

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
7<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, 46<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

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TABLED ON JANUARY 24, 1972

REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONER AND THE  
COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

being a report of activities; proposed  
Terms of Reference and recommendations of

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF  
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES KNOWN AS THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND  
ECOLOGY

PREAMBLE  
AND  
COMPOSITION  
OF  
COMMITTEE

This Committee is composed of a Chairman and four Members, all of whom are Members of the Seventh Council of the Northwest Territories. Dr. Louis-Edmond Hamelin of Quebec City, an Appointed Member to the Northwest Territories Council by Governor-General's Order, has, on the advice of the Commissioner and with the unanimous consent of the Membership, been named Chairman of this Committee. The Membership is as follows:

- Councillor Tom Butters; Western Arctic
- Councillor John H. Parker, Yellowknife, Appointed
- Councillor Lyle Trimble, Lower Mackenzie
- Councillor James Rabesca, Great Slave North

Acting as Secretary to this Committee, as a non-voting member for the purpose of recording the activities, the discussions, deliberations and decisions of the Committee; Des Fogg, Executive Secretariat, Government of the Northwest Territories.

INAUGURAL  
MEETING  
AND  
ITS  
PURPOSE

An inaugural meeting of this Committee was held in the Members's Room, Room 421, Yellowknife Inn commencing at 13:15 hours, Friday, January 14, 1972. The Member for the High Arctic, Weldy W. Phipps attended this meeting as an invitee. Main purpose of the meeting was to present guidelines which would serve as a basis of Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee on Development and Ecology.

NAME  
OF  
COMMITTEE

It should be noted that this Committee has been referred to in correspondence as a Special Committee on Development and Ecology. It is believed that this was done in error, and the clear intention is that the Committee being an on-going one should be titled Standing Committee on Development and Ecology. This was agreed to by the Membership.

DEFINITION  
OF  
DEVELOPMENT  
FOR  
PURPOSES  
OF THIS  
COMMITTEE

In arriving at a proposed Terms of Reference, it should be noted that consensus is that a clear definition of the term "Development" as it applies to this Committee should be formulated. The term is so all-embracing that, taken in its broadest sense, it could impose upon this Committee responsibilities which it could not hope to fulfill because of limitations of time and money both. For the purpose of this Committee it is therefore proposed that "Development" be construed to imply only that development which may have a direct effect upon the ecology - with the basis being to ensure that any resource development that is seen to be coming to the Northwest Territories does not adversely affect or endanger the environment, and that such development is in the major interest of the people whose lives or livelihood may be affected or disrupted by its presence. It was the consensus of the Committee that its concern must be with day-to-day developments - keeping abreast with the "now" and the "foreseeable future", rather than with long-term aspects and forecasts.

THE  
NEED  
FOR  
LONG  
RANGE  
PLANNING

During discussion with regard to the breadth and scope of the term "Development" it should be noted that Councillor Phipps' favoured a much broader approach. The Councillor for the High Arctic advocated long-range planning toward the provision of economically viable settlements (growth area concept); the build-up of a self-sufficient people and eventual provincial status. Mr. Phipps said a basic policy for growth areas has to be established. He called for this Committee to consider an overall long-term policy designed to reach a specific goal, and formulate a general plan with regard to growth areas. Mr. Phipps' suggestion was considered too far-reaching to be included in the Terms of Reference of this Committee but it did receive approval in principle by all Members. A recommendation with regard to Mr. Phipps' proposal is dealt with later in this paper.

SCOPE  
OF  
COMMITTEE  
WITH  
REGARD  
TO  
DEVELOPMENT

Having agreed to confine itself to a more pertinent, if narrower, definition of this Committee's approach to development, it was agreed that concentration should be placed upon three main areas:

CONSULTATION  
COMPLETE INVOLVEMENT  
PRE-PLANNING

Included in the foregoing would be Members of this Committee; the Territorial Councillor of a concerned constituency (if not a member of the Committee); representatives of the Band, Settlement or Community Council concerned and any Federal or Territorial Government Department or Committee concerned with development, environment or ecology. The developer concerned would, of course, be involved in all three general categories of development now, and in the foreseeable future:

FORESTRY  
PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES  
MINING INDUSTRIES

These main development areas break down into a multitude of subsidiary areas. Under forestry, logging for example. Under Petroleum Industries, pipelining and seismic work. Under Mining, prospecting and various surveys.

