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

YELLOWKNIFE

Monday, January 10, 1972

Today, it is my privilege to extend to you warmest and most sincere greetings on this, the opening day of the Forty-Sixth Session of the Assembled Council of the Northwest Territories.

It is a particular pleasure for me to welcome Members of the Seventh Territorial Council, especially the four Appointed Members who sit with their Elected colleagues by appointment of the Governor in Council. They devote their time and talent in the cause of wise government in the north, and I am sure this Council shares with me the deep appreciation I have for their efforts.

To my Aide-de-Camp, Inspector Hugh Feagan, greetings. Inspector Feagan was appointed to his position last year to replace Inspector Nixon, my former Aide-de-Camp. Like his predecessor, he has served, and will continue to serve, this Council with distinction and dedication.

To the administrative staffs who assist the Territorial Council, and to the Galleries, both Public and Press, welcome. I want to especially welcome those people who have joined us from other northern communities or from cities to the south. Similarly, those of you who are here as a result of increasing transfers of Federal responsibility to Territorial jurisdiction, or by increased desire to serve the needs of the north more closely.

The main purpose of my opening address is to report to you what your administration has done during the past year, and what it plans to do during the year ahead - based upon the wise advice of this Council.

Before doing this, I would like to talk about the main aims and aspirations this Government and this Council have for the people of the North.

First, and certainly most important to me, is the unity of the two native cultures in the North. This has to be fostered. It cannot be infringed upon by the kind of chaos and turbulence that exist in other countries, between different cultures or other differences in this world.

But this could happen here. It could happen when any one faction convinces those who follow its beliefs that it is more important to be Eskimo than Indian or Indian than White.

This is a situation we cannot afford. The North is too diversified and too demanding for that kind of division.

Through the brief years that the Northwest Territories Government has been here, one thing has become increasingly apparent - democracy cannot be brought about at any level higher than the individual. Each individual has thoughts that are his own.

Because of this, the concentration of this Government has been on establishing exactly what these thoughts are. For some, a life on the land - following the old ways - for others, an education that can lead them into the wage economy. For those who fall between, a choice and a chance to make the choice.

To bring this about, this administration has since its inception here, spent its time developing

Government at the local level. The 1967 year-end report from the various departments and regions that you will receive today shows in detail the progress that has been made toward ultimate Territorial Government autonomy.

It is my feeling that the real success in the development of the North in the next decade will be measured by the advances we make in the communities. The North has to be approached from an economic viewpoint which sees a clear difference and a clear personal choice between a wage economy and a land-based economy. To allow that choice, it is apparent that hunting and trapping - life on the land - has to be recognized by Government as gainful employment. The vocation that is offered by the traditional way of the Indian and Eskimo has to be acknowledged as a productive life-style - much in the way of a construction worker or a banker in the south, if there is to be any real freedom of choice for the natives of the North. In times of depression on the land there has to be some assurance to those who choose this way, that some sort of economic assistance is available to them that does not fall into the realm of welfare. Your Administration is hopeful of working out a new approach that will bring this about.

During the next year, it is also the intention of this Government, in collaboration with the Federal Government, to attempt to provide a successful solution to the problem of creating jobs for those who are native to the North.

For its part, the Northwest Territories Government has set up, within the Department of Local Government, a new division which is charged solely with seeing

to it that those who live here have every opportunity to work within the land they call their own. In addition to this, another small special division, designed to deal with the short-term demands for employment that will come about through the establishment of pipeline facilities has been formed. Between the two, the immediate and future employment needs of Canada's northern residents can, perhaps, be met.

For my part, there are no magic formulas to this situation. I believe that both government and industry are beginning to and are prepared to respond to our Minister's message. As a person who associates with and displays a genuine feeling for people, Mr. Chretien has clearly outlined what is expected from northern development and the residual benefits that should come to the northern people.

At the same time, Northerners, regardless of their ethnic background who decide on wage employment, must be prepared, if the program of local employment is to be successful, to respond and accept wage employment when it is available.

While it has been difficult, and in some instances is still difficult, to persuade departments of government or industry to hire local people, it will be just as difficult to ensure that our potential northern wage force, which has chosen this new way of life, understands the demands that go with it - the fact that with wage employment come the regular norms facing 95 percent of all Canadians on daily or weekly work schedules.

Having dealt with the two topics that will occupy the major attention of this administration during the year ahead, I would like to spend a little time talking to you about the achievements of our regional and departmental offices last year, and telling you what their future plans are.

