

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
7<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, 53<sup>RD</sup> SESSION**

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

**NO. 2-53**

**TABLED ON JUNE 18, 1974**



Not for release before  
tabling during the  
53rd Session of Council

COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
CANADA

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL 2-53

INFORMATION-EDUCATION PROGRAM  
ON THE  
TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT  
AND  
ELECTION PROCEDURES

DISPOSITION

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Considered
<i>June 18</i>	<i>June 24</i>		<i>June 25</i>			

## RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

### Information-Education Program on the Territorial Government and Election Procedures

In response to a motion adopted during the January, 1974 session of Council, the Administration has undertaken the preparation of the following information-education program covering territorial government and election procedures.

#### Education Program

A program, described in the attached course outline, will be introduced in secondary school and adult education classes at the beginning of the school year which opens in August, 1974.

The Education Department is now developing learning materials for the presentation of this course. Maximum use will be made of such supplementary materials as informational pamphlets concerning the next territorial general election, a VTR film being prepared for the Government during this Council Session and relevant local language tapes.

The secondary school program will consist of eighteen half-hour periods of instruction, one each week throughout the fall term.

Adult Education plans call for nine hours of instruction distributed approximately evenly throughout the fall term.

School elections and the conduct of model Councils will provide excellent opportunities for the practical application of course material.

Native language learning materials will be employed in the secondary school and adult education classes wherever appropriate. The translation of materials will be undertaken by the Interpreter Corps.

Information Program

Extensive use will be made of various communication methods to ensure that adults not enrolled in adult education classes are also informed about government and election procedures.

Preparations are underway by the Administration to inform the public by the following methods:

1. Articles developed from learning materials prepared for the Adult Education course will appear monthly in *Goinsiday* and *Tukisiviksat* beginning in September, 1974. The January 1975 issues of these publications will carry extensive coverage of election procedures. Tapes of the material printed in *Goinsiday* will be made available in the local languages to Indian Band Councils.
2. Articles similar in content to those being carried in the government local language publications will be made available to all community newspapers.
3. A series of one hour programs in the appropriate local languages will be made available to all community radio stations. These will be broadcast in December and January, concluding with a program or programs relating specifically to the election.
4. Discussions will be entered into with CBC regarding the possibility of broadcasting similar material at Inuvik, Yellowknife and Frobisher Bay.
5. Posters in English and appropriate local languages covering such matters as the importance of voting, how to become a candidate and from whom to obtain information locally about the election, will be widely distributed.
6. Notices will be posted in each community identifying to residents the returning officer in that constituency and other election officials.
7. Announcements for TV broadcast on the Anik information service will be prepared. Broadcasting will begin in December or January. The exact duration and frequency of the announcement is still to be determined. Subject matter will be similar to the posters, mentioned in item 5.

8. Press releases will be issued announcing the appointment of returning officers, of other election officials and after the close of nominations the names of all candidates.
9. An Information Officer has been assigned the responsibility for press liaison to ensure proper news coverage of significant elections events.

An amount of \$15,000 will be required for the preparation of Anik announcements, poster design work and other expenses.

In addition to the preceding proposals the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada will undertake the following measures in providing information about the election to the public:

1. Place advertisements in English in northern newspapers. These advertisements will be prepared in co-operation with the Administration which will translate them as required.
2. In conjunction with the Administration prepare in English and distribute in all settlements, folders concerning the election. Translations of these into local languages will be distributed by the Administration.

#### Settlement Councils

On completion of learning and informational materials the feasibility will be examined of enlisting the assistance of Settlement Councils to ensure that all northern residents are made more aware of government and election procedures. In this connection the most suitable means in the light of local conditions will be employed.

#### Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the program described in the preceding paragraphs be funded and implemented as proposed.

# TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

## Course Outline

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### A. GOVERNMENT

- I Introduction
- II The Territorial Council
- III The Role of a Territorial Council Member
- IV Organization and Responsibilities - N.W.T. Government
- V Local Government
- VI Federal-Territorial Government Relationships

### B. TERRITORIAL ELECTIONS

## A. GOVERNMENT

### I Introduction

- (a) An explanation of "government" and why it is necessary.
- (b) An outline of the development of Government in the Northwest Territories from 1870 to the present day. The principal developmental steps in this process and the main factors which contributed to it will be described.

### II The Territorial Council

- (a) Composition
- (b) Procedures
- (c) Powers and Responsibilities
- (d) Sessions
- (e) Clerk of the Council

### III The Role of a Member

#### (a) During Sessions:

1. Represents views of constituents and participates in consideration of matters relating to the economic, political and social development of the Territories generally.
2. Chairman of Committees of the Whole.
3. Member of Standing or Special Committees.

#### (b) Between Sessions:

1. Informs himself/herself about needs and desires of constituency and matters relating to the development of the Territories generally.
2. Participates in meetings of Standing or Special Committees and related activities.

3. Carries out special assignments.

#### IV Organization and Responsibilities - N.W.T. Government

##### (a) The Executive

1. The Commissioner
2. The Deputy Commissioner
3. The Assistant Commissioner (Administration)
4. The Assistant Commissioner (Programs)
5. The Regional Directors - Fort Smith
  - Inuvik
  - Baffin

##### (b) The Program Departments:

1. Economic Development
2. Education
3. Local Government
4. Social Development

##### (c) The Service Departments:

1. Administration
2. Executive Secretariat
3. Information
4. Public Services
5. Public Works

##### (d) The N.W.T. Housing Corporation

#### V The Development of Local Government

- (a) Historical Perspective: Unorganized Settlements  
Community Councils  
Residents' Associations  
Local Improvements Districts

- (b) Current Evolution - Settlements  
Hamlets  
Villages  
Towns  
Cities



(c) Local Control of Education - Education Advisory  
Committee

Rae-Edzo School Society

Public and Separate  
School Boards

VI Federal-Territorial Government Relationships

- (a) The British North America Act  
- representative and responsible government
- (b) The Northwest Territories Act
- (c) Organization of the Federal Government
- (d) Federal - Provincial - Territorial relationships
- (e) Role of the Minister of I.A.N.D. and his Department
- (f) N.W.T. Representation in the Canadian House of  
Commons and Senate
- (g) The Judiciary

B. TERRITORIAL ELECTIONS

Statutory Authority for Territorial Elections

Responsibility for Administration of Territorial Elections

Territorial Constituencies

Who may vote in a Territorial Election

Who may be a candidate for election in a Territorial Election

How and when a candidate can be nominated for a Territorial  
Election

Fee required for deposit by a candidate for election and  
terms under which fee is refunded or forfeited

Election Procedures

- (1) Appointment of Returning Officers - their duties.
- (2) Issue of a Writ of Election.
- (3) Proclamation of Election - publication in newspapers and distribution of posters.
- (4) Setting of date of polling day.
- (5) Compiling of lists of residents eligible to vote.
- (6) Setting of final date for receipt by returning officer of nomination of candidates for election.
- (7) How and when to vote by proxy.
- (8) Counting of votes and declaring of a candidate to be elected.
- (9) How to obtain a recount of ballots if considered necessary under provisions of the Canada Elections Act.
- (10) How the return to the Writ of election is made and when.