

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
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Phil Hodger COMMISSIONER

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ADMINISTRATION AND CO-ORDINATION OF  
RESEARCH - NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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I     BACKGROUND

During the 45th Session of Council, a motion was presented by Dr. Hamelin for a position paper to be prepared concerning a Science Council for the Northwest Territories. This motion was put forward because of the following factors:

1. "There are a considerable number of academic, technical, industrial, economic and social research programs under way in the Northwest Territories."

2. "There is a project coming from outside for establishing a university in the Territories."

3. "There is a limited involvement of the Council and of the administration of the Northwest Territories as well as the residents in the origin or carrying out or utilization of these research programs."

4. "There is in this country a standard organization format in the Science Council of Canada and Research Council in some provinces."

5. "There is a need for the vital involvement of Northern residents, administrators, educators and industrialists in Northern research programs."

At the 47th Session of Council Dr. Hamelin asked a question concerning the effectiveness of the Scientists and Explorers Ordinance. Although scientists and explorers who enter the Territories are required to have a permit and the permit is subject to certain conditions, Dr. Hamelin was under the impression that there are many people who carry out such work without the government's knowledge.

With the growing volume of research that has been taking place in the North over the past few years, there has been increasing interest and sometimes concern in many of the communities about Northern research. Frequently Northern residents have been requested to provide information in support of a research project, but the community seldom sees the results of such research. This naturally has caused some resistance to researchers, and in one instance resulted in demands that research not be carried out except with the community's approval.

## II PRESENT SYSTEM OF RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION AND CO-ORDINATION IN THE NORTH

At the present time, research in the North is carried out by several Federal Departments and Agencies, universities and private groups. Last year, approximately twenty-five million dollars in research was carried out by Federal Agencies alone in the North.

The co-ordination of the various research programs undertaken by the Federal Departments and Agencies is provided in part by the Science and Technology Sub-Committee of the Advisory Committee on Northern Development. In addition to scientific co-ordination, this Sub-Committee is also responsible for establishing scientific guidelines in Northern Canada.

Research is also co-ordinated through the Territorial Scientists and Explorers Ordinance. This Ordinance requires that any person who is not ordinarily resident in the Territories obtain a permit for scientific or exploratory work unless he is authorized pursuant to an Act of the Parliament of Canada or an Ordinance to carry out scientific or exploratory work, or the Commissioner has exempted such person from the requirements of this Ordinance. Through this Ordinance scientific work that is carried out is properly planned and financed prior to the research taking place. The Ordinance also requires that the researcher or explorer provide the Commissioner with a detailed report of his findings after the scientific or exploration work has been completed.

## III THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM

The Science and Technology Sub-Committee of the Advisory Committee on Northern Development acts in many ways as a Science Council for the North. This Sub-Committee is in a position to co-ordinate the Governmental research that is carried out in the Northwest Territories. The interests of the people and the Government of the Northwest Territories are represented on the appropriate Committees in that the Commissioner is on the Main Committee of the Advisory Committee on Northern Development, to whom the Science and Technology Sub-Committee reports, and other Territorial staff are involved to a limited extent with this Sub-Committee. The Science and Technology Sub-Committee is always open to suggestions as to ways of improving the quality and quantity of information about research being undertaken in the North. Through this Sub-Committee, therefore, it is possible for a greater degree of co-ordination and Governmental input to be achieved than is possible in any province, as the terms of reference for the provincial science councils are not nearly as broad as the Sub-Committee on Northern Development.

Through the Scientists and Explorers Ordinance permits have been issued to explorers and scientists who are planning trips and/or carrying out research in the Northwest Territories and the number of licences issued has been on the increase. There are, however, several problems associated with the administration and co-ordination of research and exploration in the Northwest Territories.

1. Licences or permits under the Scientists and Explorers Ordinance are obtained by only a small proportion of researchers and explorers and these are primarily confined to the private sector.

2. The local people and Councils in the communities are frequently subjected to requests from researchers for assistance or information and seldom see the results of such research.

3. The Ordinance does not clearly define a researcher or explorer. This creates problems, particularly with regard to adventurers.