Since the Territorial Government was established here almost five years ago, emphasis has been placed on the decentralization of authority from the Yellowknife headquarters to the four administrative regions at Fort Smith, Inuvik, Keewatin and Baffin.

In turn, these administrative regions have concentrated their efforts on building up the smaller settlements to a state of autonomy more conducive to the accepted Canadian norm.

While the main responsibility for the development of local government lies with the Department of Local Government, it is in the regions that the effect of it is first felt.

Autonomously, the former Mackenzie Region is a little farther advanced than the Keewatin in the barren lands or Baffin in the Eastern Arctic, mainly because those settlements that lie upon the Mackenzie River system have had some form of permanency brought about by the secret of any settlement - a way of communications by a highway, a river, or an airstrip on which a plane can land. The ways of the High Arctic, the Eastern Arctic, or the barren lands that separate them has been different - no roads have linked them. The trails that lead from place to place have been made by the hoofs of caribou or the feet of men and their families who must follow them or perish.

Using as an example Fort Franklin, a troubled, unorganized settlement a year ago, now boasts a very active and effective Settlement Council which has accepted full responsibility for the settlement's operation and very recently has applied for Hamlet status. This will come about April of this year. Norman Wells, long so called a "company town", is developing a very mature council and has recently applied for and has had approved, Hamlet status. This too will come about in April.

Other settlements where great interest in Councils has been generated and where further steps in self-determination are being considered include Aklavik, Fort MacPherson and Sachs Harbour. These are very significant examples of areas where advances have been made in Local Government in the lower Mackenzie.

The situation that exists in the Inuvik Region is every bit as apparent in the Fort Smith Region. The Regional Director there reports that the most encouraging aspect of this year's operation has been the continuing development of fully effective Settlement Councils.

In his report, he goes on to say that in addition to the five Councils already in existence, the communities of Cambridge Bay, Coppermine, Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay and Wrigley, have now elected fully representative Councils. Only four communities, Jean Marie River, Fort Liard, Holman Island and Nahanni Butte do not have Councils, but it is anticipated that Fort Liard and Holman Island will reach this stage in 1972.

During 1971, nine Settlement Secretary positions were established. As development toward Hamlet status progresses, additional reductions in administrative field staff will be possible, leaving the administration and responsibility for municipal services in the hands of the Council. Rae-Edzo was incorporated as a Hamlet during 1971 and Pelly Bay expects to obtain the status in April. In the Keewatin and Baffin, two settlements - Coral Harbour and Pangnirtung will gain themselves Hamlet status this year.

Special attention has been given to the provision of training programs for government staff and local residents who, it is planned, will eventually replace them. Courses have been held in each of the four regions and at headquarters concerned with the development of local government. This year, it is the intention of this administration to introduce a Settlement Council Conference, similar in nature and effect to the annual meeting of Municipalities. It is my belief that a meeting of this nature will serve to further promote and perpetuate the philosophy of local government in the Northwest Territories.

The Government is continuing its policy of providing settlement services such as roads, airstrips, water and sanitation and fire protection. Wherever possible, these are administered by the Settlement Council and tendered for local contract.

To meet the continuing needs brought about by population growth and building expansion, the Territorial Government has provided substantial grants and loans to assist Local Councils to undertake capital projects such as water-sewage extensions, road paving, street lighting and the like. This program will be substantiated with the objective of providing equitable facilities and services for the people in all incorporated municipalities.

I should also point out that with regard to water, sewage, and general sanitation, it will be necessary for all those concerned, if we are to come to grips with this problem, to develop a five-year plan which will identify the problem areas, formulate effective plans, and break out the necessary financial resources.

By and large, the cities and towns of the Northwest Territories have good or adequately-functioning water and sewage facilities. However, in most of the outlying areas, over 25 million dollars in capital alone is needed if we are to provide proper and permanent services.

In addition to the assistance for capital projects, over one million dollars has been provided in direct operational grants to municipalities, thereby reducing the expense to local rate payers. In conjunction with this, the broadening tax base in the Territories is stabilizing the development of Municipal government on sound economic lines.

During the past year a total of two hundred and forty-four housing units were constructed in twenty-five different communities for residents of the Northwest Territories. Of this total, twenty four bedroom units of public housing and thirty-four units for senior citizens have been built.

In the next year it is planned that a total of two hundred and forty-five units of housing will be built in various locations across the Northwest Territories. In addition to this, funds will be made available through the Low Cost Housing and Mortgage Program for those who wish to build a home of their own.

