

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
7TH COUNCIL, 48TH SESSION
RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL
NO. 2-48

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL 2-48

LOCAL RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS

DISPOSITION

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Noted not Considered

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

A. Summary	1
B. Northern Requirements	2 - 1
C. Method	2
D. Equipment	3
E. Recommendations	3
F. Cost Estimates	4
G. Radio Status Table	5
ANNEX 1: Supplementary considerations	8

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approved

S. W. Halpern

A. SUMMARY

1. This paper seeks council's approval of a three year program to provide local radio broadcasting stations in those communities in the Northwest Territories with populations of 100 or more that do not have: 1) CBC broadcasting facilities 2) existing community radio stations.
2. The three-year program calls for allocation of grant money to provide for establishment of:
 - (a) low-cost, or basic, community broadcasting stations.
 - (b) fully-equipped community broadcasting stations.
3. Capital costs for the three-year program would be \$335,000
4. Operational and maintenance costs, in the way of grants, for the three-year program would be \$643,500
5. Total costs for the three-year program would be \$979,000
6. Operation and maintenance grants upon completion of the three-year program would be \$262,500 per year.

B. NORTHERN REQUIREMENTS

1. Some 14 communities in the North have CBC radio broadcasting facilities. This total is made up of program production centres at Inuvik, Yellowknife and Frobisher Bay and unmanned low power relay transmitters (LPRT) in 11 Mackenzie District communities.
2. CBC, under its extended coverage plan, has a mandate to provide radio services to communities of 500 or more throughout Canada. In the N.W.T., this will mean the addition of eight more unmanned LPRTs within the next five years.
3. The Territorial administration considers all permanently established communities in the N.W.T. with populations of 100 or more - that presently are without local radio broadcasting facilities - should be eligible for community broadcasting stations under this program.
4. This would mean establishment of 35 community broadcasting stations in the N.W.T., eight of which would be located in areas where CBC plans to install LPRTs.
5. This would allow these eight stations to eventually seek affiliation with CBC and receive regional and national programming to supplement local productions.

C. METHOD

1. The Territorial administration would establish a grant system that could be used by communities interested in setting up a local radio broadcasting station.
2. These grants would cover the purchase and installation of equipment and allow for operating and maintenance funds.
3. In its request for a grant, a community would be required to present a proposal to the government outlining:
 - (a) public support and enthusiasm
 - (b) usefulness of the radio station
 - (c) willingness to provide appropriate labour to assist with installation
 - (d) assurance of continued capability and responsible support for the station
 - (e) preparedness to provide local programming
4. When a community has been supplied with funds or a grant, it would be expected to incorporate a local broadcasting group which would make application to the Canadian Radio and Television Commission for a broadcasting licence. The Territorial administration would ensure the necessary forms and technical briefs were completed accurately.
5. A radio technician would be employed on a three-year contract basis to coordinate and supervise installation of community broadcasting station equipment and to instruct local broadcasting groups in its use and normal maintenance.
6. Once stations are established, production of local programs would be the responsibility of the licence holder within the community and this organization would be responsible for arranging for exchange of program material with other sources, such as CBC and other community stations. The Territorial administration would provide assistance, on request, in such areas.

D. EQUIPMENT

1. This paper recommends the installation of eight fully-equipped and 27 low cost, or basic, radio broadcasting stations.
2. Fully-equipped stations are intended for those communities with populations of 500 or more at which CBC live regional and national network feeds will eventually be available through LPRT service.

3. Installation of these eight stations is estimated at \$20,000 each for equipment and operation and maintenance is estimated at \$21,000 per year, part of which would be used to pay a full-time staff.
4. Low-cost, or basic, stations are planned for 27 communities with populations between 100 and 500 at which network connection is not envisaged in existing plans.
5. Installation costs for these 27 stations would be \$6,500 each and operational and maintenance costs would be \$3,500 per year. This type of station would make use of volunteer manpower.

E. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That council approve the three-year program for establishment of radio broadcasting stations in all communities of the N.W.T. with populations of 100 or more that are not served by CBC production centres.
2. That financial responsibility and control of the program be vested in the Government of the Northwest Territories, rather than another federal agency, to provide for community radio stations as outlined in this report.
3. That the three year program begin as soon as the necessary budgetary arrangements can be made.

