



COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES DEBATES

58th Session

8th Council

Official Report

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1976

Speaker David H. Searle, Q.C.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1976

The Council of the Northwest Territories was convened in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories at two-thirty o'clock p.m., on Monday, January 26, 1976, for the first session, 1976, this being the fifty-eighth session.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Steen, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Lyall, Mr. Butters, Mr. Wah-Shee, Mr. Barnaby, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Pudluk, Mr. Searle, Mr. Nickerson

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

Prayer

BISHOP H.G. COOK: Let us pray. Almighty God, from Whom cometh all wisdom and power, we, the Council of the Northwest Territories in session assembled, humbly beseech Thy blessing on our deliberations, to the end that, inspired by Thy divine wisdom, and setting aside all prejudices, private interests and partial affections, we may work to the benefit, welfare and happiness of the people, and to Thy glory. Amen.

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Searle): Mr. Clerk, would you see if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories wishes to address this house?

THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL (Mr. Remnant): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

ITEM NO. 2: COMMISSIONER'S OPENING ADDRESS

THE COMMISSIONER (Mr. Hodgson): Please be seated.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Council, it is indeed a great pleasure and privilege to speak to you this afternoon about some of the things that you will undoubtedly be thinking and talking about during 1976. But first may I welcome you to this, the 58th session of the Council of the Northwest Territories.

This session is being held at a very interesting time in the history of northern Canada. While it was just four months ago that you last gathered together to discuss the future direction of this Council and the Government of the Northwest Territories, many things have happened in that short time.

Times Of Change

As you know, I was born just after World War I in the 1920's, and have lived the greater part of my life. During that period I have seen many things transpire, and I have been constantly amazed at what has happened during that 50 years. I might add that I hope and expect to see many more changes and developments in the years ahead. The difference, however, between the earlier days and the present, is that things happen so fast now. The 1930's seemed much faster than the 1920's, and the 40's faster than the 30's, and the 50's faster than the 40's, and so it continues to go. Today, it seems one year is like ten to 15 years of my early life.

No Time To Plan Properly

I am sure that to many people born in the Northwest Territories the speed at which things have happened and the changes they have seen are nothing short of a 20th century miracle.

Some changes have been good and others not so good. One thing stands out and that is, we never really have time any more to properly plan. Once a plan has been formulated, we never have time to check and see what is happening and if it meets the original ideas, thoughts and objectives of those for whom the plan was designed to serve. I have noticed that there are times when the success is far beyond that which anyone would have thought possible, but I have also noticed that when the objectives, ideas and plans are formulated and the decision made to go ahead, sometimes when the goal is reached we find the goal has somehow changed. The result then, of course, is disappointment for those who asked for assistance and help, for those who put together the proposal, and also for those who brought the plan to fulfilment.

Unfortunately this is a modern day phenomenon and reminds one of a piece of equipment gone wild. When this happens in industry, a regulator or governor is attached to control the speed, thus ensuring stability of motion in order that everyone involved knows and understands what is expected of him, and can adjust to the equipment and make the best use of it. This, of course, is what has been happening to the economy throughout the world, and in Canada our government has been trying to develop a governor that can slow down, smooth out and regulate the speed of our fast-spinning inflationary spiral, and the steeply rising costs that threaten to get us all giddy. Of course, in a situation like this, no two disciplines, or people, or institutions, start from the same point. They do not see it from the same vantage and their conclusions inevitably are very different. It is like being in a whiteout with no horizons. There are no points of reference to take direction from, and the course is ever changing.

No Turning Back From Decisions

In the North we have become so dependent on the Canadian economy that unless we fully understand what the present circumstances are, and the options that lie ahead, there is no doubt that we could take different courses and end up in different places. At the moment we are truly at a crossroads. The decisions we make now unquestionably will decide our future. These days, it is not a case of whether or not to turn the clock back, as it is one of the realities of life. Once major decisions have been made, there can be no turning back. In years past you could begin again, go back where you came from to start over from the beginning. You had time to do that. Now people have to begin each day where they left off the day before. In this year one thousand nine hundred and seventy-six, we find in the Northwest Territories much apprehension and indecision. It would seem to me there is justification for this situation, as never before in the history of northern Canada have so many people expressed so great an interest in it. So it is understandable why the 40,000 Canadians living in northern Canada are wondering whose advice to take and which is the right way.