In November, a Northwest Territories Task Force on Housing was set up. The Task Force is comprised of seven (7) Territorial Council members and three (3) senior Territorial public servants. It is the purpose of this Task Force to recommend to the Government of the Northwest Territories a comprehensive housing policy and program, and the administrative framework through which housing programs may be carried out.

From my previous remarks, it will be obvious to you, that while this Government is laying emphasis on local autonomy and the provision of jobs for northern residents, other important - indeed essential areas of administration deserve the attention of this

Council. Mainly among them are programs carried out by the remaining three Program Departments - Social Development, Education and the Department of Industry and Development.

Dealing with Social Development first, of significance is the fact that social assistance rates were changed in May to allow for higher local food prices. As well, Departmental policy was changed to permit families to retain a greater percentage of any casual earnings they may make, without affecting their eligibility for social assistance.

In line with the thinking of this Council, policies and procedures at the Yellowknife Correctional Institute have been clarified. Renovations to the original building are now in the design state and staff training has been reorganized. The implementation of recommendations of the Study Committee on Corrections that juvenile delinquency services be integrated with those of child welfare will require a complete examination of our services in both areas including special kinds of facilities needed for their care and treatment. The need to integrate all the Department's programs at the community level - particularly those staffs who provide probation, parole after-care and alcoholism services has been recognized, and administrative changes which will bring this about will come into effect by April.

Turning to Education, the Territorial scene continues to brighten. At Frobisher Bay last fall the Gordon

Robertson Education Center came into being. The School brought about, for the first time in the Eastern Arctic, instruction to the senior matriculation level. As well, the centre provides a variety of occupational courses. The decision to name the school after Gordon Robertson recognizes the many years, from 1953 to 1963, that Mr. Robertson served as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. It was under his guidance that our present educational system developed. As Council knows, it is Administration policy that all elementary schools be named by the communities, while the Administration names all high schools and major residences after people who, at some time in Northern history, have made distinguished contributions.

A five room school and gymnasium was opened in Fort Good Hope as well as an addition to the Yellowknife Public School, which includes kindergarten facilities.

And as most of you will know, the experimental school at Edzo, operated under Territorial guidelines by a locally elected school society is turning out to be one of Canada's most unique educational innovations.

During the year ahead, an addition to St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Separate School in Yellowknife is planned and a new highschool named after Diamond Jenness which will be opened in Hay River in time for the 1972 academic year. Additions will be made to schools at Cambridge Bay, Coppermine, Pond Inlet, Baker Lake, Fort Providence, Igloolik

Frobisher Bay and Inuvik. At Rankin Inlet a school will open which is designed to give instruction to the grade nine level.

Action to increase local involvement and interest in all educational programs continues to be carried out. For the first time, a complete experimental elementary curriculum has been undertaken. As a result, a new series of Indian-oriented readers and a new printing of the Eskimo readers were introduced into various schools. Materials especially designed for Chipewyan, Slavey and Loucheau children are being prepared along with a Loucheau dictionary.

More than fifty programs for out-of-school adults are catered to by the Continuing and Special Education Division. Programs include literacy, special education for the handicapped, tradesmen's qualifications, vocational training, higher education, community leadership, academic upgrading and special interest programs.

The Teacher Education Program continues to expand. More native classroom assistants are being employed in our school system and more emphasis is being given to suitable in-service training for them.

In the field of higher education, territorial university services have been expanded to include degree credit courses which can be taken at Fort Smith, Inuvik and Yellowknife. In September, it is the intention of this Government to include Hay River in this program. Plans are also being made to take over Federal Government responsibility

for the expansion of Rankin Inlet Estimo Language School.

In 1971, the Department of Industry and Development continued its efforts toward assisting the people of the Northwest Territories to benefit from the increasing level of economic activity that has been created here. In conjunction with the Department of Local Government, Industry and Development has continued to place emphasis on the provision and generation of employment in the private sector. During the year, the Department instigated or enlarged upon training programs that are designed to lead to wage employment.

On the other hand, with the cooperation of the Department of Education, every opportunity has been taken to see to it that those who cannot find - or do not want - wage employment, can be provided with training that will lead them into procuring a living from the land.

An example of this is the assistance that has been given to organized caribou hunts - where those who still have the skill, the knowledge and the desire to live off the land can look after those who are no longer able to, or those who can find no place because of the generation gap.

