

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
7<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, 50<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

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TABLED ON OCTOBER 18, 1973



COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
CANADA

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
XOE 1HO

June 21st, 1973.

The Honourable Jean Chretien, P.C., M.P.,  
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa 4, Ontario.

Dear Minister:

We are grateful for the opportunity provided us last week to discuss with you matters of mutual interest pertaining to the evolution of responsible government in the Northwest Territories and the role of the Council of the N.W.T. in such a desirable objective.

Specifically, we wish to provide you with our views on such evolution which diverge considerably from the opinion presented by Councillor David Searle last Thursday as a 'concensus'.

Therefore, we recommend that the N.W.T. Act be amended to allow:

- (a) the Council of the Northwest Territories to be made up of fifteen (15) members; fourteen (14) of whom to be elected and one, the Speaker, to be appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Council.
- (b) the establishment of an Executive Committee comprising four (4) members of the Legislative Council.

- (c) members of the Executive Committee to be named by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Council and to serve at the pleasure of the Legislative Council.
- (d) the Speaker shall preside over the Council and all Committees of the Whole.
- (e) the provision of two seats at the Council table for the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to be used at pleasure but the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner should not vote.

Yours respectfully,

*Kenia Pedersen*  
member of the N.W.T. Council  
for the Central Arctic.

*Fyle Stenille*  
member of the N.W.T. Council  
for the Lower Mackenzie

*Paul W. Keen*  
member of the N.W.T. Council

*James Habesca*  
Member for  
Great Slave North.

*Tom Butters*  
Member: Western Arctic

TABLED OCTOBER 18, 1973

Box 1069,  
Inuvik, N.W.T.  
XOE OTO  
August 7, 1973.

The Right Hon. Pierre E. Trudeau,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The recently experienced increase in food costs in the Northwest Territories has created a condition of extreme hardship for Northwest Territories residents living on a fixed income such as pensioners or those on a minimal income.

Costs of living in the past in isolated N.W.T. communities have almost been double that experienced by low-income residents of southern urban centres.

What can be done, Mr. Prime Minister, to ease the crushing burden on low-income people in the N.W.T.?

Yours respectfully,

Tom Butters,  
Member - Western Arctic.



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER • CABINET DU PREMIER MINISTRE

Ottawa K1A 0A2,  
August 14, 1973.

Mr. Tom Butters,  
Member - Western Arctic,  
Council of the Northwest Territories,  
Box 1069,  
Inuvik, N.W.T.  
X0E 0T0

Dear Mr. Butters:

As the Prime Minister has left Ottawa, I am acknowledging your letter on his behalf, it will be brought to his attention following his return.

The federal government is deeply concerned about the effects of increased food and other costs on persons and families on low or fixed incomes, and no doubt the hardship in this regard on residents of northern communities must be great indeed. I am enclosing a copy of the statement the Prime Minister made yesterday following a Cabinet meeting and which sets out the government's actions to control food costs and to assist old age pensioners.

Yours sincerely,

Henry Alan Lawless,  
Correspondence Secretary.



PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNIQUE

Date:

For Release:

August 13, 1973

Pour Publication: ~~immediate~~Statement by the Prime MinisterFood Prices

The Government is deeply concerned about rising food prices and Cabinet at its meeting today has approved measures to deal with these price increases and to mitigate their effect on the family budget.

There is no shortage of food in Canada, nor will any be allowed to develop. There are, however, food shortages in world terms and, in certain sectors there appear to be temporary shortages in the United States. As a major trading nation and one of the world's greatest exporters of food Canada cannot be isolated from all the effects of rising world food prices.

Action to be taken with regard to rising food prices will not be at the expense of any increase in unemployment. Inflation is a world-wide problem that Canada cannot solve alone. Price and income controls were reconsidered and rejected as inappropriate in present circumstances.

The Canadian economy is buoyant, expanding rapidly and a 7% increase in real GNP is expected this year. Job creation continues at a rate in excess of that in any other industrialized nation.

The action plan undertaken today by the Government is in three parts:

- measures to conserve and increase the supply of food while protecting farm incomes.
- measures to protect the consumer against those who may attempt to take advantage of the present situation by unwarranted price increases
- measures to mitigate the effect of rising prices with emphasis on those in our society who are likely to suffer most, particularly those on fixed incomes

Measures to conserve and increase the supply of food:

- in order to prevent a shortage caused by any unusual drain on Canadian supplies, the Government has today passed an Order-in-Council providing for export licensing for cattle, hogs and the products thereof. This licensing procedure will be temporary in nature to meet unusual trading patterns resulting from unnatural marketing conditions
  
- an invitation to the Provinces will be issued for a conference in September at the Ministerial level to consider and agree on principles and policies designed to produce orderly increases in food supplies. This should be done in such a way as to enable farmers to plan increases in production with the assurance that when the goods come to market they will receive reasonable returns.

Measures to protect the consumer:

- the terms of reference of the Food Prices Review Board will be extended to provide for investigation of price increases on individual food items
  
- the staff of the Food Prices Review Board will be strengthened by the assignment to it of experienced investigative officers, including officers from the misleading advertising branch of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs
  
- the Government will ask the Canadian Association of Consumers to mobilize its members to assist the Board in identifying cases of unwarranted price increases
  
- where unwarranted price increases are identified the facts will be made public by the Board and given wide publicity, and the principals of enterprises involved may expect to be called before the Board

- in the event that the Board reports that significant instances of profiteering have occurred which the parties concerned are unwilling to correct voluntarily the Government will seek Parliamentary authority to undertake corrective action

Measures to mitigate the effect of rising prices on the consumer:

- measures already accepted by Parliament to increase the disposable income of Canadians include the major personal income and sales tax reductions made in the last budget, the indexing of the personal income tax system and substantial increases in the Old Age Security Pensions

- Parliament will be asked to approve several measures to help the Canadian consumer:

first, family allowances will be nearly tripled to an average of \$20.00 per child per month, effective January 1st, 1974

second, to make the benefits under the Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement Plans more responsive to price increases, pension payments will be escalated quarterly rather than annually, meaning a further increase in pensions effective October 1st

third, the Canada Pension Plan will be amended, with the concurrence of the Provinces, to provide for the full escalation of these pensions, fully protecting their purchasing power

- to accompany full escalation of pensions under the Canada Pension Plan, the limitation of the 2% annual escalation in registered employees pension plans will be removed to provide for registration of plans providing full escalation

- under the Canada assistance Plan the federal government shares 50 percent of the costs of social assistance paid by the provinces to persons in need. The Government will pay 50 percent of provincial increases in Social assistance designed to meet increases in the cost of living



This three-part plan is what is required today. I can assure you that if any further action is called for to protect the food supplies of Canadians or to protect Canadians against further erosion of their purchasing power it will be taken without delay.