

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
7TH COUNCIL, 49TH SESSION

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TABLED ON JUNE 20, 1973

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Tabled June 20, 1973

c/o Box 351,

Yellowknife, NWT,

June 11, 1973

Territorial Councillor Mr. Thomas Butters,
Yellowknife Inn,
Yellowknife, NWT

MARKS ON TEXT
ADDED BY T. BUTTERS
TO BE HANDLED.

Dear Mr. Butters,

Last month women from all areas of the Northwest Territories met in Yellowknife to discuss the Status of Women in the NWT and to propose recommendations which would help the development of women in the NWT.

One of the important topics was that of property held in marriage. Your proposal on dower and curtesy rights was a document for discussion. The delegates agreed that such rights are an important guarantee for marital stability; however, as so few NWT residents own a home, it was considered very limiting.

We therefore agreed to ask you to extend the intent of your motion to include the legal sharing of all assets acquired within a marriage. This means that all property, real and personal, would be shared in the law, and disposition and use of it would be shared.

This would recognize the intent of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women recommendation No. 107, that the contribution of the spouse who maintains a home and stays in it, rather than entering the work force, to keep house and care for dependant children, is engaged in real and valuable work and should be recognized and protected by law.

Excluded from this joint ownership would be property acquired before marriage, which would remain the sole property of the owner,

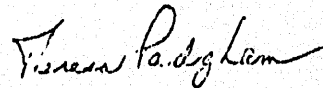
and also gifts, inheritances, and birthrights would be the sole property of the recipient spouse.

We hope you will give this proposal serious consideration, and will raise it before council.

If we can meet with you or assist in any way, please contact us.

A summary of other recommendations made at the conference is being compiled, and a copy will be forwarded soon.

Yours sincerely,



for the NWT Status of Women