

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
8TH COUNCIL, 56TH SESSION

PETITION NO. 2

PRESENTED ON June 19, 1975

Petition 2-56
Tabled, June 19, 1975

FROBISHER BAY HOUSING ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 52
FROBISHER BAY, N.W.T.
X0A 0H0.

Frobisher Bay, N.W.T.
June 5th, 1975

The Honourable Judd Buchanan
Minister
D.I.A.N.D.
OTTAWA, Ontario

Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter to the Village Council of Frobisher Bay, and, as well, a copy of a resolution of the Village Council of Frobisher Bay.

An endeavour to try to simply summarize the letters is to draw to your attention the following paragraphs;

last of page 1
second last of page 2
sixth underlined of page 3
last of page 5

The referred to paragraph of page 3 we feel clearly points out this association administers housing programs which fall under the jurisdiction of both yourself and the Honourable Barney Dansen.

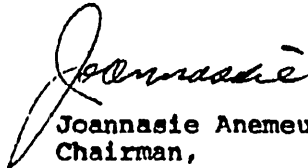
This Association does not in the slightest manner whatsoever feel that it possesses all the answers to the many problems stated. It feels it may have some of the answers.

It would be only through the good graces of an office such as the one you hold, we feel, that a similar paragraph to the second last paragraph of page two could once again be penned five or ten years from now.

The Honourable Judd Buchanan

We are most courteously requesting your help.
We are not stating ~~that~~^{if} this help would be forthcoming.
We leave this to you.

Most Sincerely,



Joannasie Anemeuk
Chairman,

c.c. Barney Dansen
Wally Firth
Brian Pearson
Stuart Hodgson
Roy McClure

FROBISHER BAY HOUSING ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 52

FROBISHER BAY NWT XOA OHO

MUNICIPALITY OF FROBISHER BAY N.W.T.	
COPY	ALL COUNCIL
COPY	1975. PETITIONS
COPY	PLANNING
ORIGINAL	F.B.H.A.
COUNCIL	MAY 75

May 13

Village Council of Frobisher Bay,
P.O. BOX 460,
Frobisher Bay, N. W. T. XOA OHO

Honoured Counselors:

The following is a quote of a minute of the Board of Directors meeting of the Frobisher Bay Housing Association held on May 15, 1975.

"The Board wants a letter to ask the Village Council for support on Integration and Equalization in houses."

For the context of this minute you are referred to the Associations telex to the Honourable Judd Buchanan which requested a halt on all Government Staff Housing until such times as contracts of a nature that guarantee the principals of Integration and Equalization are met.

The telex also pointed out that the appalling disparities in housing would never have taken place simply if all government funded homes for employees and citizens were under the control of one Local Housing Board.

The intent of the telex was to outline a serious social and financial situation and request assistance from the Federal Government to resolve the problem.

Copies of the telex were forwarded to Wally Firth, Member of Parliament, Brian Pearson, Territorial Councillor and, as well, to you the Village Council of Frobisher Bay, all of which are elected officials.

In addition, copies were forwarded to S. Hodgson, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and to Roy McClure, Managing Director of the N. W. T. Housing Corporation, the administrators of the policies of our elected bodies.

Thus it was felt that all concerned would be informed and could therefore look at the situation and come up with some solutions.

It was, and is not, the intention of the Board of Directors to criticize or tell anybody what to do but rather to fulfill its responsibilities by pointing out a reality and requesting assistance.

Now, at this time, it appears this Association provided an inadequate amount of information in the telex as the Association has had no replies or requests for information as related to the problem stated.

Therefore, in order to provide background, which we feel would assist the Village Council to arrive at a knowledgeable decision of support, the following points of fact and information are submitted.

Approximately 10 years ago the Government of Canada implemented the Northern Rental Housing, Rental Purchase Program partially and particularly to provide houses for the Inuit. The rent structure of this program sets aside one third of each dollar rent paid as a credit towards the purchase of a Northern Rental House.

At the time of implementation of this program the majority of the Inuit in Frobisher were either not working within the wage economy or certainly not to the pay levels they are at present.

Today, 10 years later, fully 50% of the tenants are paying the maximum rates of rent. A profound change of circumstances.

