

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
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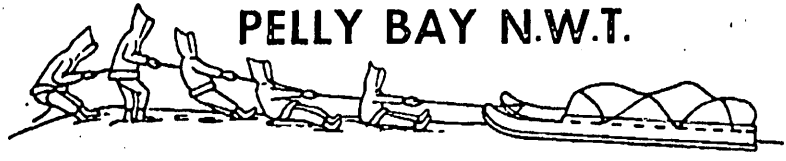
TABLED ON JUNE 18, 1971

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Tabled on June 18, 1971

KOOMIUT CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LTD.

PELLEY BAY N.W.T.



DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR OUR COUNTRY

Sometimes we do not feel very happy because our customs seem to change little by little. Though we never before had that much money as we have now we sometimes have the feeling that we were better off before. Sometimes it is hard to understand why and that is the reason we want to think it over together we all want to help to find the answer. We all want to participate in making our country a better place to live and we want to make plans so our children can make a better living later on.

Now we want more and more things than over before and our children like to have things we never thought about. To get these things we have to put in a real effort to make better use of our country so that we are not in need and that our children are not in need later on.

First we will try to understand how we presently make a living and where from we get the money to buy the things we need. Later we will try to make plans and to understand how we could increase our income from our country. We all have to try to improve our living. In our country there are different kinds of people: Indians, Whites, Eskimos and even some Black people but we are all living in the same country and we are all Canadians. We all have to work together so no one will have to be in need in our country.

All Canadians vote for their leaders and elect the Government they want. If we want to have a nice country we all have to work together.

The Government needs people to look after things to be used by all the people. The people who work for the Government have to make a living and must be paid. All the things like schools, hospitals, airstrips and roads, which are used by all the people cost a lot of money. Therefore the Government has to make money. Because the people understand it they agreed that all the people who are working and who are making money and are not in need should give part of their money to be used in our country to make it a nice place to live and also to be used for the people who are in need. The people in Pelly-Bay, who have jobs and who make money also give some of their money every month. The people who are giving the money do not feel very happy if it is not used wisely or if some people who are not really in need or who are too lazy to work try to use the money the working people are giving every month.

We understand very well the more people there are working the more money our Government will get and the better it will be for all the people in our country. Therefore we want to participate because we all have ideas we want to compare with other people ideas so we can find work in our country and so that all people can make a living and no one will be in need. We want to use all the riches of our country some of them are not used at all at the present. We are not able to use all the riches of our country at once, but we know if we do not give up it will get better all the time.

Therefore we all want to work together and we all want to understand the better means to make our living. We acquire the things we want in paying for them but some things we cannot get because we do not have enough money to buy them. Therefore we try to understand how we can obtain more money to buy the things we would like. We want to use the riches of our country and of the earth like the Creator ordered us to do. First we want to understand where our revenue is coming from presently.

REVENUE FOR ONE YEAR

<u>At present</u>		<u>Possibility in near future</u>
\$ 25 000	from handicraft	25 000
5 000	from trapping	5 000
40 000	earned by teachers, janitors, health workers.	
	Expansion of educational and health services.	85 000
26 400	people working full time in Co-op. Expansion	50 000
15 000	earned by people going through schooling as catechists	5 000
5 000	from family allowances. Population increasing	6 000
7 000	for old age pensions	11 000
5 000	for four welfare cases	5 000
63 000	value of fish presently used by the people for own	63 000
	need projected gross income from commercial fishery	120 000
	projected gross income from tourist fishery	100 000
20 000	estimated value of caribou meat consumed locally	20 000
	approximately 40 000 pounds at 50¢ per pound	
5 000	from sale of sealskins. This source has not been	
	tapped seriously. Gross-income from sealskins could	
	be estimated 2 000 sealskins at 15\$ average	30 000
	Best meats to be frozen for sale estimated	
	gross-income approximately 20 000 pounds at 25¢	5 000
	per pound	
	Sale of blubber to outside market approximately	
	200 barrels 45 gallon at 25 \$ per barrel	5 000
	Sale of surplus meat unusable for human consump-	
	tion to a southern market for pet food	10 000
10 000	for casual labour	10 000
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Totals	229 400 estimated revenue at present, could become	565 000

