

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
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REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON DEVELOPMENT AND ECOLOGY

TO THE

48TH SESSION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES COUNCIL

1972(?)

Mr. Commissioner:

I would like at this time to report briefly upon the activities of the Standing Committee on Development and Ecology since its inception and inaugural meeting on Friday, January 14, 1972.

As you will know, Sir, the Committee is composed of Councillor Tom Butters, Western Arctic; Councillor Lyle Trimble, Lower Mackenzie; Councillor James Rabesca, Great Slave North; and myself, acting in the capacity of Chairman.

During the past year, the Committee has met four times, on each occasion during sittings of Council in Yellowknife. During its first meeting, the Committee confined itself to the development of its Terms of Reference, a consensus of the ultimate aims of the Committee and the limitations imposed upon it by the fact that the Territorial Government does not have full responsibility for its resources, its environment or its ecology.

A second meeting was held on January 21, 1972, at which time Terms of Reference were formally drawn up, agreed with by the Committee, and ultimately presented in this Chamber as a Report to the Commissioner and Council of the Northwest Territories.

In June, during the 47th Session, a further meeting of the Committee took place. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss a fresh approach by the Committee for dealing with problems connected with balanced development and ecological considerations.

From this, it should not be construed that the original Terms of Reference proved inconducive to the effective operation of the Committee due to the limitations imposed upon it that I mentioned a moment ago. Indeed, during the year, Councillor Butters presented on behalf of this Committee a well prepared brief to an International Conference on the Human Environment, and I personally prepared many papers dealing with ecology and the Northern situation, and have spoken on such subjects as Guidelines to Pipelines.

However, Mr. Commissioner, partly because of the lack of ability this Committee has to deal effectively with those areas of resource development and those areas of an ecological nature over which we have no control, I have tendered my resignation as Chairman of the Committee at a meeting held Wednesday, January 31, 1973. The above is not the only consideration I have in tendering my resignation. There are others. I feel that I am at present occupied in too many Committees to do justice to them all. As well, our new Director of Industry and Development is conducting a study, preparing a plan and will eventually report to this Council on matters of a developmental and ecological nature. It is my feeling at this time that the Committee should be terminated until such time that the report is made, then, if required, the Committee be reconstituted.

During Wednesday's meeting, a four item agenda was discussed. The four items were as follows:

- 1.. Review of 1972 activities by the Standing Committee on Development and Ecology;

- 2.. A proposal to terminate the activities of the Standing Committee on Development and Ecology;
- 3.. The question of Chairmanship of the Committee, if Item Three is defeated by the majority vote of the Committee; and
- 4.. Definition of a revised program, if the Committee is to so continue.

Upon vote, Members of the Standing Committee agreed to its continuation. Consensus of the assenting Members indicated that this Committee is needed more now than ever, but that a fresh approach and program is required.

The Standing Committee on Development and Ecology has accepted my resignation as Chairman, but I will remain a Member of the Committee. The Committee entertained a proposal that Councillor Tom Butters be recommended as Chairman to succeed me, and unanimous agreement to this proposal was given. Mr. Butters indicated his willingness to accept the office.

It was decided that a further meeting be held before the termination of the present Session of Council to recommend a new program of meaningful activity for this Committee.

May I, Sir, thank the Members of the Standing Committee on Development and Ecology for the support they have given me during my term of office as Chairman.

  
Councillor L-E. Hamelin  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on  
Development and Ecology.