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THE NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE ON PATROL IN THE CANADIAN WEST



AN ADDRESS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

STUART M. HODGSON

AT THE OPENING OF

THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

BEING

THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE SEVENTH COUNCIL

YELLOWKNIFE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1973

I extend warmest greetings and a sincere welcome to each of you on this opening day of the forty-eighth Session of the Council of the Northwest Territories.

Before proceeding with my address, may I at this time express our sorrow and sympathy to Mrs. Pearson, wife of Canada's 14th Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Lester Pearson, who passed away during the latter part of December.

I take particular pleasure in welcoming the Members of this Council, whose dedication to these Territories and to those who live here has resulted in the continuing progress and well-being of both.

I am also very happy to welcome Mr. Wally Firth, Member of Parliament for the Northwest Territories, and publicly extend our congratulations on his recent election. Over the next months, we will be more and more calling on Mr. Firth for his help, and in turn will help him in any way within our power to assist in his work.

As the years go by, activities of Council and Government become more complex. There is an increasing number of things to do, and other things we would like to do, but the important point in all this is that the Council of the Northwest Territories and the administration have gained considerable experience, and it would seem to me stand ready, willing and able to take on an increasing amount of responsibility.

As I look back to 1964, when the Dean of the Council, Mr. Trimble, Air Marshal Campbell and I first were

privileged to join this Council in Ottawa, I recall that it was a much smaller body. It never really knew where it stood and it lacked the machinery so necessary for effective decisions.

It has been a long road, a lot of things have happened and many great changes have taken place here in the Territories since those days. I think it important that we pay our respects to past Councils of these Territories for the foundation they laid down, the vision and planning that over the past twenty years has led to the many accomplishments and achievements that we today enjoy, keeping in mind that there is still much to be done.

Since the Territorial Government's headquarters was established in Yellowknife, it has been my custom to use this occasion to convey both to this Council and to the people of the Territories, highlights of the operations your Government has been involved in during the year past, and to outline the pattern of progress that is planned for the future.

This past year, I have travelled continuously throughout the Territories. I do this because of a basic conviction that the successes of any Government depend on its achievements across the broad field rather than in any specific area. These past thirteen months, I have spoken in every community with the exception of one which, unfortunately, due to bad weather, I was not able to visit. I have noted a much higher degree of interest and participation

since my last visits of over a year ago. The regions are functioning much better, but it is in the communities where the great change is taking place. More and more, local people are stepping forward to take up the reins of authority, and of course the responsibility that goes with it. It isn't always easy but none of us ever expected that it would be. What is important is that grass roots government is working and communities are making the decisions as to what is best for their locality, and in fact have in many instances taken over active control of municipal or community-like services. However, I believe we must be careful not to overload local Councils with superfluous and meaningless detail.

Now that the North is recognized as having a potential viability, more and more visitations take place, to the extent that in some cases at any given time of the year more visitors can be counted in communities than actual residents. This results in a certain amount of concern by the local people as to just what is happening. This has become a major problem and we must insist that people moving in and out of communities explain the reasons for their visits.

As I am sure you are the first to recognize, the interest in the North these past few years has increased tenfold, particularly in the fields of the people, development, transportation, communication, ecology, conservation, and the environment. The big thing is to keep the Territorial residents informed. Consultation is of major importance and although many

words are often used to describe it, I believe consultation means communication between each other while each respecting the other person's interests and opinions. The North is a very large place with a very, very small population. During the last few years it has developed a strong and loud voice, and the people in the South are now prepared to listen. It is of greatest importance that Northerners, regardless of their ethnic origin, try to work out their differences of opinion, and wherever possible work together in the interests of all Northern people, keeping in mind that there are specific areas of concern that may affect only certain sections of the population. To those who are not involved in these specific problems, much patience is needed in order to allow time for those with specific problems to work out a satisfactory solution. I say it this way because Canada is no different than most other countries in the world. Public opinion plays an important part in the course and direction. While there is great interest in the North at the present time and Canadians in general are prepared to listen, this may not always be the case, as history shows that public interest continues to shift.

