Honorary Aide-de-Camp for a period of three years. Along with all Members of this Council, I would like to welcome Inspector Feagan and to extend our wish that his term of office is an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Last year saw the formation of the first Standing Committee of Council of the Northwest Territories, the Standing Committee on Finance. This Committee will continue, and I am pleased to announce that, under the Chairmanship of Councillor Searle, Councillors Sibbeston, Pearson and Parker have been appointed to serve as Members. In order to allow Council Members to acquaint themselves with the workings of the Committee;

I propose that one member of the Committee should be replaced each year of this Council's life. This will allow new Members to obtain understanding of the Committee system and at the same time preserve the necessary continuity required for the successful operation of this most important body. It may also free an experienced Member to take part in any new Standing Committee which is formed.

When the Standing Committee on Finance was formed, it was indicated that this was the first of other Committees which would be set up. I take pleasure now in announcing the formation of a Standing Committee on Legislation to the Council of the Northwest Territories. As Chairman of this Committee, I announce the appointment of Councillor Lyle Trimble. He will be joined by Committee Members Councillors Butters and Pedersen.

The dedication of our Territorial Public Service senior staff is such that it asks little in the way of recognition for a job well done other than the obvious rewards that come with its accomplishments. Because of this, I am always a little loath to single out individuals for special praise. But I would be remiss if at this time I did not acknowledge the tremendous work that has been carried out by our Centennial staff under its Director-General Al Ballantyne and General Manager Jim Whelley. If I attempted to adequately dwell upon the success of

our Centennial celebrations and the world-wide recognition and praise it has brought us, I would still be talking to you when it came time for us to celebrate the turn of our Second Century -- and I would terminate my remarks by appointing Mr. Ballantyne and Mr. Wholly to do it all again. I know that every Member of this Council would agree with my decision.

In December I was informed by the Governor General's office that the Medal of Service of the Order of Canada has been presented to me.

The Medal is given as a means of fostering Canadian national unity and pride of country by encouraging public service, and I am deeply honoured to accept it. But in doing so, I am conscious that I can be counted only as its custodian on behalf of all the people of the Northwest Territories. Unity and pride of country are elements that are accepted essentials of existence for Canada's northerners, and it is on your behalf that I accept this high honour.

At this Session, six new Bills and a further seven Bills to amend existing Legislation will be presented. A Supplementary Appropriations Ordinance for the current fiscal year and the Appropriations Ordinance for 1971-72 are to be placed before you.

The Regulations Ordinance would adopt general procedures for the control and publication of regulations and for the drafting, scrutiny and review of these regulations.

The Commissioner would be authorized by the Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1971, to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories with the Government of Canada for the payment of an operating grant for the fiscal year 1971-72.

The Conflict of Laws (Traffic Accidents) Ordinance would guide the Courts in finding the law applicable in determining liability arising out of a traffic accident.

Legislative authority for the Territorial Flag would be provided by the Flag Ordinance, and the Loans Cancellation Ordinance would authorize the Commissioner to write off certain Government loans.

A number of Ordinances will be placed before you which would amend the existing Taxation: Vehicles; Public Service Vehicles; Petroleum Products Tax; Companies; Public Service; Interpretation; and Low Cost Housing Ordinances.

Papers on the formation of a Northwest Territories Water Board and the installation of an electronic sound recording system for the recording of Council Debates will be among those submitted for your consideration.

Before closing, I would like to direct a few remarks to Members of Council.

Even if 1970 had not been the year of our Centennial or the date of our assumption of the administration of all of the Northwest Territories, I am convinced the year would still be written large in the pages of our history.

Much has happened to us in this past year.

The campaign for representation on this Council can be concluded as the most spirited ever to take place here. With twenty-six candidates running for office in ten constituencies, the campaign and the interest it provoked could hardly be less than spirited.

And when the polls were closed and the ballots counted, only two former members remained to re-occupy their seats around this Council table.

On the shoulders of these Members there rests a responsibility of mammoth proportions. We are fortunate that their past record in this Assembly has proved they have the ability to bear it.

Councillor Trimble is the Dean of Council, and as its oldest elected Member, he has represented us when Ottawa was called our capital. He will remember when the only other representatives were from the West.

Councillor Searle begins his second term on Council and he has distinguished himself as a very worthy representative of his constituents and a respected upholder of the rights and responsibilities of all our citizens. As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, his knowledge of the needs of the people of the North and his sensitivity to them have made him an invaluable asset.

Joining Council for a further term of office by appointment of the Governor in Council is one of our most talented and respected Members, Air Marshal Hugh M. Campbell. Councillor John H. Parker is Deputy Commissioner and known throughout the North for his ability and integrity as a member of the administration and this Council both. These four members can be relied upon to guide and help those of you who take your seats for the first time.

The Northwest Territories Council is a most complex body. Although Council does not have complete autonomy, it does have a major input into almost every aspect of life and law that affects us. I am convinced the input we have into the things which affect us should be increased, and I will encourage any action I can to bring this about.

As Chairman of Council, I have diligently and deliberately given its Members a greater say in the affairs of this Government than is their lot by law.

I have done this because I believe there is no better way of encouraging and accustoming northerners in the settlements to responsibly handle their own affairs.

As yet, the Territories is not involved in partisan politics, and members must offer themselves for office on the basis of personal performance and individual effort. There is no party line or well-planked platform they can align themselves with. If a Member is absent from his seat, he has no colleague of similar political colour who can cover for him. His constituents are virtually unrepresented. Perhaps this is why this Council has the best attendance record of any Canadian legislative body.

To all our new Members, elected or appointed, your role is an exciting and rewarding one. It is one which carries with it tremendous responsibilities. At times you may feel inclined to relegate the needs of the entire Territories to the just and desirable requirements of your own particular constituency. This is understandable. There is bound to be considerable disagreement among you from time to time, depending upon the issues, but once the issues are decided, this Council, and more importantly, our people, will expect that you undertake to support in full the action that the majority dictates.

Much work lies ahead in the days we sit here in Session. Your deliberations and decisions will touch upon the lives of every northerner for decades to come.

The budget you will be considering is the largest ever introduced and contains for the first time spending estimates prepared in total within the Northwest Territories. This presents a great responsibility to both this Council and our administration. I have asked members of the administrative staff to be available to you to provide whatever assistance you may require. I do so in the knowledge that the aims and aspirations of both bodies are predicated by the well-being of these great Territories.

With this confidence, and full knowledge of your concern for the people we serve, I now commend for your consideration and wise judgment, the business of this Council as I declare open this Forty-fourth Session of the Council of the Northwest Territories.