Decisions Must Be Right

At the present moment there are three major northern preoccupations being considered by the Government of Canada. They are, the matter of land claims to be negotiated with the North's original people, the Indian, Eskimo and Metis people. Then there is the subject of whether or not to bring to market the resources, principally oil and gas, that lie north of the tree line, and whether or not a pipeline would be in the best interest of Canadians in general and those people who will be affected by the pipeline in particular. Then, of course, there is the matter of what steps should be taken toward responsible territorial government in place of the present representative government for all northern citizens. Which comes first in our list of priorities? As the years quickly pass the priorities change, but regardless of how the priorities are set they are all interrelated. To further compound the problem, the final decisions in most instances are not entirely in the hands of those who are principally involved or affected, but by "forces outside" to use an old northern expression. Much as we would like to, the prospect of solving all of these major problems at one time is difficult to imagine. It would be welcome news if one morning we could wake up and find our problems are all over because agreement has been reached on all sides. That would be marvellous, but on the other hand nothing could be more confusing than by evening finding that mistakes had been made and Canada's northern people could not live with

the decisions. So while I certainly do not know what the answer is, one thing stands out above everything else, and that is that we really have only one chance and therefore we have to do it right. Once decisions have been made there is no turning back. In the meantime life goes on, and so do the needs and requirements of people.

Where do we go from here? I certainly would be the first to concede it is difficult to plan and prepare without getting caught in the line of fire.

Late this fall I took the opportunity to travel across much of the area north of the 60th parallel, visiting Greenland, northern Canada and Alaska, and I could not help but notice the price that is being paid because of lack of planning. This is the dilemma. But like anything else there is only one way of solving it and that is by facing it head on. I believe that as much as possible, each in his own way making whatever contribution he can, and taking into consideration the surrounding circumstances, we have to try to put our house in order.

In your case, the Council has a host of responsibilities. First, of course, is the direction that you think administrative programs and policies should take, then passing legislation to bring this about and at the same time offering the greatest degree of service and satisfaction to the people of the Northwest Territories.

Territories Should Have Support

This past year we have concentrated on a major reorganization of the territorial government and I believe we have for the most part solved the problems that plagued us during the first part of the 70's. We have good staff and they are willing to work. I have spent long days over many weeks during this past year, working with our financial advisers and planners, and I have led numerous delegations to Ottawa to impress upon them an understanding that the Northwest Territories can not and must not at this particular time be subject to the same financial restraints as have been applied in the rest of the country. The people of the territories are far behind most of the areas of Canada that make up most of our populace and provincial centres. Therefore, we should be given the opportunity to catch up, and we should be provided the type of support that at other times, during a similar period of development, other Canadians enjoyed. I am very relieved and pleased that the results have been so rewarding.

Over the next year, principally in the three weeks ahead, much of this past years deliberations, planning and results will be placed before you. We await your consideration and your direction as there are many things that, collectively, the administration can do to make adjustments or changes to meet other people's wishes as expressed through their elected territorial representatives. This Council is a fully-elected territorial-wide body, and the only one historically where those permitted to participate are here as a result of an election by all the people living in the territories. So you have a heavy responsibility. While it generally takes 18 months to bring about major changes to programs and policies, and to changes of direction, I do think that much can be done this year.

I propose this afternoon to place some of these subjects before you for the purpose of giving you some idea as to my thoughts on matters. Before doing so, perhaps it would be worthwhile to run quickly through the activities of this past year.

Department Of Planning And Program Evaluation

The Department of Planning and Program Evaluation has been working with the federal government on an extensive study attempting to assess the social, economic and cultural impact that may arise due to the possible construction of three gas plants in the Mackenzie Delta. This study is being funded by the Government of Canada. The department also has worked with the federal government and the surrounding communities on programs and planning necessary during the construction of the mine at Strathcona Sound. Community consultation has been a major emphasis in this project. A preliminary plan was also drawn up to evaluate the organizational structure in use at Fort Smith, and to assess the possibilities of a future change to a district service office concept. This department has also taken on the responsibility to establish the science advisory board in compliance with a previous request from Council.

Department Of Natural And Cultural Affairs

The newly-established Department of Natural and Cultural Affairs' responsibilities are far reaching, as the name of the department indicates. They have actively given support in the renovation and construction of a number of community halls, a swimming pool at Igloolik, a new game office and warehouse at Fort Franklin, and assisted in completing the arena at Pine Point. This department is responsible for the development of the territorial museum policy

and the construction of the central museum at the capital. Mr. Mersereau, former regional director at Fort Smith, took over as head of the new department this past summer.

