

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
7TH COUNCIL, 53RD SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 20-53

TABLED ON JUNE 24, 1974



COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
CANADA

TABLED DOCUMENT

Tabled June 24, 1974

Tb # 20-53(17A)

REPORT OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TO THE
53RD SESSION OF THE N.W.T. COUNCIL

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A. PREAMBLE

(1) Membership of Committee

Following are the members of the Standing Committee on Finance:

- (a) David H. Searle - Chairman
- (b) Willie Adams
- (c) Paul W. Kaeser
- (d) John H. Parker
- (e) Bryan Pearson
- (f) Lyle Trimble

(2) Committee Meetings

Since my report to the 51st Session of Council, the Finance Committee has to date held the following meetings:

February 28 - March 2, to review the 1975-76 Program Forecast

June 19, to review the 1974-75 Supplementary Estimates No. 1.

(3) Recommendations

1. This Committee has continuously recommended over the past number of years that action be taken by the Territorial Administration to examine the numerous problems connected with the annual re-supply of the Arctic. It was thus the unanimous recommendation of the Committee at our meeting held in March, that a seminar on resupply be held prior to the beginning of this session of Council. I am pleased to report that a seminar, involving senior executives of the three regional air carriers, and Northern Transportation Co. Ltd., the Territorial executive, and interested members of the Territorial Council, was held in Yellowknife June 14th, 1974. From this seminar came an increased level of understanding of the monumental problems involved in re-supply of the Arctic, both on the part of the transportation executives and the Territorial

Council and Administration. I believe that an important first step has been taken to achieve better co-operation between government and industry in improving transportation and resupply in the North.

2. In reviewing the 1975-76 program forecast for the Department of Economic Development, it was the recommendation of this Committee that that Department prepare a policy paper outlining the future direction to be taken by the Department in its programs in this field. In view of the increasing level of economic activity being experienced in the North, this Committee recommends that a great deal of attention be given by the Territorial Administration to ensuring that native northerners take their rightful place in the economic life of the Territories. This will be accomplished in large measure through the programs of the Department of Economic Development and this Committee is thus concerned that these goals are reflected in the future planning of this Department.
3. Recognizing escalating costs involved in major capital construction projects in the North, this Committee recommends that the Territorial Administration take immediate steps to provide for long-range planning studies for each community in the Northwest Territories, identifying the future needs for these communities in all areas of community life. In so doing, the Administration will then be able to determine priorities for the provision of major facilities such as schools, fire halls, equipment, etc. This Committee also considers that this recommendation will allow the desirable level of input by the Territorial Council into capital planning for the North, which to date has not been totally adequate.
4. In reviewing the number of new positions requested by the Territorial Administration for 1975-76, the Committee again recommended that every possible consideration be given to recruiting as many native persons as possible into the Territorial Public Service.

Concurrent with this recommendation, the Committee also recommended that the Territorial Administration take positive steps to encourage its employees to provide their own accommodation where possible and practical, and thus disengage itself from the large number of units held for staff accommodation by the government.

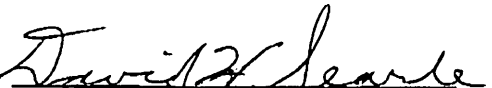
5. Reviewing the supplementary estimates to be presented to this Session of Council, this Committee viewed with concern the alarming increase reported by the Territorial Administration in capital construction costs for this year's construction program. The Committee thus recommends that this Administration seek alternative means of carrying out its construction programs in the North, rather than to pay the exorbitant prices being charged by southern contractors.

B. Supplementary Estimates No. 1, 1974-75

On June 19th, 1974, your Committee met to consider the Supplementary Estimates which are to be placed before the 53rd Session of Council. Their presentation before the Committee was approved, and we recommend their approval by this Council.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Standing Committee on Finance

per 

D.H. Searle, Q.C., Chairman
20th June, 1974