It seems to me one of our most difficult problems is deciding who represents whom, and when. I have said many times that each of us has a part to play, but no one can be all things to all people. In the final analysis, it is the results that count. Therefore, I urge all of you to join together and support Territorial representatives at the National, Territorial and community levels.

There was a time when I felt that I should carry the responsibility for everyone. Events over the past year have convinced me that this is no longer the case. There are now in existence many people able to not only shoulder authority, but the responsibility for it. While I am prepared to be responsible for those who cannot look after themselves, as much as possible this administration will continue to encourage the delegation of authority and the responsibility that goes with it, with the emphasis on serving rather than governing.

As you know, your Department of Information has for the past number of years produced an Annual Report that is considered one of the best on the North American continent. As the report covers much detail and will be tabled today, therefore this afternoon I will only cover items of major interest.

In 1972, emphasis has been put on improving communications - especially for Indian and Eskimo residents. The most important new program that falls under the jurisdiction of the Information Department has been the establishment of the Interpreter-Translator Corps.

Springing from an idea by Councillor Pearson, and reinforced by my own experiences in the settlements, a total of six Indian and Eskimo persons will commence a training course next month which is designed to provide our indigenous people with a proper understanding of the workings of the Territorial Government. The Corps will not only act as interpreters but will be able to give full explanations of programs and

policies, as well as detailed understandings of Government activities.

The Department now publishes a companion piece to its Eskimo Newsletter that is designed to keep our Indian people up-to-date with latest Governmental developments. The Newsletter is printed in English, and translated on tape into the five Indian dialects that are found throughout the Mackenzie Valley. The tapes are then distributed to the Community Councils.

In addition to this, our Information Department is busily involved in a program which could see the placement of small radio stations in most outlying communities. In close co-operation with the Advisory Committee on Northern Development's Sub-Committee on Communications, the CBC, and aided by Anik, audio and visual communications in the Territories promises to improve beyond any speculations which would dare have been made little more than two decades ago when most of the outside sounds were caused by the cries of rambunctious ravens or the howling of huskies.

Along with the Annual Report, a further production by the Department of Information - "Arctic in Colour" will be released this evening for large scale national distribution. "Arctic in Colour" is a commercial enterprise that has been well received by the public. In both the Annual Report and the

new issue of "Arctic in Colour", there is a special section dedicated to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the important role they have played in the development of the Northwest Territories.

As you know, 1973 is the 100th birthday of the world's most famous force, The Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Northwest Territories Council and your Territorial Government are most happy to join with all Canadians in extending congratulations and best wishes to the force on the occasion of their Centennial. To specifically mark the event, this evening's Legislative Ball has chosen a North West Mounted Police - Royal Canadian Mounted Police decor. I am today particularly pleased to welcome the Commander of the Force, Commissioner W. L. Higgitt. Commissioner and Mrs. Higgitt and other senior members of the Force have accepted an invitation to join with us this afternoon and evening, to mark this occasion. In this manner, the Northwest Territories both salutes and humbly thanks the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for their help, assistance and dedicated service this past century to the people of the Territories.

In the field of Education, considerable progress has been made in furthering our philosophy of tailoring the type of education we offer to suit the special needs of the North. A survey of Education, which has been in process for over two years, was tabled in the June Session of Council. Its recommendations have been studied over the past months by members of an

Education Committee selected from the Territorial Council, and their report will be tabled during this Session of Council.

A new grade one-to-six Curriculum Guide has been revised and approved. A revision of our junior high program will be ready, at least on an experimental basis, by September. The Post-Secondary education program involves the support of over one hundred and fifty students at universities, in addition to almost the same number in such institutions as the Alberta Northern and Southern Institutes of Technology. Continuing and Special Education programs have been expanded to include actual highway construction as a training project for heavy duty equipment workers.

During the year, schools were opened at Frobisher Bay and Fort Resolution, and the formal opening of the new Hay River school is scheduled for February 2nd. A school was opened at Rae Lakes in September last, and one is planned for Paulatuk in September of this year. As well, several expansions are planned to take place in existing school facilities at Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Spence Bay, Eskimo Point and Pine Point.