The Northern Rental, Rental Purchase Program was implemented with the end goal that Inuit in particular, as a special status group of people, would eventually want to move into the wage economy and the Northern Rental Program was the vehicle which would enable the Inuit to become private home owners.

The Northwest Territories Council Task Force on Housing of June 1972 recommended and pointed out the economic and social advantages of providing a subsidy to assist with fuel and power costs to all citizens of the Northwest Territories. Thus, the additional and final vehicle necessary to provide private home ownership was established. Alas, it has not been implemented to date.

It can be clearly stated that the Northern Rental, Rental Purchase program was indeed an enlightened piece of legislation. Our Federal Government should be commended on its foresight and courage as, today, in Frobisher Bay, we are in the position of Inuit being in the wage economy to the degree of commitment whereby it would be advantageous for a number to become private home owners. Indeed there have been several requests.

The Objects of the Certificate of Incorporation under the Societies Ordinance of the Frobisher Bay Housing Association read as follows:

...3

"The Objects of the said society are to promote adequate housing and arrange maintenance to rental houses and act in negotiations with the Government, to assist in housing education and economic development."

It may be important to point out that Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines adequate as "2. lawfully and reasonably sufficient".

The Association therefore feels it has the responsibility, and therefore a trust of the citizens of Frobisher Bay, to lawfully negotiate with whomever it is necessary, to obtain reasonable and sufficient housing. It follows therefore, the Association can lawfully negotiate with, and not against, whomever it is necessary to negotiate with, against the spending of Public Funded Housing Programs that in any way appear to directly effect the principals of reasonable and sufficient housing.

It may now be advantageous to take a brief look at the responsibilities of the Association 10 years ago, today, and just one or two years in the future by posing the question - Who does the Association negotiate on behalf of?

Ten years ago the Association administered, maintained and negotiated on behalf of the Inuit, as previously mentioned, as a special status and particular group of people. It was in fact an "Eskimo Housing Association 100%.

Today, with the construction of the 15 Territorial Houses - the green ones on the beach in base and the brown aluminium sided houses throughout base but mainly in Ikaluit - with the present 20 Public Houses already erected; the 30 new Public Houses arriving sealift 1975, the proposed 20 single persons and 10 Senior Citizens accommodation, the Association therefore administers, maintains and negotiates not on behalf of only the Inuit of Frobisher Bay as 37% of the units are open to anybody, Inuit or Non-Inuit.

Honoured Counselors, the Housing Association is no longer an "Eskimo Housing Association" but rather the Frobisher Bay Housing Association is responsible for both Inuit and Non-Inuit Housing.

Another Object of the Incorporation of the Association is " (c) To develop, and indeed to be capable of being easily absorbed into a Municipal level of Government."

Honoured Counselors, the Frobisher Bay Housing Association has now arrived at that state of maturity it was created for as follows:

1. At a Municipal level, the Board of Directors in fact govern Housing for both Inuit and Non-Inuit.
2. It has developed what it feels are just policies for House letting or House allocation.

Based on "needs" the principals that govern house letting by the Board of Directors and/or a committee of the Board are:

1. Length of Residence in Probisher Bay
2. Number of people in family compared to house size
3. Quality of care of present house
4. Rent paying habits in present house

As a safeguard to protect the needs of the Community at Large there is a governing principal that when emoloyment of an individual is of a direct benefit to the Community there is a special priority to ensure accomodation of the individual.

3. The Board of Directors has instructed the administrative staff to ensure that both the tenants and the staff meet and fulfill their mutual responsibilities as laid down in the Rental Programs the Association administers.

These policies have quadrupled rent payments which in turn now provide the means to carry out proper and preventative maintenance.

It should be clearly understood that maintenance does not mean that tenants do not pay for damages to the houses they occupy, they do! Maintenance means that the stoves, furnaces, water systems - were available and electrical systems are up to par and that normal improvements are carried out.

These responsibilities are now being met! ever tho the load is heavy and the funds short!

It should be noted that Housing, in Canada and the world at Large, is generally viewed as a social responsibility. During the month of April there was a two week Seminar at the University of Guelph, in Ontario, attended by employees of the Ontario Housing Corporation. The name of the Seminar was "Social Housing".

This is pointed out as it can be clearly seen that the above three responsibilities the Board of Directors of the Association have met are all socially oriented.

