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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
7<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, 46<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL  
NO. 2-46



RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 2-46

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO TRAPPERS  
FOR LOSSES DUE TO FOREST FIRES

DISPOSITION

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Noted not Considered

PAYMENTS OF COMPENSATION TO TRAPPERS  
FOR LOSSES DUE TO FOREST FIRES

Problem

The forest fires during 1971 caused a great deal of hardship for some of the trappers located in the boreal forest. There are individuals who are dependent on trapping, who have suffered real losses from forest fires, and who have subsequently submitted damage claims. Present evidence indicates that damage claims of this nature will continue to be submitted, and with increased frequency in years of high fire incidence.

Background

To date there has not been a program to cover such circumstances, consequently the trapper has been forced to personally absorb any financial losses he suffers from forest fires. In the past this has created unnecessary hardship and could be considered a discouraging feature of the profession.

Program Proposal

The Administration recommends a new program which would provide compensation to eligible trappers for trapping equipment and line cabins destroyed by forest fires. This compensation would be in the form of:

- (a) Replacement of trapping equipment
- (b) Provision of labour and/or material to rebuild cabins

In the event that the entire trapping area or the most productive portion thereof was destroyed, relocation assistance would also be provided.

The yearly expenditures for providing the compensation on evaluated losses would be based on a typical claim for \$1000 which would include loss of such items as line cabin, 200 traps, toboggan, dog harness, rifles, fish nets, tools and miscellaneous equipment.

It is estimated that up to five \$1000 claims, or a greater number of smaller claims, may have to be satisfied each year. Pending the availability of actual operating experience, therefore, a sum of \$5000 per year will be appropriated if this recommendation is approved.

Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the program be implemented as planned on an experimental basis for a two year period.