Our Education Resource Centre continues to expand in the area of audio-visual classroom education, and at present the Government is examining the extension of the use of Video Tape Recording Equipment and Television in our schools. The teacher education program for Native teachers continues successfully with the result

that more Native educators will be available for teaching in Northern schools. A breakthrough is being made in the Classroom Assistants program. Approximately eighty young Indians and Eskimos engaged in this capacity are now recognized as Territorial Public Servants with the accompanying rights, privileges and responsibilities.

Turning now to the Department of Social Development, the year has seen the integration of all the Department's program at the community level. It is very evident that there is an increasing interest in community-based social services, particularly in day-care and co-ordinated home care.

During the past year, the Department has also concentrated on its Corrections Programs. Arrangements were completed with the Solicitor General to have Northerners who receive penitentiary sentences serve these at our Yellowknife Institution. On-site discussions with the Frobisher Bay Hamlet Council and other interested persons and communities are underway to determine what type of community corrections program is practical for Baffin Island and the Eastern Arctic. An assessment of the need for community Corrections Services in other parts of the Territories will be undertaken with particular emphasis being given to the Mackenzie.

In July the offices of the Territorial Health Care Plan moved to Yellowknife, where it functions as a Division of the Department of Social Development.

The Department of Local Government continues to bring autonomy to the some fifty-five settlements that lie within the Northwest Territories boundaries.

In April, four new hamlets were created - Pangnirtung, Coral Harbour, Pelly Bay and Fort Franklin - bringing the total number of hamlets in the Northwest Territories to nine. Villages were created at Fort Simpson and Pine Point on the first of January this year. Settlement Councils were established in four communities, bringing the total number of settlements which have councils to thirty-six.

In 1972, more than one million dollars was distributed to the Territorial Municipalities as operating grants - grants which are designed to reduce the burden of taxation on local rate payers. As well, almost four hundred thousand dollars was distributed to help in the construction of road paving and other such capital projects. Over one million dollars was loaned to the municipalities by way of repayable debentures, mainly to assist in the extension of water-sewer services and the purchase of fire-fighting equipment.

Our assessment program has been expanded and in 1973 we will be examining the assessed values of existing pipeline installations with a view to developing acceptable taxation levels.

A change in the unconditional grant structure to a per-capita basis will be brought about this year, ensuring an equitable distribution of assistance to each municipality. As well, an in-depth study of the method of school financing, again, designed to bring about more equitability will be carried out.

The Department of Local Government's Housing Division report another busy year. The total of Northern and Territorial Rental Units now exceeds two thousand six hundred. Local Housing Associations have assumed responsibility for administering the program at the settlement level.

Development of Public Housing projects in Inuvik, Yellowknife and Hay River is well underway. Thirty-one single family units have been completed in Inuvik, twelve single family units will be available in Yellowknife by early summer, and twenty single family units will be available in Hay River by early summer of 1973.

Senior Citizen projects in Fort Simpson, Inuvik, and Fort McPherson have been completed, and similar projects in Hay River and Fort Resolution will be completed by this mid-summer.

In 1973-74 it is anticipated that construction will get underway for one hundred and thirty-eight units of Northern Rental Housing and fifty units of Territorial Rental Housing. We plan forty single family units of Public Housing in Inuvik, twenty single family units in Fort Smith and twenty more in Frobisher Bay. Eight units of Senior Citizens type accommodation are scheduled for Aklavik and twenty units of single person's accommodation are scheduled for Fort Simpson.

During recent Sessions of the Territorial Council it was drawn to the attention of the Administration that there is a pressing need for improvements to many of the houses provided under the Northern Rental Housing Program.

Because of increased revenues that have accrued to the Territorial Government as a result of stepped up development that has taken place during the past year, and because of good management practices by the Administration, we have been able to realize some surplus funds this year.

Although the Northern Rental Housing Program is a Federal program, the need is such that we have decided to direct funds to various Housing Associations throughout the Northwest Territories to enable them to bring substandard housing units built prior to 1969 up to an acceptable standard. The Territorial Council will be asked to approve a supplementary estimate to the amount of \$236,200 for this purpose.

