

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
7TH COUNCIL, 48TH SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 13-48

TABLED ON JANUARY 26, 1973

PROPOSAL

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES MUSEUM POLICY

This society proposes a policy of Regional and Community Museums for the Northwest Territories. A number of these museums already exist at Yellowknife (Museum of the North), Tuktoyaktuk, Coppermine, Pangnirtung, Igloodik, Coral Harbour, Frobisher Bay, Hay River, and Fort Smith, and there may be others of which we are not aware.

The people involved with these established museums, as far as we can determine, have not been consulted with regards to the preparation of an N.W.T. Museum Policy. We propose that they be brought together to give their recommendations before further planning is carried out.

The Northwest Territories being such a vast area, we feel that a policy of upgrading existing Regional and Community Museums would satisfy our needs more fairly and give better representation throughout the North. These museums could then, if properly equipped and staffed, prepare displays for circulation to other Regions and even to southern museums. This would enable more people to view and appreciate the cultural and historical valuables of our northland.

We see the need for a co-ordinator of these museums, and possible this person's headquarters should be close to government headquarters. The Regional Museum at Yellowknife, Museum of the North, could well house his office.

This society sees the cost of constructing a large central museum, proposed cost being well over \$1,000,000, along with the annual cost of staffing and operating this central facility as being unrepresentative of the total needs of the Northwest Territories. With the limited amount of financing available for museums, we believe that very little would remain for regional and community museum development and operation.

This society feels that a representative Museum Policy for the Northwest Territories is a sensitive and personal matter. We would expect those formulating a policy to solicit the ideas of those involved with Northern Museums before embarking on this very important matter.