At the present there are 210 people in Felly-Bay, which means the average income per person is slightly over 1 000 \$ per year. However if we all join and work together it would increase to about 2 500 \$. Therefore we are to make plans and we will try to find out which should be our immediate aims to procure a better living for all of us. Though we all want to have a good life as human beings we do not want to cut ourselves off from the outside world. We will be thankful for the riches of our country remembering very well that lots of people on the earth are worse off and that some even today are dying of starvation.

We want to use our money in the right way. We all join in the search how we can make our country a better place to live for people and specially for our children.

The first and the greatest of the riches of our country are our people.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Today there are 210 people living at Pelly-Bay. Male: 118
female: 92

Adults able to work: male: 40
female: 36

We all have our own talents. Some people are good carvers, others are good carpenters others are good hunters, others talk English very well and are good interpreters, we know we all know something, we can do something better than the others.

Therefore we want to understand what the people in Pelly-Bay can do and then we want to find ways and means so that there would be some work where the people can use their abilities and their talents to the good of all.

Jobs and work done by the people at present:

Teachers: 2 there will be three needed in the near future.

These people come from outside because no one in our community has enough schooling as yet to be a teacher. However if we encourage our children, teachers could come from our own community in a few years time.

Teacher Assistant: 1 of our people

Healthworkers: 1 from outside 1 from our community

Powerplant operator: 1 of our people

Co-operative employees: all local people: 1 manager (general) 1 production manager, 1 warehouse man, 2 truckdrivers, 1 heavy equipment operator, all 7 fully employed.

Carvers: 28 - Men 8
Women 20

Hunters: 15

Fishermen for own supply: 45

Caretakers: 2 for school and nursing quarters

General maintenance man for lowcost housing: 1

Catechists: Students: 4

Abilities of people:

Macanic abilities: 4 not one fully qualified, 1 could be fully qualified.

Carpenters: 6 not fully qualified though able to read plans and work them out for house erection.

Electricians: 4 not qualified but having experience and general knowledge for housewiring.

Schooling: about 20 people have between grade 4-8 schooling
Truckdrivers: 10 of our people worked as truckdrivers
Heavy equipment operators: 3 trained on the job.
Second language: about 20 adults speak the English language.

Now we can make plans and try to find ways to use these abilities, and also if we start a project we will know if we have the people needed for the project or if we need outside help. It would be no good if we started a tourist business without having the people able to act as guides, because the tourists would not be happy and finally no one would want to come in the end. Therefore we want to use our abilities and we want to develop them so we can do our work properly.

DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY

After these considerations we understand that the fish is our main revenue. The fish we use for our own consumption has a value of at least 60 000 dollars if we had to buy it from somewhere else or from the south and it would cost us even much more if we had to replace it by items of the same food value out of the store. Realizing that fish is the real asset of our community, we also know it is not used to its full potentiality, because it can help us also to make cash.

An estimate of the potentialities teaches us that a gross income from the sale of fish could be as much as 120 000 dollars.

- 1 - We have to know first if there will be a steady market for char. Knowing the quality of the char and the scarceness of char on the world market we presume it never will meet the demand and good prices will be obtained.
- 2 - Quantities available in the vicinity. Research has been done but is not completed as yet. However making our own estimates and deductions we know the possibilities are great.

At present we only use two fishing places, one for our day to day summer supply and to make some dried fish at the river bordering our settlement. The other one at the Kelleth River about 20 miles to the south where people fish a few days in the fall and catch enough fish for their own consumption for the year.

We used to fish lots more but now we are using Skidoos and we have no more dogs and our children are also eating a lot of other food. Four five years ago the value of the fish we were using for our own consumption would have been three to four times more than at the present because we had lots of dogs.