In addition, we intend to continue our efforts to obtain recognition from the Federal Government for the need to upgrade and increase the existing level of service under the Northern Rental Housing Program. We believe that an improvement is required in the area of municipal services, fuel and power supply under this program.

Anticipating the effects that more job creating industrial development might have on settlements in the Mackenzie Valley, the Town Planning and Lands Division began in 1972 to prepare for the development demands. Elsewhere, priorities were adjusted, bringing to the top of the list such localities as Resolute Bay where a new townsite is under study.

Lands in and around eight centres were transferred to your administration as of November 1971, and two more will be shortly. The Federal Government is working on twelve additional transfers which are expected to take place this year.

In other areas of Local Government, our Library Services and Recreation Division have continued to contribute to the broadening of the scope of learning and leisure in almost every settlement in the Northwest Territories. In Recreation, the major project will be the complex at Frobisher Bay.

As most of you will know, both the Federal and Territorial Governments are concentrating on seeing to it that the benefits which accrue from the extraction of Territorial Resources is justly shared by the people who live here. To bring this about, two special committees have been set up. One is the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline and Highway Group - the other a division charged with increasing employment possibilities for Northern residents.

In 1972 activities for the highway involved planning and organization to ensure that Northern residents obtain full benefit from employment opportunities and that northern businesses will be used to the maximum extent. In addition, plans to minimize the undesirable social effects on the communities were implemented. Steps were taken to ensure that the highway route and construction activity did not interfere unduly with environmental and social concerns.

This year, the projects group will continue to monitor highway construction activities and be involved in the planning and negotiations for possible pipeline construction.

The Employment Division is a relatively small one, but already it is making its effectiveness felt in the area of increasing employment possibilities for our Native people.

Assisted by guidance from a Committee of Directors from Territorial Government Departments, the Employment Division is also concentrating its efforts on effectively increasing the number of Northern residents employed by the Territorial Public Service.

The Employment Division is now responsible for our Training-On-The-Job Program and Relocation Program. Eighty-one trainees took part in various on-the-job training programs between last March and December.

Two pilot project labour pools will be started shortly in Fort McPherson and Aklavik. It is intended to compare these experiments with that of the Work Arctic Program - which was so successful in Hay River, and the Hire North program on the Mackenzie Highway north of Fort Simpson - in order to assess the possibility of extending the program to other communities.

To date, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs have authorized the expenditure of \$422,600 under the Labour Incentive Program for a total of 880 man months of employment to complete a variety of projects in various settlements throughout the Northwest Territories.

Under the Local Initiatives Program, the Federal Government had by the end of December approved eight projects totalling \$264,000 for various locations in the Northwest Territories. Many other applications are still under consideration by Canada Manpower.

Late in the year, a new Director was appointed to head up the activities of the Department of Industry and Development.

Not unexpectedly, the new Director is considering some changes in the substance and the style of the Department's operations and these changes are likely to lead to certain modifications in the structure and organization of the Department.

Under the former Director, the work of the Department was marked by an energetic and many faceted thrust toward economic development in all parts of the Territories. This will continue. There will be no basic change of direction. There may, however, be some differences of approach.

As we have always recognized, development is not something that can be imposed by government upon people. It is a goal which government and people can work towards in partnership.

Only if the people to be affected by development programs are enabled to participate fully in shaping them are these programs likely to succeed.

In terms of real achievement over the last year, the Department has done much.

The three program divisions of the Department of Industry and Development - Tourism, Game Management and Industrial Development all report a successful, productive and active year past, and promise pronounced progress in the year ahead.

Tourism produced three new programs, all designed to advance the visitor industry. Main among them, and of particular advantage to our indigenous people in remote settlements was one of development grants for building up facilities for tourists.

Tourism has also altered its emphasis in an effort to attract a greater Canadian market.