In recognition of the wishes of this Council, three major studies will be conducted by the Department of Industry and Development. The first, in marketing, will see an examination of potential new markets for indigenous arts and crafts and recommend

the most effective methods to satisfy demands. A second will be an evaluation to establish the vehicle best suited to promote the economic development of the Northwest Territories. The third study will be a survey of caribou herds on Baffin Island.

The prospect of a large diameter gas pipeline through the Mackenzie Valley is receiving the very serious attention it deserves. Primary responsibility for any Territorial involvement in pipeline matters has been assigned to the Director of the Department of Industry and Development who coordinates and chairs a Committee made up of the Directors of several departments of the Territorial Government.

Tourism remained the Northwest Territories second largest industry during 1971. Although the total volume of visitors was below the record number of 21,500 in the 1970 Centennial year, the dollar value remained substantially the same with an estimated \$5.2 million total expenditure.

The campground construction program continued to expand last year, and site selection for potential campgrounds will continue this year, in anticipation of an ever-increasing flow of tourist traffic.

The Administration intends to place much more emphasis on tourist development this coming year and, while continuing in the field of promotion, the greater and maximum effort will be directed

towards what to do with the tourist once he arrives in the North.

The private sector has showed confidence in the future of the Tourist industry. During the past year, new businesses licenced included the luxury cruise ship "Norweta". Of particular interest is the purchase and development of a fishing lodge by the Indian community of Trout Lake.

Of significant importance is the Tourist activity which is taking place in the Eastern Arctic. One Eastern Arctic Tour promotion company reports that his company alone made arrangements for a total of 91 tourists, bringing about a total revenue of more than \$41,000 of which \$19,000 was spent on accommodation in the settlements visited. Other special group tour promoters report similar situations in the Eastern Arctic.

Nine communities have taken advantage of the revised community promotion grants program which I announced at the last Session of this Council. In addition to this, grants are made to encourage the construction of visitor accommodation. A proposal will be made to increase the funding of this program this year to encourage greater community involvement.

Seven new Co-operative Associations were established during 1971, bringing the total number to thirty-four. In addition to this two credit unions exist. Gross income is in excess of \$2.5 million. Sixty per cent of this amount represents direct income to the settlements concerned. Following the passing of enabling legislation by this Council,

action has been initiated to form a Territorial Co-operative Federation.

The most active loan fund administered by the Territorial Government is the Small Business Loan Fund. The total amount of loans now stands at close to half a million dollars. The fisherman's Loan Fund has now made available over a quarter of a million dollars to assist sixty-eight commercial fishermen in the Territories.

Arts and Crafts, as a major source of income supplement to many settlements continues to grow. The total sales from both independent co-operatives and government projects was one-and-a-half million dollars last year. During the past year, a major study designed to ascertain methods to improve the viability and productivity of the Indian handicraft industry was undertaken. It is hoped to implement recommendations of the study this year.

It is also proposed to start a Muskox farming operation during the year, and funds have been allocated for this purpose. Sports hunting of polar bear will take place again on a limited scale at Sachs Harbour and Resolute Bay. In addition, at the request of the Eskimo people concerned, the settlements of Coral Harbour and Holman will be included in the program. Paulatuk and Pond Inlet will be added in 1973.

Preliminary figures for fur production for the year totalled \$1.1 million. At the request of Council, a Trapper's Conference was held at Aklavik. Funds have been allocated for 1972 to expand these conferences into Fort Smith, Baffin

and Keewatin Regions.

During 1971, the Territorial Department of Information was reorganized and strengthened. Emphasis has been placed on keeping northern residents informed of the many programs the administration is carrying out. It has also concentrated on placing the developing North before the eyes of southern Canada.

The Eskimo newsletter was expanded. The publication, which contains articles concerned with Government programs is printed in syllabics and English. Its circulation is 3,500 throughout the Central and Eastern Arctic.

Provision has been made for the addition of an Indian Information Officer to the Department's staff to bring about a more complete program of communication with Native people in the Mackenzie area.

The Department is also developing a public affairs program of an educational nature which will describe Territorial Government programs and activities. Concentration here will be on native language dissemination.

In 1970, the Commissioner's Annual Report became the first commercial report of its type to be sold to the public as a hard-cover library edition. The publication was a tremendous success. With the cooperation of Information Canada the Report has circulated across Canada. The 1971 edition, which will be tabled in Council this afternoon, will, I am sure, be an equal success. "Tiara and Atigi"

our publication on the Centennial Royal tour and on the activities of our Centennial year was also a successful venture. In 1972 plans are to produce smaller-type magazines on the north.