In the 40 - 50 mile range there are a dozen fishing places which are known to be very good but have not been used for several years because there was no need for it as fish is in great quantities at the places presently used.

- 3 - If we really start fishing for sale we would like to have a real fisherman as a teacher, because we have never done this before. Therefore we like to ask our Government if they would send us an able man to assist us and to teach us for the first year. He could be working with us and show us how we have to handle the fish to be sold, so we produce a first class product. We estimate 20 of our people could make a good income from the fish every summer and fall. The men would be fishing and some men and women would be working in the plant.

- 4 - However before we start fishing, different things have to be talked over and we would like our fisherman-teacher to give us some ideas how the fishery should be organized. The equipment we should order for packing and processing? Should every one use his own nets? How are the fishermen going to be paid? How are the people working in the plant going to be paid? We could fix it up ourselves but it is always useful to hear from people who have done these things before.
- 5 - Because we know that a fishing plant costs a lot of money and we are not able to pay for it right now. Therefore we asked through our Co-Op to get a loan from the Eskimo Loan Funds: 50 000 \$. We do not know if it would be quite enough to build the fishing plant. It should be if we do most of the building ourselves. We also feel and have asked that the use of an old 30' by 40' Butler building from an abandoned Dew-Line site should be considered as it would cut costs considerably. Plans have been drawn how it could be rebuilt in Felly-Bay.

TOURIST FISHERY

There are lots of good fishing places in our country and at the present lots of them are not used because there are only a few dogs left and we eat less fish than before. If we could sell the fish we do no need any more, we could make some money to buy the other things we want.

We know that some people like to fish for fun. We know if we all work together we could have some of these people coming in our country to fish and we could help them and take care of them and it would mean that some men and women would make some money. These people are fishing for fun and though they might get a lot of fish they only will take a few with them to show them and to share them with their families and friends but they would leave most of the fish they catch with us.

If they know there is a lot of fish in Felly-Bay they will be wanting to get some more information how they can get here. They only go to fish to enjoy themselves during their holidays and their time is limited. Sometimes they only can spend one week fishing. The way it is now, when they are coming from Edmonton on the scheduled flights it is very expensive and they lose a lot of time waiting in Cambridge Bay and here and they cannot go just for one week and it is very expensive, about 550 \$ just for plane tickets from Edmonton to Felly-Bay plus the accommodation in the different places. If they have to come that way only very few will ever come. We have to find first of all a better way to bring fishermen to Felly-Bay.

- 1 - If we have our own plane or at least a plane that is for our use during the fishing season, then we can solve the problem. If we had a DC3 or DC6 at our disposition, the plane would go to Edmonton once a week during the fishing season to pick up the fishermen. Every fisherman would have to put in 300 - 350 dollars for the plane and if there are 20 fishermen there would be a lot of room left to bring in supplies for our store about 10 000 pounds on every flight and it would cost less. We could also use the same plane to bring in the fuel oil to our settlement and the fuel and gas would cost much less than at the present and it would give a lot of work to be done by the plane. The other Co-ops of our country are looking forward to it and they would join us so the plane could be used by them too bringing some more work for it. And there would be some more work for people to help with the plane for loading and also to go along and take care of the people travelling in the plane, to give them something to eat etc....