The Game Management Division expanded its polar bear sports hunting program to include two additional settlements. Six big game outfitters in the Mackenzie Mountains and the Bison Range at Fort Smith had successful seasons. Organized settlement caribou hunts provided food for several settlements. Among other things inventory caribou surveys were conducted in Baffin Island and other locations.

Fur production during last year's season was slightly down, but stronger market conditions increased values from 1.2 million dollars to 1.4 million.

During the upcoming year, research programs connected with Polar Bears, Grizzly Bears and Muskox-Caribou relationships will be carried out.

A major revision of the Game Ordinance and Regulations is being carried out. The revision will be completed and presented to the June Session of this Council.

The Industrial Development Division reports new activity within all sectors of the various Loan Funds it administers, due, in no small part, to increased activity taking place in the Mackenzie Corridor. Since the Eskimo Loan Fund was turned over to the Northwest Territories, ten loans totalling \$150,000 have been approved.

Arts and Crafts sales realized two million dollars, with some 1.3 million dollars showing as a direct return to the producer.

This coming year will see greater emphasis placed on Credit Union development in indigenous communities, and the development of a Northwest Territories Credit Union Central in Yellowknife.

The Department of Public Services was reorganized to better suit the public it serves.

The Magistrate and Territorial Court functions were renamed Court Services. On October first, the Territorial Court was renamed the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories.

A new division of Administration and Registries was created.

The Territorial Legal Aid Scheme, established late in 1971 and administered by a Legal Aid Committee continues to provide an expanding service to those of our own citizens who need their service.

Many new services are apparent in all divisions of the Public Services Department.

Little more than a year ago, there were no restrictions on the sale or advertising of Securities in the Territories. Several salesmen and companies selling Securities without being registered were given notice of requirement of the Ordinance and have either applied for licences or ceased selling.

A standard testing procedure for drivers is expected to be implemented later this year. Regulations requiring safety inspections and driver testing with regard to the operation of school buses came into effect in September.

It has been suggested that the regulations are too hard on bus owners who are using the vehicles for multi purposes. If this proves to be the case, the Administration is prepared to take another look at the regulation and make adjustments so long as the safety of the passengers is always maintained.

Polar Bear licence plates continue to be popular as collectors' items in the Northwest Territories. The 1973 licence plate will commemorate the R.C.M.P. Centennial.

In response to a public protest about the availability of insurance, especially in the automobile field, it has been established that through the Insurance Bureau of Canada the Department has access to the management of insurance companies to deal with complaints by any resident of the Northwest Territories. A new Insurance Ordinance is being prepared for

consideration at the next Session of Council.

In the middle of the year, the Labour and Workmen's Compensation Division was moved from Edmonton to Yellowknife.

Two Boards of Inquiry, a Labour Board of Inquiry and a Workmen's Compensation Board were set up; the first Board to review the Labour Standards Ordinance and to advise the Government as to the desirability of adopting a Labour Relations Ordinance to regulate relations between the employer and the union. The second Board was set up to review revisions to the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance. Both Boards will submit their findings and suggested revisions and amendments early in the present year.

Sales by the Liquor Control System in 1972 increased approximately twelve percent. The Liquor Control Board held regular monthly meetings during the year and one public meeting was held in Fort McPherson.

A major reorganization is in progress within the Department of Public Works, headed by Assistant Commissioner and Acting Director of Public Works, C. W. Gilchrist.

Services provided by the Department have shown a vast improvement during the past year but, prompted mainly by the demand for upgrading services on one hand and frustrated by inclement weather on the other, some setbacks have been encountered. In Frobisher Bay and Hall Beach, housing materials failed to arrive, and house construction had to be deferred until later this year.

On the positive side, we now have more than ninety percent of the construction of low rental houses, staff houses, settlement offices and panellized classrooms being carried out with native groups as the main contractors. In all, some five hundred projects affecting every Territorial settlement will be completed by the end of March.

Also of great significance is the construction of log structures being erected at settlements in the Mackenzie at the request of the local people.

The maintenance and improvements of roads - which now total over one thousand miles - including eight hundred and forty miles of trunk highway, continued. Four hundred and twenty miles of winter road were opened up and maintained and the dust control program was continued and will be extended.