Department Of Local Government

The Department of Local Government have completed work on three combination firehall/settlement offices, and contributed to three additional firehalls and two major parking garages. They have been actively engaged in community development, and Pond Inlet and Rankin Inlet became hamlets this past year.

Department Of Public Works

The Department of Public Works has the responsibility for architectural, engineering and maintenance service, and provides advice to user departments and the Executive. This past year the department has undertaken 170 major projects totalling approximately \$19 million. Of these, 133 were new projects and will have been completed by March of this year; 15 were the completion of projects from last year; and 22 will be carried over into the next year. Three garage/trade shops were built at Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay and Snowdrift, and a trade shop at Cambridge Bay. In addition, a start was made on the new Gjoa Haven school, and several major additions were made to educational facilities at Fort Smith, Cambridge Bay and Fort Simpson; the school at Spence Bay was completed, and the large addition at Fort McPherson is scheduled for completion in March of this year. The ten classroom addition in Fort Smith was completed last summer, and a new gymnasium is under construction at Sir John Franklin school here in Yellowknife. The department advise that six new emergency generators have been installed in the territories' largest schools, and that the program will be continued. I might mention here that it was one of these emergency generators that was put to the test yesterday at Pagnirtung where as a result of the terrible storm the wires were blown down in the community and the community was left without power. The emergency generator in the school was turned on and the people were able to gather at the school and were able to be kept warm. During the year a property management section was added to the department, which enabled the untangling of a number of problems involving some 320 leases and other real estate transactions.

Department Of Social Development

The Department of Social Development has constructed a new group home at Fort Simpson, and completed service renovations at the Yellowknife Correctional Institute. A correction camp has opened and is functioning at Hay River, and transient centres have been renovated at Cambridge Bay and Akudlik. Study has begun on the needs of handicapped people and a training system for northerners as health and social service workers. Plans are being finalized for a system of diverting offenders into community service type penalties instead of fines and incarcerations. Justice and corrections advisory committees have been appointed and are functioning, and juvenile court committees are being established in some communities. The department has successfully promoted the Northwest Territories Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council. Grocery allowance rates were increased to reflect the change in the cost of living, and it was announced that the appeal provision of the Social Assistance Ordinance will be declared in force on April 1st of this year. Home nursing service has been established in Hay River, and construction of the new Hay River health centre is underway.

Department Of Finance

The Department of Finance have undertaken extensive work at the petroleum oil and lubricant tank farms at Pagnirtung, Spence Bay, Tuktoyaktuk and Chesterfield Inlet. Work has begun on the warehouse at Yellowknife, and renovations have been made to three warehouses at Resolute Bay, Rankin Inlet and Inuvik. The department has undergone a thorough investigation, and all financial aspects, which include the treasury, the preparation of the program forecasts and budget, are now under this department. The Deputy Commissioner has been named controller.

Department Of Education

The Department of Education report that 15 more students have graduated from the teacher education program and were employed as classroom teachers during 1975. The number of classroom assistants rose from 122 to 126. Training was provided for over half of this number. Meetings of educational advisory board chairmen were held in the Baffin, Keewatin and Cambridge Bay areas. More schools offered instruction in the native language, and the cultural inclusion budget by the end of 1975 was raised from \$15 per pupil to \$27. Material in Slavey and Loucheaux was published and distributed. Since the department has offered higher grades in some communities, there has been a decrease in the number of children in pupil residences and Stringer Hall has been closed. The conversion of Breynat Hall to adult accommodation has contributed to the upgrading of the facilities at the Adult Vocational Training Centre.

Department Of Public Services

The new Workers' Compensation Ordinance has now been in force since October of 1974. The most significant change was the creation and operation of our own board replacing the Alberta referee. A new labour advisory board was established and the native court workers' program was commenced, and the Frobisher Bay community legal centre was established. An inspector of legal offices was appointed with responsibilities for the recruiting, training and liaison with Justices of the peace. Much work has gone into the revised Labour Standards Ordinance, and meetings have been held with the president of the Canadian Labour Congress and his advisers. It is hoped that the new Labour Relations Ordinance will be ready for consideration later this year.

