

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
8TH COUNCIL, 57TH SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 1-57

TABLED ON Sept. 29, 1975

TD 1-57.

Dated on Sept. 29, 1975

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS the Council of the N.W.T. is the government of all of the people of the N.W.T. including the Dene, the Inuit, and others,

AND WHEREAS the Council of the N.W.T. is the sole legitimate political entity at the territorial level of government,

AND WHEREAS the Members of this Council are elected by all of our people based on one vote for one person; the racial mix and composition of this particular Council being evidence of this fact,

NOW THEREFORE, I move that the following become the policies and priorities which this Council deems applicable to the political development of the N.W.T.

1. Turning to the philosophy of the federal government as stated by the then minister in his white paper on 10 November, 1969, we quote it as follows:

- (i) "In the first place, I firmly believe that at this time and for the foreseeable future, the granting of provincial status to either territory is not a realistic alternative.

- (ii) I further believe that the federal government should continue to manage and develop the natural resources of the North for the benefit of both northern residents and all Canadians."

Regrettably, the foregoing is phrased in the negative, leaving this Council frustrated and uncertain as to what next, if anything shall occur. Evolution requires a positive approach to political development. Consequently, we believe that the position of the federal government, stated positively should be as follows:

- (i) The Government of Canada is committed in principle to provincial status for each territory, after timing and sound financial arrangements have been negotiated.

- (ii) In the meantime, however, the federal government will continue to manage and develop the natural resources of the North as trustee for northern residents.

2. The salaries of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner should be a first charge on the consolidated revenue fund of the N.W.T. and should appear in territorial estimates.

3. Regarding territorial finances, the present form of financial negotiation is cumbersome and should be discontinued in favour of formula financing, which system would guarantee the territories a substantial share of resource revenue without strings attached as to how it would be spent.
4. We support a fair and speedy settlement of native land claims, and recognize that their settlement is a first priority before full provincial status.
5. We note that the federal government is directly involved outside and independent of the territorial government in the provision of provincial type services and responsibilities, namely: highway construction and maintenance, forestry, fisheries in inland waters, health services, provision of electric power through NCPCC, the administrations of surface rights to land and inland waters, the administration of subsurface rights to land and inland waters and the Attorney General. These responsibilities together with the funding and positions should be promptly transferred, as a first step, to the territorial government. For these responsibilities to be performed for the Minister through the Commissioner (his resident Deputy Minister) rather than through the departmental Deputy Minister in Ottawa, is no more or less remote, nor no more or less responsible. The Minister's control remains the same, but hopefully, the public servants involved, if responsible to the Minister through our Commissioner, will be more responsive to this Council. This responsiveness, though it would not amount to real control by this Council, is a step in the process of evolution.
6. The Carrothers Commission recommended a 10-year review of its recommendations which would presumably occur after August, 1976. Though we feel a review is now timely, we do not support the appointment of a commission. Instead, we feel that it is time for federal politicians to meet and negotiate with their territorial counterparts because of the policy considerations involved. To that end we propose to establish a negotiating committee of the N.W.T. Council which would meet with a federal negotiating committee of cabinet. This group would identify the constitutional, administrative and resource transfers required to attain provincial status and set a time schedule for their implementation. This would include the appointment of additional Members from this house to the territorial executive. The Council negotiating committee would report to and take instructions from the Council.
7. All organizations funded by the federal government in the N.W.T. should be funded through the territorial budget, except for those areas which are the constitutional responsibility of the federal government such as research necessary to settle native land claims.
8. A review of all ordinances should be undertaken to identify all powers delegated to the Commissioner by this Council for the purpose of re-examining them.

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, may I have unanimous consent to turn to agenda Item 8?

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent is requested. Is it agreed?

--- Agreed

Returning to Item 8, motions, Mr. Butters?

REVERT TO ITEM NO. 8: MOTIONS

MR. BUTTERS: May I have unanimous consent to move the motion I gave notice of earlier on this date?

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent requested to move motion -- the motion with respect to committee of the whole discussion of the tabled document concerned with political development. Unanimous consent is requested. Is it agreed?

--- Agreed

Would you move your motion, Mr. Butters?

Motion that Tabled Document 1-57 be Considered in Committee of the Whole

MR. BUTTERS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to move that Tabled Document 1-57 a paper on political development be moved into committee of the whole, or rather be considered in committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder?

MR. PUDLUK: We are having a little problem with the interpretation.

Motion Carried

MR. SPEAKER: It has been moved by Mr. Butters that we move into committee of the whole to discuss Tabled Document 1-57. Is there a seconder? Mr. Steen. Is there any discussion? The question. The question being called. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

--- Carried

REVERT TO ITEM NO. 10: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF VARIOUS MATTERS

Returning therefore to Item 10, Council will resolve into committee of the whole to consider Tabled Document 1-57 with respect to the political development of the Northwest Territories with Mr. Stewart in the chair. However, before we leave the chair I wonder Mr. Clerk if you could determine whether or not the five pictures have been taken. One more? Four more? For pity's sake.