The construction and upgrading of airstrips continued. A highway relocation project in Hay River was carried out, as was the earthwork portion of the Fort Resolution Highway. Survey work commenced on the winter road to Jean Marie River and an all-weather road to Fort Franklin from the Mackenzie Highway system.

An important aspect of the present reorganization is the development of an Administrative and Financial Division to provide a full range of engineering, financial and personnel services to the operating divisions of the Department. This Division handled over eight hundred contracts - large and small - and ranging from small contracts for maintenance services to construction contracts valued at millions of dollars.

The Department of Administration concentrated its efforts on streamlining the handling of materiel and data to keep the operating costs of the Government to a minimum.

A decision has been made to introduce bulk gasoline storage in all northern settlements where there is no commercial agency. It is planned to utilize local labour to handle the distribution of fuel within the communities concerned.

In the Baffin Region particularly, the year has seen emphasis on increased participation by local people in their own affairs. It is expected that this year, Resolute Bay will become an Area Service Office to serve the Northern part of the Region.

The Keewatin looks forward to the construction at Rankin Inlet beginning this year, of physical facilities permitting the transfer of the Territorial Government's headquarters responsibilities out of Manitoba and into the Northwest Territories.

The physical change will accompany an organizational change and the introduction at Rankin Inlet of a District Service Center providing Keewatin with complete government services. It is expected by

early 1974 the relocation of current operations can begin, with the probability that the entire operation will be in place late in 1974 or early the following year. As in the Baffin Region, steady progress toward local responsibility remains a prime objective in the Keewatin.

In all its departmental functions, the Administration has benefited to a high degree by the activities of the Executive Secretariat. Under the direction of former Fort Smith Regional Director, E.M.R. Cotterill - who is also Secretary to the Executive Committee - a strong force of expertise has been developed in several different areas.

The Secretariat operates a Division which concerns itself with the development of long and short term administrative planning. It prepares pertinent specialized reports on behalf of the Territorial Government, collects and computerizes material of value to the administration, and acts on many Committees with which we have an association, and particularly with the Advisory Committee on Northern Development, the Department and other Federal Government agencies.

It is expected the year ahead will see continued expansion in the utilization of the Secretariat in the overall reorganization of Governmental procedures, particularly along fiscal and long range planning and advisory lines.

The Executive, consisting of myself, Deputy Commissioner Parker and Assistant Commissioner Gilchrist, aided by the Secretary to the Executive Committee, had an extremely busy year - and the year ahead shows no sign of slackening pace. Deputy Commissioner Parker will continue his responsibility for the main day-to-day overall administration of Territorial Government matters.

As for me, it is my intention to continue and broaden my visits to the settlements across the Territories - visiting with the Councils and people - to acquaint myself and those pertinent Government personnel who travel with me with the "on-the-ground" needs and aspirations of our residents, particularly those in the more isolated communities.

As I mentioned publicly some time ago, Assistant Commissioner Gilchrist is due to retire from the Territorial Public Service within a month or two, after a total of thirty-six years of dedicated service to the public of Canada. At that time, it is my intention to appoint two Assistant Commissioners and realign the reporting relationship that Headquarters and Regional Directors have to the Executive, allowing more time for pure policy and decision making and more time for personal contact and consultation with the Directors themselves.

I would like to thank Assistant Commissioner Gilchrist for his untiring support and help to the Council, the Territorial Administration, and myself. Mr. Gilchrist, along with Deputy Commissioner Parker,

deserve much of the credit for the successful establishment of our Territorial Public Service. For the past six years, Mr. Gilchrist has been responsible for Territorial Government Service Departments. It was under his supervision that the reorganization of the Departments of Public Works, Public Services, and Administration were carried out. I am sure all of you join with me in thanking him for his service and wish him well for the future.

It is with regret that I announce the resignation from Council of Mr. Leo Lemieux for health reasons. Mr. Lemieux came to Council in 1971 and I am sure all of you join with me in thanking him for his service. I would expect a replacement for him will be announced prior to the next session of Council.