Department Of Information

During the year Mr. Art Sorensen replaced Mr. Jake Ootes as director of the Department of Information. Mr. Ootes retired to go into private practice and we all wish him the very best in his new endeavour. The department's major emphasis this past year has been on improving the flow of information to northern residents. In addition, considerable work has been undertaken to ensure members of the Interpreter-Translator Corps were trained and in a position to provide simultaneous translation for the Northwest Territories Council. A new monthly newsletter, "The Interpreter", was introduced. The publication is aimed at informing native residents in all regions on government programs, service and activities.

Department Of Economic Development

The Department of Economic Development reports close co-operation with the Federation of Co-operatives, and this fall the federation took over operation of the Inuvik craft shop. The department advises that the lumbering operations at Fort Resolution and Jean Marie River are now reported as efficient and viable mills. The tourist division hosted a national conference of all provincial and federal authorities. The research and evaluation division during the year produced a top level professional document that has played a role in the possible introduction of Department of Regional Economic Expansion programs in the Northwest Territories. Much work has gone into the establishment of a secondary industrial operation in the Northwest Territories. A furniture plant will soon be in production. The employment division has worked closely with the federal department of manpower and programs have been directed to the employment of more native people as members of the Northwest Territories public service. An additional 60 native people are involved in training and apprenticeship programs, and during 1976 the administration will create 50 additional training positions. This is on the recommendation of the recent task force on personnel and will ensure that more and more native-born northerners take over positions within the Northwest Territories public service. Over the next three years 150 new training positions will be established.

The Executive

From an administrative point of view, the territorial government introduced a new Executive Committee concept composed of two Members from this Council, the Deputy Commissioner, an Assistant Commissioner, and myself as chairman. This new format came into being as a result of changes to the Northwest Territories Act. Two Members of this Council were appointed to

head up major departments. While this system has not had a full years operation, marked improvements in the flow of information between the Executive, the Council, and the departments are evident. The Deputy Commissioner has taken on the responsibilities of controller, and the Departments of Finance, Planning and Program Evaluation, Public Works, Personnel, and Economic Development report to him. The Departments of Public Services, Natural and Cultural Affairs, Local Government, and the regional directors report to the Assistant Commissioner. With the transfer of Mr. Ewan Cotterill to Ottawa as Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Mr. Gary Mullins has been appointed to succeed him. Mr. Mullins will arrive in March, and at that time it is expected there will be a few changes in the responsibilities and reporting relationships within the Executive Committee.

Financial Restraints Introduced

During the winter of 1974, severe financial restraints were introduced in order to keep the Government of the Northwest Territories financially viable. The problem resulted from inflation, salary increases, and general increases to fuel, transportation and equipment prices. The territorial government was able to obtain \$2 million in additional assistance from the federal government. We therefore were able to enter the 1975-76 fiscal year in the black. We were only 30 days into the new year when it became apparent that there would be no letup with inflation, increased costs for goods, services and equipment were evident, and additional wage settlements arose out of negotiations with the Northwest Territories Teachers Association and the Public Service Association.

In May a number of meetings were held with senior officials of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and Treasury Board. A financial review committee was established, of which I was given the responsibility of chairing. A working committee was set up. Among the things to be considered was to upgrade the present system of finance and to secure additional funding for the current fiscal year. After much work and perseverance, Treasury Board approved an additional \$4 million to help the Government of the Northwest Territories meet these unexpected cost increases. The president of the Treasury Board, however, asked that \$2 million of this special grant be applied to our working capital. This was a wise decision because it once again will enable the territorial government to go into the new fiscal year without any liabilities.

New System Of Financing For N.W.T.

I am pleased to report that as a result of the undertaking, a new system of financing for the Northwest Territories government was achieved. This will allow for a better understanding of the problems inherent in northern communities. The Government of Canada recognized our principal contention, that this is a developing area and therefore we are not subject to exactly the same financial budget restraints as departments of the federal government. For the first time a system has been developed, of which the Deputy Commissioner will be speaking later during this session, that will enable better planning, adequate financing, and a fund to enable us to meet unexpected contingencies. The budget, therefore, for the 1976-77 year will be \$206,445,300, an increase of \$42,226,000 over 1975-76.

