

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
7TH COUNCIL, 50TH SESSION
RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL
NO. 1-50**



Not for release before
tabling during the
50th Session of Council

**COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
CANADA**

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL 1-50

**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
EDUCATION ORDINANCE**

DISPOSITION

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

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES EDUCATION ORDINANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this recommendation is to update and revise the present ordinance so that it conforms with our current philosophy of education and is in keeping with progressive educational trends. The scope of the present ordinance is very narrow as it is basically concerned with School Districts, and it does not cover the education system as it now exists in the Northwest Territories.

PRECEPTS ON WHICH REVISION IS BASED

The philosophy of education in the Northwest Territories was discussed by Council during its review of the Survey of Education report. There was further study by a Council Committee which then reported to Council.

The following precepts are drawn from those discussions. The list is not intended to be exclusive, but rather to present those considered to be of fundamental importance.

1. The assurance of educational programs which reflect the multi-ethnic nature of the population.
2. Active participation and involvement of the people in the educative process and related decision-making.
3. Employment of a maximum number of Northern residents both in professional and paraprofessional categories.
4. The maintenance of standards conducive to transfer to other systems in Canada with minimum inconvenience to the pupils.
5. Equality of educational opportunity for all.
6. Provision of the basis for a high degree of regional and local autonomy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That in every community where a school exists or is planned in the Northwest Territories, an elected accredited or non-accredited Education Committee be established.

An accredited committee will have authority and responsibility similar to that of the Rae-Edzo School Society. The non-accredited committee will perform an advisory function in all matters pertaining to education in the Education District concerned. The Director of Education may grant accreditation to a committee on its request.

2. That regional Education Committees be established on the basis of "superintendencies" and that they assist the Regional Superintendent in developing policies and procedures on all aspects of education within the superintendencies.
3. That provision be made to continue the operation of School Districts, as they now exist under the present ordinance, where communities agree to provide through taxation 25% of the operating costs of education, and further, that the Northwest Territories provide these School Districts with 100% of the capital costs of approved construction.
4. That the qualification for voters for School Boards and Education Committees be similar to that established under the Municipal Act.
5. That all terms and conditions relative to teacher employment be negotiated between the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association and the Northwest Territories Government.

This will assure that basic salary scales and other conditions of employment are consistent throughout the Northwest Territories.

A regional representative or Education District representative will take part in recruitment of teachers for the area which that person represents.

6. That provision be made for certification of teachers by the Government of the Northwest Territories.
7. That the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association Ordinance continue to form the basis for the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association and that provision be made so that all teachers have the right to belong to this association.
8. That accredited Education Committees submit annual budgets to the Director of Education for approval and that provision be made for all accounts to be subject to periodic audit by the Northwest Territories Government.

9. That the Department of Education provide administrative, supervisory, financial and consultative services on all aspects of the Northwest Territories education program.
10. That the duties of the Director of Education and Superintendents of Education be defined in the Ordinance.
11. That the minimum number of school days in a year be 190; the exact number of days to be decided on an annual basis by the Director of Education in consultation with Education Committees. That each year a school calendar be prepared on this basis.
12. That education in the Northwest Territories be compulsory for those reaching the age of 6 years by September 1st of that academic year, until they reach the age of 15.

However, those who do not reach the age of 6 until December 31st may commence school September 1st of that academic year.

That provision for kindergarten children reaching the age of 5 before December 31st be made subject to the availability of suitable facilities.

13. That adult and vocational education programs be provided for within the total education program.
14. That provision be made for living accommodation for students who must reside away from home in order to attend school, and that a high degree of local autonomy be given in this respect.
15. That provision be made for approval by the Commissioner of all private schools and colleges (non-government institutions) before such can be established in the Northwest Territories.
16. That religious privileges compatible with the Northwest Territories Act be maintained in our school system.
17. That a new Education Ordinance be prepared incorporating the above recommendations.