At this time I would also like to thank Mr. B. C. Gillie, former Director of Education, and Mr. E. Alan Ballantyne, former Director of Industry and Development, for their help and assistance. Both of these Directors came to us during our formative years and played an important part in establishing these two departments of Government.

It would seem appropriate at this time to officially commend the dedication to duty of the Public Servants of these Territories. I am sure that Council will join me in complimenting them for the service they are providing to the North and its people.

I have attempted to cover both progress during this past year and some of our plans for the present year. During the budget discussions, the details of all Government programs and spending will be open for your consideration. At that time, amplification can be made on the plans for the next fiscal year.

Before leaving this subject, however, it may be well to mention some of our far range thinking that will no doubt have much influence on the future course of the Territories. It is my firm conviction that rather than slow down the administrative development within the Territories, a change of emphasis may well be necessary. Over and above those items detailed in the report on Education, every effort must be made to encourage the return of education to the home settlement and the family. This must be done even if it means a return to the "Little Red School House", or one or two room school.

Concentrating education at the elementary level in specific and designated areas has much to be said for it. The main drawback is that what happens is that parents lose almost permanent contact with their children. Therefore, every effort will be made to work toward providing a grade one to eight, and in some instances nine, education at the community level, utilizing small hostels for student use while parents are on the land. This, in effect, will reverse the process of tying the hunter and trapper to the settlement while the children are in school or away at school, by making it possible for the children to attend a local school, and giving the parents the opportunity to move back and forth, utilizing the resources of the land.

At the high school level, it will be necessary to continue to build permanent residences alongside large high schools in selected areas, in order that those students wishing to take advantage of high school education or prepare themselves for higher education, can have equal opportunities with those in the larger communities. It should not be presupposed that other high schools in other communities will not be built. This matter is also under very active consideration.

In the field of housing, I am sure Council are hoping to see an early implementation on the recommendations of the Task Force on Housing. On this subject, more ways must be found to encourage home ownership rather than rental. Perhaps more use should be made of long term property leases, and ways and means found to encourage home ownership in all sections of the communities. As it stands at the present, unfortunately most homes are either owned by the Government or the business community and there is very little incentive or opportunity for home ownership and the subsequent pride of ownership.

In the field of construction, it is of major importance that ways and means be found to make better use of the building season. Perhaps greater use should be made in isolated settlements of air transportation, and long term contracts worked out at mutually acceptable rates, that would see building materials brought in during the Spring and construction carried

out in the Summer rather than as is presently done-- arrival in the Fall and construction in the Winter. In most cases in the Arctic, whether it be the High Arctic, the Eastern Arctic or the Keewatin, materials arrive when the good weather is almost over and construction is carried on under the North's worst conditions. The cost of other means of transportation may well be offset by the savings in construction.

Later this afternoon, it will be my pleasure to once again officially welcome to the Northwest Territories Their Excellencies, The Right Honourable Roland Michener, Governor General of Canada, and Mrs. Michener. Their Excellencies will be making their fifth visit to Northern Canada.

His Excellency will be investing Mr. Sam Crow with the Order of Canada. This is the first time that the newly revised Order has ever been presented, and also the first time that an Investiture of the Order of Canada has ever taken place outside of Ottawa.

His Excellency, as Prior of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, will invest one of your well respected and deserving colleagues, Air Marshal Hugh Campbell, into the Order of St. John, and will also make a presentation to the Northwest Territories Girl Guides.

This will be followed by the reading of the Proclamation proclaiming the Norah Willis Michener Territorial Park Game Preserve. Her Excellency has championed many causes on behalf of Northern people. One of these was the successful program that introduced incubators

in the many far flung nursing stations. Her Excellency has also made it a practice to use Northern handicrafts, such as parkas, as gifts to Heads of State. I am sure you will join with me in a warm welcome to Their Excellencies.

I would also like to welcome Sir Martin Charteris from London, England. Sir Martin is Private Secretary to Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and accompanied The Queen on her 1970 tour to the Territories and Manitoba.