COMMUNITIES	POPULATION	RADIO STATUS			FULLY EQUIPPED COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS	LOW-COST COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS	TIMING PHASES
		EXISTING RADIO STATIONS	EXISTING LPRT SERVICE	CBC LPRT PLANNED EXPANSION			
Tuktoyaktuk	596	yes					
Inuvik	2672	yes					
Yellowknife	5876	yes					
Baker Lake	756	yes					
Frobisher	2014	yes					
Pond Inlet	466	yes					
Hay River	2420		yes				
Fort Smith	2372		yes				
Pine Point	1225		yes				
Rae-Edzo	1056		yes				
Fort Simpson	747		yes				
Fort Resolution	623		yes				
Fort Providence	587		yes				
Fort Good Hope	327		yes				
Norman Wells	301		yes				
Fort Norman	248		yes				
Wrigley	152		yes				
Cambridge Bay	716						
Pangnirtung	690			yes	yes		
Fort McPherson	679			yes	yes		
Coppermine	637			yes	yes		
Eskimo Point	598			yes	yes		
Cape Dorset	597			yes	yes		
Rankin Inlet	566			yes	yes		
Iqloolik	563			yes	yes		
Coral Harbour	355			yes	yes		
Fort Franklin	339					yes	
Gjoa Haven	276					yes	
Fort Liard	263					yes	
Holman Island	241					yes	
Snowdrift	221					yes	
Pelly Bay	215					yes	
Spence Bay	209						
Broughton Island	334					yes	
Clyde River	274					yes	
Arctic Bay	274					yes	
Hall Beach	263					yes	
Chesterfield	258					yes	
Repulse Bay	242					yes	
Belcher Island	234					yes	
Whale Cove	213					yes	
Aklavik	677						
Lake Harbour	186					yes	
Resolute Bay	184					yes	
Lac La Martre	161					yes	
Sachs Harbour	143					yes	
Tungsten	130					yes	
Grise Fiord	109					yes	
Arctic Red River	108					yes	
Port Burwell	107					yes	
Port Radium	99					yes	
Paulatuk	95					yes	
KAKISA LAKES	43						
RAE LAKES	73						
NAHANNI BUTTE	66						

COST ESTIMATES

CAPITAL COSTS FIRST YEAR:

Installation of 10 low-cost stations	\$65,000
Installation of four fully-equipped stations	\$80,000

OPERATING COSTS FIRST YEAR :

For 10 low-cost stations	\$35,000
For four fully-equipped stations	\$84,000
Radio Technician (Salary and Travel)	\$22,000

TOTAL CAPITAL FIRST YEAR	\$145,000
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS FIRST YEAR	\$141,000
TOTAL EXPENSE FIRST YEAR	\$286,000

CAPITAL COSTS SECOND YEAR:

For 10 low-cost stations	\$65,000
For two fully-equipped stations	\$40,000

OPERATING COSTS SECOND YEAR:

For 20 low-cost stations	\$70,000
For six fully-equipped stations	\$126,000
Radio Technician (Salary and Travel)	\$22,000

TOTAL CAPITAL SECOND YEAR	\$105,000
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS SECOND YEAR	\$218,000
TOTAL EXPENSE SECOND YEAR	\$323,000

CAPITAL COSTS THIRD YEAR:

For seven low-cost stations	\$45,500
For two fully-equipped stations	\$40,000

OPERATING COSTS THIRD YEAR:

For 27 low-cost stations	\$94,500
For eight fully-equipped stations	\$168,000
Radio Technician (Salary and Travel)	\$22,000

TOTAL CAPITAL THIRD YEAR	\$85,500
TOTAL OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE THIRD YEAR	\$284,500
TOTAL EXPENSE THIRD YEAR	\$370,000

TOTAL CAPITAL THREE YEAR PROGRAM	\$335,500
TOTAL OPERATING THREE YEAR PROGRAM	\$643,500
TOTAL COST THREE YEAR PROGRAM	\$979,000

ANNEX I

Supplementary considerations: Access to CBC low power relay transmitters

1. Implementation of the Territorial government program for establishment of community broadcasting stations would see establishment of 35 community radio stations in the N.W.T., all of which would have local production facilities.
2. This would leave a total of 11 Mackenzie communities, now serviced by unmanned CBC LPRTs, where there is no community broadcast input.
3. CBC has recently expressed an interest in allowing community access to its LPRT system in the North, however the corporation is not presently in a position to commit itself to a comprehensive program.
4. Once it does, the Territorial administration sees the additional expense of providing grant money to each of the 11 communities to allow for establishment of local production facilities that would be tied into the LPRTs in each community.
5. This expense would involve an estimated \$5,500 for production facilities in each community and an estimated \$9,000 per year for operation and maintenance of each facility, \$5,000 of which would be for salaries paid to locally-hired staff.

General observations: CBC expansion

1. The CBC, under Cabinet directive, is in the final stages of preparing an accelerated coverage plan to provide radio to communities of 500 or more throughout Canada.
2. In the N.W.T. this will mean the addition of eight LPRT stations.
3. The Territorial administration considers that communities in the North having smaller populations than 500 should have the availability of live regional and national radio services - as well as local programming - because of isolation or remoteness.
4. The administration has recommended that CBC's population criteria for its extended LPRT service be lowered from 500 to 200.
5. This would require a new directive by cabinet, which if given would mean the addition of 24 LPRTs by CBC, rather than only eight.
6. Such a change would allow for CBC provision of network services to a total of 38 communities in the N.W.T. The network would be fed from regional program centres via satellite or terrestrial means.