ECOLOGICAL  
INVOLVEMENT

From the point of view of ecology, it was the consensus of this Committee that much could be done which would be of real and lasting value to the people of the North. Disregarding the always impassioned though often impractical suggestions of environmental sentimentalists, such areas as infringement of Trapper's rights, compensation, fire protection and Land Use Regulations are quoted as examples.

MISCELLANEOUS

It was noted that the Committee would work with and expect to receive every support from those existing Territorial Government groups dealing in matters concerned with development (within this Committee's definition); the environment or ecology.

One of the major functions of this Committee would involve influencing the Federal Government to commit the various operators and developers to certain stipulations before granting them a franchise.

From the above, the following proposed Terms of Reference have evolved.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

This Committee recommends its Terms of Reference be as follows:

That the Standing Committee on Development and Ecology shall consider or inquire into any matter of a developmental nature which may have influence on the environment or ecology within the Northwest Territories, as may be referred to it by the Commissioner or the Territorial Council.

The Standing Committee on Development and Ecology may, at its discretion:

- (a) inquire into any matter concerned with resource or industrial development in the Northwest Territories which may have influence upon the environment or ecology of the Northwest Territories.
- (b) urge involvement, consultation and planning between those operators or developers concerned with the Forestry Industry, the Petroleum Industry and the Mining Industry, or any other industry which, by the nature of its business, may affect the environment or ecology of the Northwest Territories; and those persons this Committee deems pertinent, and in particular with such community organizations as Band, Settlement and Community Councils.
- (c) receive petition or presentation from persons or groups of persons with regard to matters relating to the environment, ecology and related development in the Northwest Territories.
- (d) call upon, and receive, advice and support from any department, committee or agency within the Territorial Administration whose objectives parallel its own.
- (e) urge the Federal Government as the occasion arises, to present certain stipulations before granting a franchise to any operator or developer in the Northwest Territories.
- (f) as deemed necessary, review any existing or proposed Territorial administrative policy concerned with development, the environment or the ecology.

- (g) advise the Federal Government of any of its Legislation or draft Legislation the Committee considers not in the best interest of the development of resources contained within the Northwest Territories' boundaries, or adverse to the environment or ecology of these Territories.

With regard to the above Terms of Reference, this Committee regrets that the Territorial Administration does not have full responsibility for its resources, its environment or its ecology. In view of this, the Committee feel that it can operate only as an advisory body, rather than being in a position to impose concrete solutions to problems concerning the development and ecology of the Northwest Territories.

### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Two main recommendations have arisen as a result of meetings of the Standing Committee on Development and Ecology. They are as follows:

- (1) .. concerning powers of the Standing Committee, as outlined in the final paragraph of the Terms of Reference, we would urge this Council and the Territorial Administration to continue its representation to the Federal Government for the transfer of responsibility with relation to our resources. Until this is brought about this Council and Administration should continue to press the Federal Government for trusteeship of our resources and an accounting at the time of ultimate transfer.
- (2) .. during discussions which took place between Committee Members on Friday, January 14, 1972, it was agreed that some consideration must be given to long-term development in the Northwest Territories. It was suggested that a "super" Standing Committee be set up, comprised, perhaps, of the Chairmen of several existing Standing Committees of Council, and with the inclusion of the Commissioner. This Committee would formulate its own Terms of Reference but in effect they would be charged to devise long-term developmental goals and prepare a plan designed to bring these goals about. Emphasis would be placed upon the identification of growth centers, and the possible effect of development upon the communities which comprise the Northwest Territories.

CONCLUSION

This Committee respectfully requests receipt of this report and respectfully requests approval of the Commissioner and the Council of the Northwest Territories to the foregoing Terms of Reference.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND  
ECOLOGY

*Louis - Edouard Hamelin*

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CHAIRMAN

Dated at Yellowknife this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January 1972.