4. The Territorial Government does not have adequate involvement or information on Northern research.

5. Although Scientists and Explorers are included under one Ordinance, the purpose for requiring a licence is not common in every respect and the existing Ordinance was developed prior to the growth of the Territorial Government to its present level of responsibility.

6. There appears to be a great deal of duplication and overlapping in Northern research.

In view of the above problems, steps have been taken over the past year to improve the administration and co-ordination of Northern research.

#### IV CRITERIA FOR SOUND ADMINISTRATION AND CO-ORDINATION OF NORTHERN RESEARCH

These improvements have been carried out in the light of the following basic criteria.

1. Unnecessary duplication and overlapping of research should be avoided whenever possible, particularly with regard to research of a social nature where residents of the Northwest Territories are directly or indirectly the subjects of the research.

2. Both the Territorial Government and community government bodies should have access to the reports on Northern research carried out in their area of responsibility for information purposes and/or to assist them in better carrying out their responsibilities.

3. It is desirable that the Territorial Government have the opportunity to co-operate with researchers who plan to carry out studies related to program areas which are the responsibilities of the Territorial Government.

4. It is desirable that any Northern employment and business opportunities associated with Northern research or exploration expeditions be developed to the fullest extent possible.

5. Through prior knowledge of proposed research projects the Government of the Northwest Territories can assist researchers and explorers by determining the availability of local manpower, equipment, vehicles and other resources. This is particularly important if more than one research activity is taking place in an area at the same time.

6. Through prior knowledge of proposed research projects and exploration expeditions and their itineraries, the Territorial Government will be in a position to initiate search and rescue action quickly if and when required.

#### V CHANGES TAKING PLACE OR RECOMMENDED

The following steps have been taken or are in the process of taking place to ensure that the above criteria are being met to the fullest extent possible.

1. The Territorial Government is carrying out a complete review of the Scientists and Explorers Ordinance in light of the above criteria and will recommend to Council appropriate changes and recommendations to bring the Ordinance up-to-date and to permit the administration and co-ordination of Northern research as effectively as possible with adequate involvement of the Territorial Government.

2. The Territorial Government is in the process of formally appointing a member to the Science and Technology Sub-Committee of the Advisory Committee on Northern Development and the Territorial Government will become more involved with the activities of this Sub-Committee that concern the Northwest Territories.

3. The Territorial Government has recently acquired representation on the Science Review Committee of the Northern Science Research Group in the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. Through this Committee the Territorial Government will be involved in the decision-making on financial support to northern research projects submitted to the Committee for funding. Also, through involvement on this Committee, the Territorial Government will be in a better position to develop research proposals and support territorial requests for funding assistance made to the Science Review Committee.

4. Arrangements are being made by the Government of the Northwest Territories for the administration of the Scientists and Explorers Ordinance to be turned over to them from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

5. A Territorial Interdepartmental Research Review Committee is being formed which will have the following objectives:

- (a) To maximize benefits for the Territorial Government from research conducted by or for the various agencies of that Government.
- (b) To maximize Territorial Government input into and benefits from all research being conducted in the Northwest Territories.
- (c) To maximize benefits to residents from research conducted in the Northwest Territories.

6. A bibliography on research in the Northwest Territories is being developed and computerized for use by the Territorial Government and other interested agencies.

7. Further contact will be made with the appropriate agencies, universities, and other bodies with an interest in Northern research, with the aim of providing these agencies with a thorough knowledge of the legislation affecting scientific research and exploration and advising them of the assistance available to researchers through the Territorial Government and settlements in the Northwest Territories.

## VI RECOMMENDATION

In light of the above changes which have recently taken place, have been initiated, or are planned with regard to the administration and co-ordination of Northern research, it is recommended that the formation of

a Territorial Science Council not be considered at this time. Through improved legislation concerning scientists and explorers and through greater involvement with the various Committees, Departments and Agencies involved in Northern research, the Territorial Government should be in a position to have more effective involvement in Northern research activities in the Northwest Territories to the mutual benefit of Government, researchers, explorers and the people in Northern settlements. It is realized, however, that effective co-ordination of Northern research will probably require considerable financial and manpower resources and the outlined changes which are taking place will primarily be achieved through existing resources. It is our intention, therefore, to review the situation in approximately one year and assess the extent to which the recommended research criteria have been met and to recommend appropriate further action.