

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
7TH COUNCIL, 50TH SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 18-50

TABLED ON OCTOBER 18, 1973

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Box 1069,
Inuvik, N.W.T.
XOE OTO
September 14, 1973.

S.M. Hodgson,
Commissioner of the N.W.T.,
Government of the N.W.T.,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
XOE LHO

Dear Commissioner Hodgson:

Thank you for your letter regarding payment of supplementary allowances to persons on fixed incomes in the N.W.T.

I trust that colleagues on the Territorial Council have supported my request to allow your officials to provide such supplementary allowances between sessions of Council. I suggest the difficulties experienced by pensioners and the like are so urgent as to be attended to without waiting for Council to convene and approve your administration's action. My purpose in copying all other Council members with my request was so that your administrative people could take action along the lines requested last October in Frobisher Bay and present to Council at Inuvik supplementary estimates to cover additional monies being paid to pensioners.

I trust that your "firm answer" in October will be to the effect that such supplementary estimates as requested have been developed and a program implemented.

Yours truly,

Tom Butters,
Member - Western Arctic.

cc: All NWT Council Members

Box 1069,
Inuvik, N.W.T.
XOE OTO
August 13, 1973.

S.M. Hodgson,
Commissioner of the N.W.T.,
Government of the N.W.T.,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Dear Commissioner Hodgson:

Apropos of recent communications directed to your office containing my concern over sharp increase in N.W.T. cost of living affecting pensioners and residents on a low income, please also advise what steps your administration is taking to tie in welfare payments through an escalating mechanism to upward spiraling living costs.

Has the welfare allowance been increased recently for individuals as a result of the increased costs being experienced by N.W.T. residents? If not, please advise the date when the current schedule of monthly welfare payment allowances was approved and fixed.

Yours truly,

Tom Butters,
Member - Western Arctic.



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
CANADA

Yellowknife, N.W.T.,
XOE 1H0,
31 August 1973.

Mr. Thomas H. Butters,
Member, Council of the
Northwest Territories,
P.O. Box 1069,
INUVIK, N.W.T.,
XOE 0T0.

Dear Mr. Butters:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 7 concerning your request for the payment of supplementary allowances to persons on fixed incomes. I well remember your Motion made last October asking that this administration look into the possibility of developing a supplementary income for pensioners. In all frankness, I am not sure what steps have been taken by the Department of Social Development, but would hope to be able to give you a firm answer in time for the forthcoming October Council session.

I appreciate you drawing this matter to my attention, and I am sorry that it has taken me this long to get to it.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

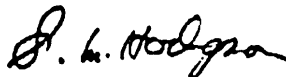

S. M. Hodgson,
Commissioner.

PHOTO COPY SENT TO ALL MEMBERS

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

Dear

I draw your attention to the attached letter sent to Commissioner S.M. Hodgson on this date.

Please direct to the Commissioner any comments you may have regarding my suggestion.

Yours truly,



Tom Butters,
Member - Western Arctic.

P Y SENT TO ALL MEMBERS

Box 1069,
Inuvik, N.W.T.
XOE OTO
August 7, 1972

S.M. Hodgson,
Commissioner of the N.W.T.,
Government of the N.W.T.,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
XOE 1HO

Dear Commissioner Hodgson:

The recent shocking increase in the cost of living in the Northwest Territories will cause grave hardship to persons on fixed incomes, especially those residents depending on a pension for their subsistence.

Last October in Frobisher Bay by Motion I asked your administration look into the possibilities of developing a supplementary allowance for pensioners along the lines implemented by our sister territory, the Yukon. Territorial administration has assisted Yukon pensioners with a supplementary allowance since April 1st, 1972.

Your administration pleaded time to place before Council a proposal. The proposal was not ready for Council's examination in the summer session nor did we see it in the summer session.

In view of the difficult position in which N.W.T. pensioners find themselves, I wonder if you would instruct your Department of Social Services and Pension Director, K.W. Torrance, to immediately begin paying supplementary allowances similar to those approved in the Yukon. Such additional expenditure, I suggest, can be placed before Council as a supplementary estimate at the next Council session to be held in Inuvik.

I am sure every other Council member recognizes the difficult position in which pensioners in the Northwest Territories find themselves. I would be pleased to support the recommendation contained above. To justify my support that my Council colleagues feel similarly, I am sending copies of this letter to Council members and asking them to support (or disapprove) in writing my request for action to ameliorate the difficult financial straits in which N.W.T. pensioners find themselves.

Yours truly,

Tom Butters.
Member - West District.