- 2 - If we have a plane then we need someone to look after things for us in Edmonton so when the plane arrives in Edmonton that all the things and the people to go on the plane are ready and also to tell the people arriving in Edmonton what to do and where they can find a place to sleep etc., and also to buy the things to go on the plane.
- 3 - When people are going to come we also have to think where they are going to have a place to stay, because there might be lots of them coming at one time. We do not want to put up an expensive building before we know that the people are going to like it here, we might do that later if all is going well. We have our tent-frame-camp, which is quite nice to accommodate about 20 people and also some of our people move into their tents every summer and if we would run out of accommodation we would be happy to have one or two houses used for a short time by the fishermen. If we know how many will come at one time it all could be fixed up in time. Let us all think about the best way to do these things.
- 4 - If fishermen start coming to Tolly-Day, some people here will have to take care of them so that they enjoy their stay and more people will come. These people will have to learn what they have to do, so that they do not make mistakes. If 20 fishermen come at one time we will need about:
 - 10 guides, men who speak enough English who have a good canoe and motor. They have to have a good idea about the fishing places and fishing and how to use a canoe and motor properly. Also that they have to be careful not to abuse alcohol. The guides should work closely together and assist each other. They also have to learn how to please the fishermen and they have to think it over together what to do if some of the visitors abuse alcohol. The guides will be well paid for their work, their boats and motors.
 - 5 women to take care of the quarters, the kitchen, washing etc...
- 5 - How long will the season last? once a week the plane will go to Edmonton to bring the fishermen. About 6 weeks during the summer the fishing is good and every time the plane could take some goods for the store. Later on we might think of springfishing through the ice.
- 6 - How much do we have to charge for one fisherman for one week?

approximately	350.00 \$	for the plane ticket
	150.00	for lodging and food
	390.00	for guides, motors, boats and gas
	160.00	for all other services
total	<u>1000.00</u>	

This would be given in a lump sum to the Co-op and the Co-op will then pay all the people who are working at the service of the fishermen, so that every one gets well paid for the work he is doing. There might be 20 fishermen arriving at one time it would bring 20 000 \$ to the Co-op, but it will cost approximately 7 000 for the plane, what is left over will be used to pay all the other things like food, gas etc... and to pay the people who are working.

How we can easily understand how these fishermen could bring a lot of money into our community and how it could help a lot to give work to quite a few people in our town. However we understand too that everyone will have to cooperate and that we have to have the same ideas about it if we want to have things go well with the fishermen.

We all will have to learn what we have to do not to make any mistakes and we treat the fishermen as they expect to be treated.

There are surely lots of things we have not been thinking about yet but we might get more experience and we also will try to listen to people who have done this before and who know a lot about it.

We also know that these fishermen tourists might be interested in some of the handicraft our people are producing, which might mean an additional revenue.

Also we want them to enjoy some of our customs like the drum dance and we could show them the series of movies which have been produced in our community over the past years.

DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY - SEALING

In Pelly-Bay every summer sealing gives to the people about 5 000 \$ in cash from the sale of the skins. They sell them to the Co-op, who in return sends them to the Fur markets down south. Very little sewing work is done presently with the sealskins as it would be too expensive to send the skins down south to have them tanned and then ship them back north to produce items for sale. However this might be considered with the improvement in transportation but we do not want to consider it for the moment as there is lots of knowledge involved to produce the right kind of items and to find the market for them, we surely would need a lot of assistance for that.

For the moment we want to think ways to make more money from the sealing itself.

1 - Usually seals are numerous in our bay not too far away.

If we really try hard we could get more seals and therefore could make more money from sealing, if we really want it.

2 - It would be better if the hunters would not have to think about anything else then they would be able to get more seals.

If they work together and use lots of nets they could get more seals and there would be other people to cut the seals up and to cure the skins to send them to the outside markets.

3 - How could it all be organised:

- The hunters would bring their seals to the Co-op and sell them and they would have no other worries about the seal, when to cut them up and how to dry the skins as other people would be looking after this.

- Therefore we will need a butchery where some people could cut the seals and a place where the women could cure the skins. One or two modules from the Dewline would give us an adequate place and it would not cost much money to install.

- The hunters would have to bring their seals to the shore and the manager from the Co-op would come down to have a look at the skins, weigh the seals and fix up a price and then pay the hunter. If he likes he could go back hunting right away as now he does not have to care any more what happens to the seals.

- The butchers would get the Co-op tractor operator to bring up the seals from the dock to the butchery and start work immediately so the skins do not get spoiled. If the people are getting lots of seals there would be at least 2 butchers needed.

- These people would be paid their wages by the Co-op.