I would like, at this time, to extend on your behalf, a very warm welcome to our Minister, the Honourable Jean Chretien. Mr. Chretien is making a second appearance before Council, having spoken to you on Territorial Council development on November 10, 1969.

Mr. Chretien arrived yesterday and officially opened the new Jimmy Bruneau School at Rae-Edzo. This evening he will do you further honour when he and Madame Chretien join us at the Northwest Territories Legislative Ball.

At this time I would like to publicly thank the Minister for his kind invitation to me to accompany him as a member of his delegation which visited the Soviet Union last summer. Both Richard Hill, then Mayor of Inuvik, and I, learned many important things concerning the rapid development taking place in Northern Russia. Some evening during the next three weeks I would like to show Council 750 coloured slides I have compiled, which give a very comprehensive look inside Russia Siberia. Over the next few months I hope to hold public showings in the major communities of the Northwest Territories.

At this time I would also like to welcome Sir Peter and Lady Hayman to the Territories. Sir Peter is United Kingdom High Commissioner to

Canada, and has returned to Yellowknife to attend the opening of Council and this evening's Legislative Ball.

As Members of this Council will know, major reorganization of the former Service Departments took place last year. A Secretariat has been established, much along the lines of the Treasury Board Secretariat in Ottawa. The main purpose of this unit is to assist myself, Deputy Commissioner Parker and Assistant Commissioner Gilchrist in improving the efficiency of the Territorial Administration. The group is not a large one and will not be fully effective for some months ahead. Most of its staff members have been drawn upon from existing Territorial public servants.

Last October, the administration consolidated the four then existing Service Departments into two - a Department of Administration and a Department of Public Services. The aim of the reorganization was to eliminate or reduce duplication of services and to enable a more efficient administrative operation at the headquarters level. To date, it appears that the reorganization has met with success. For example, within the Department of Administration an extensive review of transportation and resupply for settlements in the Eastern Arctic is in progress. Many of the changes that are envisioned will make much greater use of northern residents and northern businessmen.

The Eastern Arctic has long been a source of

problems for the past Federal and now Territorial Administration, because of its inaccessibility, poor transportation, lack of communication, high shipping costs, harsh climate and terrain, the great distances between communities, poor recreation, limited renewable resources, and few opportunities for industry and wage employment. Some improvements have been forthcoming, particularly in the field of air transportation, and I congratulate the following air carriers, mainly: Nordair, Transair and Atlas Aviation.

I have spent about a month since last summer in the Eastern Arctic, visiting most of the communities and reorganizing the Frobisher office. On Mr. Bob Pilot, the new Regional Director, and Mr. Mike Moore, his newly appointed Assistant, will fall a large part of the work in this endeavour.

Nevertheless, the responsibility for its development is mine and I expect to make three major tours of that area before your next Council Session, starting with the Eastern Arctic in February, the High and Eastern Arctic with you on your March Council tour, and the Keewatin in April or May. At the conclusion of the summer Session, I plan to return for a few weeks to the Eastern Arctic before beginning visits to the Mackenzie Delta, Western and Central Arctic.

It will take time and effort, and in some instances special support, before we will be able to make the kind of progress that is expected. All that I can say for now is that we understand

the situation, know what has to be done, and that we are prepared to devote as much effort and energy as we can muster to improve the Eastern part of our Territories.

In the Session ahead, this Council will be asked to consider five new Bills, four amendments to existing Ordinances and Supplementary Appropriations Ordinance for the 1971-72 fiscal year and main appropriation for the next year.

Council and Territorial residents in this area recall the success of the 1970 inauguration of the Arctic Winter Games.

From a Territorial point of view, while the N.W.T. amassed the highest aggregate points for the Games, most of our athletes came from the West. This could be because residents of the Central, Eastern and High Arctic and the Keewatin, either did not really know too much about them or, because of a lack of funds and the imposition of great distances, they were unable to participate.

The Games are a tremendous idea, and I am told, have captured the imagination of many Provinces, States and other countries.

While the Games are organized and developed primarily through non-government agencies, we, as the responsible government for the Northwest Territories, through this Council and the administration, must be prepared to shoulder our responsibility.

To involve all parts of the Territories is desirable.

and wherever possible it should be done, but it must be done from a realistic point of view. A formula must be drawn up to cover all entrants, and the system by which the participants are selected.

We realize that in all cases, at least the foreseeable future, the playdowns will continue to be the most expensive part of the Games. Therefore, a system of community, area, or regional eliminations is necessary before the final playdowns are held.