If the Board of Directors were unable to carry out their past responsibilities it was not for being unable to grasp the problems and resolving them out rather once they had a solution they had no staff to carry out their decisions - a crippling situation. Now and henceforth, this situation must be conscientiously and continuously healed and as it can be seen the healing process is in effect.

How does the the Housing Association understand Equalization and Integration? Why simply the way it has to operate. Granted the majority are Inuit however if one looks around there are many Non-Inuit who have put many years into this Village who no doubt would wish to rent or even purchase a privately owned home.

How does the Housing Association understand reasonable and sufficient? It is unnecessary to state there are unreasonable homes in Frobisher Bay. There are 36 matchboxes. It is also unnecessary to state there are insufficient homes in Frobisher Bay. The Associations 80% completed, and, ever being updated, Needs and Demands Survey reflects that even with the completion of the 30 new homes, the proposed 20 single and 10 Senior Citizen units and the destruction of the matchboxes there remains a need of 50 more units of 1 and 2 bedroom accomodation. This we might add does not account for any Non-Inuit accomodation - individuals who add to the viability of the community.

You are free to question Social Development as to their quandry when they wish to assist an individual rehabilitate in the community by providing them with accomodation. They simply are unable to do so. The result is a further spread of social breakdown.

It can be clearly seen that the Housing Association is responsible to the Community of Frobisher Bay as a whole.

The policies of the Board of Directors safeguard accomodation of individuals and families who are necessary for the well being and viability of the Community of Frobisher Bay as a whole.

The Housing Association is functioning at a Municipal Level through carrying out studies, the aforementioned Needs and Demands study, consulting with groups, the Senior Citizens as an example, and providing this information to the Village Council in order that the Village Council has adequate knowledge with which they may base their decisions.

There are at present Government Staff Accomodation in the various Settlements of the Northwest Territories which are practically if not identical to the present level of Public Houses in Frobisher Bay.

The Association cannot see any financial, moral or just reason why more expensive and exclusive housing must be built to entice southerners to come to the north.

Rather housing provided by Public Funded Programs whether for the private citizen or the private citizen civil servant should be open to all to rent or purchase.

Should a private individual wish to spend his own money on a \$150,000.00 home that really is up to his own conscience. When it comes to Public Funds then there is a special trust to the people of Canada.

The Board of Directors is therefore requesting from the Village Council a certified resolution of support - that all housing accommodation in Frobisher Bay, provided by Public Funds, be administered and the maintenance be arranged by one local central agency in Frobisher Bay, the Frobisher Bay Housing Association or an evolution thereof, whether or not the housing be for private citizens or private citizen civil servants of any level of government and that this support would be in the form of the Village Council assisting the Association in negotiations which would integrate and equalize housing to fulfill and safeguard the needs, desires and aspirations of the individuals and the Community of Frobisher Bay as a whole. That these negotiations are undertaken within the framework of the Unity of the Northwest Territories and the Diversity of the various Towns, Villages, Hamlets and Settlements and that it is Frobisher Bay alone which is under consideration.

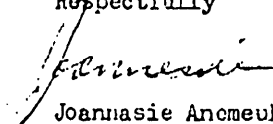
Last of all, it is intended that copies of this letter and whatever the resolution of the Village Council may be will be forwarded to the Honourable Judd Buchanan, M.L.A., Wally Firth, Member of Parliament, Brian Pearson, Territorial Counselor all of whom are elected representatives.

As with the Associations telex copies would be forwarded to S. Hodgson, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and Roy McClure, Managing Director of the N. W. T. Housing Corporation.

In addition a copy will be forwarded to the Honourable Barney Dansen, Minister of Housing the Federal Government.

The covering letter will be addressed to the Honourable Judd Buchanan respectfully requesting him to undertake initiative in this matter.

Respectfully


Joannasie Ancmeuk
Chairman

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Village of Frobisher Bay

P.O. Box 460, Frobisher Bay N.W.T.

May 2nd, 1975

The following is a Motion extracted from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Village Council of Frobisher Bay, held on Monday, May 26th, 1975:

MOVED : Councillor Michael
SECONDED : Councillor MacKenzie
MOTION : "That the proposal of the Frobisher Bay Housing Association be accepted in principle with further study necessary with a combined meeting"

MOTION CARRIED