This would be their responsibility:

- Get the seals at the dock and load them on the wagon and bring them into the butchery.
- Take off the skins and put the blubber in barrels. If the blubber would have to be melted this would also be their responsibility.
- If a market can be found for the meat not needed for human consumption they would have to take care of it and pack it.
- The best meat they would have to cut up nicely, freeze it and glaze it and store through the year and coming winter, when sealmeat is hard to get.
- After having taken the blubber from the skins, they would turn the skins over to the women, who will cure and dry the skins before sending them to the fur auctions.
- Because drying the skins is a long work there would be quite a few women needed to take care of the skins. In the butchery and in the place where the skins will be cured there has to be lots of water to keep the place clean and to wash the skins.

This would be the responsibility of the ladies:

- After checking the skins if not too much blubber is left on them they will put them in wooden barrels filled with salt water and leave them for at least one night.
- In the morning they will scrape the remaining blubber and wash the skins seawater.
- Prepare them to be put on the drying rack and give them a last cleaning.
- Bring them outside and fix them on the drying racks.

4. If we work hard this would be the money we can expect from sealing:

The hunters with all the needed equipment and good nets could bring in easily 2 000 seals because we know that even now in a good year we used to get at least 1 500 and we were not really hunting them in an organised way.

If we assume we get 2 000 seals then we could figure following revenue:

- The skins sold the auction would bring about	30 000 \$
- Blubber approx. 200 45 gallon drums	5 000
- Meat for human consumption 20 000 lbs	5 000
- Meat for outside market 100 000 lbs	10 000

Gross-revenue would be 50 000 \$

5 - We also know a lot of people like hunting and just like for the fishermen some people would like to come here and hunt seals with us just for the fun. These tourist hunters would also need guides and this again would give some work to the people.

We could plan on this for later.

- In the spring when it is really fun to hunt the seals on the ice.

A man with a skidoo or a dogteam could make good money bringing these hunters to the hunting grounds.

- These tourists would not take the meat and the blubber and they would not be allowed to kill many seals, they might take the skin as a trophy.

- We see this could help us too but we still have to think it over and maybe we can organise these springhunts later. And the hunters could be brought with the plans like the fishermen.

- 6 - We are aware there is a lot to be gotten from the seals and it is a good resource in our country, giving us good food and also some cash to buy other things we need.
- However as we never had real organized hunts before where every one has his own work to do, it might be a good thing if some one who really knows these things will and has done it before himself comes and tells us about it and maybe work with us for a while to set it up properly.
- Also we might get some ideas how to set up our butchery and cleaning place up in the best way.

DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY

- * We know if we want to develop the resources of our country we will have to work hard and we will have to work together on lots of things and cannot just think about ourselves, we also have to think about the good for all the people.
- There are still lots of other things we could improve. Beartunting brings some money every year our quote is 10 bears for the year. Beartunting brings about 3 000 dollars every year.
- We heard that in some places beartunters come from the south and the people give them some tags from their quotas. These beartunters have to pay a lot of money for a license to the Government and also the hunters who act as guides are very well paid and get more money than they would get if they shot the bear themselves and sell the skin. We heard that the guide gets as much as 2 000 \$ out the deal. This looks very good to us and we would like hunters to come to our community as well so we get more out the beartunters.
- We also understand that if tourism, fishery and sealing progress well this will involve a lot more work for the staff of the Co-op and we will have to hire one or two more of our people to take care of things and the paper-work, creating more work for more people.
- Next summer we want to change our store as it is a very poor building and we also want to make some office facilities.
- As we all are members of the Co-op we want to take care of all these things they belong to all of us.
- If our Co-op develops it will be better for all of us, because we are the Co-op. If there are things in the organization of our Co-op we do not quite understand we will try to talk them over together and try to understand them because we care what happens to our Co-op and we like to know how it is run by the people we see by.
- It is only because we all get together and we care together that our Co-op has strength, we want to keep it up and make it even better so our country will become a nicer place to live.
- All of us are not able to do the same job, we try to find the best person for the job we are expecting him to do. We do not want to quarrel about it. Development will only come slowly but it will get better all the time.