At the same time, we wonder if after 1976, the Games should not be held every three years, rather than every two as at present. While the Administration has not been directly involved in all the undertakings for the forthcoming Arctic Winter Games scheduled for Whitehorse in March, we understand and appreciate the need for financial support. To stage the playdowns and arrange for 1,234 Territorial athletes to participate in the various stages of the Games a total of \$150,000 will be needed. Of this, \$45,000 will be raised by the Northwest Territories Arctic Winter Games representatives. Keeping in mind my previous remarks, I propose asking Council for Supplementary Estimates to make a \$100,000 grant as our contribution to the forthcoming Games.

Among the most important new legislation that will be laid before you will be the Tradesmen's Qualifications Ordinance. This Ordinance would provide for the certification of Northern residents and ensure higher standards in the nature and quality of work.

The Loan Authorization Ordinance would authorize the Commissioner to borrow funds from the Government of Canada and lend money for Municipal Services, Housing and Mortgage Programs, and the like.

The Snow Vehicles Ordinance would provide for the regulation and control by Municipalities and Hamlets of the operation of snow vehicles -- to be brought into force at the option of the Municipalities or Hamlets concerned.

The Commissioner would be authorized by the Financial Agreement Ordinance to enter into and execute, on behalf of the Northwest Territories, an agreement with the Government of Canada in respect of the finances required to bring about the programs it plans for the year ahead.

Amendments to the Child Welfare Ordinance would introduce changes to provide for more effective and relevant legislation on the basis of experience.

Certain allowances now payable to Members of Council would be increased by an amendment to the Council Ordinance. Payment of incidental expenses allowances to Appointed Members would also be provided for by this amendment.

On the recommendation of the Liquor Control Board,

certain difficulties encountered in the administration of the Liquor Ordinance would be corrected by an amendment to the Ordinance.

A Supplementary Appropriations Ordinance will be introduced to provide funds required to meet unanticipated expenditures in the balance of the current fiscal year.

The Appropriations Ordinance for 1972-73 will also be placed before you for consideration. This year's budget amounts to a total of 115 million dollars.

In addition to the Legislation outlined, papers concerning such subjects as the establishment of a Territorial Museum Program, the Allocation of a Provincial-Type Responsibilities in the Northwest Territories, Mental Health Services and Muskox Ranching will also be submitted for your consideration.

Council members will join me, as I am sure do all the members of the Administration, in congratulating Mr. Frank Smith, the Northwest Territories newest Queen's Counsel. Mr. Smith has served this Council faithfully over the years, and I am most pleased with the honour he has received.

At this time I announce with regret the resignation of Mr. Bob Ward from the Northwest Territories Liquor Control Board. Mr. Ward made a very generous and experienced contribution to the Board during

its first year, and I am sure that Council will join me in thanking him publicly. In searching for a replacement, I have decided to go outside the Capital and I have appointed Mr. Howard Nethersole of Fort Smith to the Board. Mr. Nethersole is well known and a very responsible individual, with many years of public service in the North.

I would also like to pay due respect to Mr. George Orser, formerly Director of Personnel with the Territorial Government, who resigned this summer to join the Federal Treasury Board. And similarly to former Baffin Regional Director, Barry Gunn. Mr. Gunn resigned in late November, after spending close to seventeen years in the Eastern Arctic. Mr. Gunn's contribution is well known to all, and I wish him well for the future.

There are several items of major concern to the Administration which we will be looking into over the next few months. I believe the time has come when we should once again look at the Labour Standards Ordinance. Some of you will recall the decision in 1965 to form a Board of Enquiry into labour standards, which resulted in the 1967 passing of our Labour Standards Ordinance.

I said at that time, after several years experience we would open up the Ordinance for discussion and make provision for receiving representation from interested parties once again. Therefore, I propose to appoint a Board of Enquiry to hold public hearings for possible revisions to the Labour Standards Ordinance. At the next Session

of Council I will open the Minimum Wage Ordinance and propose an upward revision of this Ordinance, thus bringing it in line with similar Legislation across the country.

In closing I would like to commend this Council for the outstanding job it has done in Standing Committees. Much work has been carried out by these Committees on Finance, Legislation and Indemnities during the year. The work of Council Members on the Housing Task Force has been long and arduous but it has been carried out without stint in the knowledge that the results will benefit every citizen.

As usual, I have asked members of our administrative staff to be available to you to provide whatever assistance or information you may require in your deliberations. I am sure you will find the newly-formed Secretariat particularly helpful in this regard.

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