I should also note the presence of Colonel Redmond Roche, Chancellor of the Order of St. John, and Priory Secretary Brigadier General D. W. Cunnington; also General Garneau, Director of Ceremonies, and Mr. Roger de Nantel, Registrar General of the Order of Canada.

To the many people who have joined us from other communities in the Territories as Council guests, the purpose of your visit here today is to give you the opportunity to attend the Opening of Council, to participate in this evening's Legislative Ball, and to give you the opportunity to speak with representatives from other Northern communities.

To our many Southern guests, it is indeed a great pleasure to see you here once again, and we thank you for coming.

To those of you from the capital, thank you for joining us this afternoon, and for your interest.

There are many others of whom special mention should be made but time does not permit singling them out at this time. However, there is one among you whose contribution to Canada, this Council and the North is perhaps just a little above and beyond the call of duty, and I refer to a former long-time Council Member, a man who knows what it is like, who both knows and loves the North and who has experienced the hardships of living and travelling on the land. He is a soldier, statesman, a leader of men, and a humanitarian, the former Commander of the R.C.M.P., Commissioner Len Nicholson.

All of those whom I have mentioned are, of course, accompanied by their wives, and we are very happy to have them with us for this afternoon and evening.

At this Session, Council will be asked to give consideration to five new Bills and seven Bills which would amend existing legislation; a supplementary appropriations Bill for the current fiscal year and the main appropriations Bill for the fiscal year 1973-74.

Among the most important new Bills to be presented is the Registered Nurses Ordinance which would provide for the compulsory registration of all persons working as Registered Nurses in the Territories, and for the imposition of annual fees.

A closely related Bill, the Certified Nursing Assistants Ordinance, would provide for the

Certification by the Government of the Northwest Territories of Nursing Assistants trained within the Territories and for reciprocity of similar certification with the Provinces.

On the recommendation of the Federal Minister of Justice, provision would be made for the compensation of victims of crime by the enactment of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Ordinance.

Council Members would, by enacting the Council Members Retiring Allowances Ordinance, be provided with a contributory pension program.

The legislative base necessary for the progressive, up-to-date type of Correction Program for adults proposed by the Council and recommended in the report of the Jubinville Committee would be provided for by the Corrections Ordinance.

The Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Ordinance would be amended to make changes in terminology necessary as a result of the transfer of this function from the Federal to the Territorial government.

Amendments to the Medical Care Ordinance would standardize the eligibility and portability requirements for all Medical Care and Hospitalization Plans in Canada.

By an amendment to the Marriage Ordinance Territorially appointed Justices of the Peace would be authorized to perform marriage ceremonies.

Provision of more equitable treatment of minors consuming liquor illegally would be made by an amendment to the Liquor Ordinance.

An amendment to the Public Highways Ordinance would set out the distance which buildings, building sites, signs, and the like must be from public highways.

The Municipal Ordinance would be amended to introduce miscellaneous changes relating to the nomination of candidates in municipal elections, the holding of in-camera municipal council meetings, privilege afforded to members of municipal councils, conflict of interest of municipal council members and the borrowing of money by municipalities.

Dental Therapist Trainees at the Fort Smith Adult Vocational Training Centre would by an amendment to the Dental Profession Ordinance be authorized to perform simple extractions and therapeutic work on live subjects under the supervision of a dentist.

In addition to this, several papers will be tabled before this Council for the information and wise consideration of its members.

Once - just a mere handful of years ago in fact - the North was regarded as Canada's poor relation. That isn't the case today. Southern Canada and its bordering states have realized the potential we have, and massive cities with huge syndicates are turning envious eyes to those areas which lie beyond the sixtieth parallel.

It is the intention of this Territorial Government to see to it that any benefits which may accrue from our resources also accrue to the benefit of our residents as well as Canada as a whole.

The gathering strength of the Northwest Territorial Council, brought about to a great degree by the establishment of the Standing Committees, who, through their knowledge of the North and its people, and the interest they take in ensuring programs that are brought about are good for both, bodes well for the future of the North.

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-eighth Session of the Council of the Northwest Territories.