At this time, I would be remiss if I failed to mention those whose efforts made this possible. To our Minister, The Honourable Judd Buchanan; to the President of the Treasury Board, The Honourable Jean Chrétien; to the Deputy Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Mr. Arthur Kroeger; to the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. John Parker; to Treasury Board representative, Mr. Gary Mullins; to Departmental Director, Mr. Jean Fournier; to Territorial Treasurer, Mr. Doug Holden; and to Mr. Jim Nelson, must go a sincere vote of thanks on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories.

Responsibility To Live Within Budget

So this is indeed good news for the Council, the administration, and residents of the Northwest Territories. However, I believe it important to point out that with increased financial authority must come responsibility, and the territorial administration must live within its budget. While being very generous, the federal government expects us to live within the new wage and price guidelines, and to see progress on cabinet's northern objectives, and that we do more than talk about our goals, objectives and programs of the Northwest Territories government. Therefore, it seems to me that this is the time of decision. We have a good Council. I believe the administration is efficient, able and willing to work, and that the people in the communities are now capable of expressing their opinions and desires. All of these should be brought into play.

What, then, does the administration propose for this next fiscal year? During this past year the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation built 274 units of new housing. This year an additional 250 new units of housing will be proposed. A number of community halls will be completed, and others will be started. Game offices and warehouses, portable pools, curling rinks, craft centres and arena complexes are being presented for your consideration.

A new game advisory council should begin functioning this year, and the outpost camp policy will be further developed and implemented.

Preparations are well under way to send a full delegation to the Arctic Winter Games at Schefferville, Quebec, and it is hoped that sports north federation will be organized and able to handle events such as this.

Hopefully a new museum director will be appointed, and a new approach to a museum and historical board is planned.

This year 15 units of staff housing will be completed at various locations, and the relocation of the townsite at Resolute Bay will be continued. A large number of miscellaneous works and buildings, ranging from water reservoirs, community freezers, campgrounds and firehalls, are detailed in the budget which will be debated later.

It is hoped that the reconstruction of the Yellowknife highway will be completed this year, at which time the highway between Fort Rae and Yellowknife will have been rebuilt to a higher standard.

It is regrettable that due to high costs, we were not able to continue the replacement federal and territorial staff housing project in Frobisher Bay, and little or no activity is expected this year.

Department Of Local Government Programs

The Department of Local Government will be building parking garages at Coral Harbour, Repulse Bay, Eskimo Point and Coppermine, and a major maintenance garage in Rankin Inlet. Office/firehalls will be built at Whale Cove, Norman Wells, Cambridge Bay and Broughton Island and a new settlement office is planned for Arctic Bay. Major water and sewer projects will be continued, as well as work on a number of remote airstrips.

Department Of Social Development Programs

The Department of Social Development reports the implementation of a number of training systems for northerners and what changes may be necessary to services provided within their area of responsibility. Plans are underway to introduce an alcohol policy for employees of the Northwest Territories government, who it seems are just as susceptible to contracting this disease as anyone else.

It is planned to complete the architectural plan for the Fort Smith health centre and the construction of the Hay River health centre; the finalization of long-range plans for the transfer of responsibilities from the Department of Health and Welfare to the Government of the Northwest Territories; and **construction** of a halfway house and a group home.

Department Of Finance Programs

The Department of Finance reports that as a result of the recent changes within the department, they should be in a position to provide better service in order to meet the observations of the Auditor General. Work will be done at the tank farms in the following communities: Tuktoyaktuk; Fort McPherson; Gjoa Haven; Holman Island; Rankin Inlet; Paulatuk; Snowdrift; Hall Beach; Pelly Bay; Fort Good Hope and Igloolik. Improvements to warehouses will be made at Norman Wells, Cambridge Bay, Inuvik and Enterprise.

Department Of Education Programs

The Department of Education began plans for the establishment of a community college within the Northwest Territories. While as yet this program has not been approved by the interdepartmental committee on finance or Treasury Board, it is one of our major priorities in the years to come.

Continued emphasis will be placed on teaching English as a second language in native communities, and in the field of curriculum, improved physical education, music and science programs will be developed.

It is anticipated that the new gymnasium will be completed at Yellowknife, and the new school and gymnasium for Gjoa Haven and Resolute Bay will get underway and also an addition to the school at Cape Dorset. Planning will begin soon on a new secondary school to be sited somewhere in the Arctic. Areas under consideration are the Western Arctic and the Keewatin.

Department Of Information Programs

The Department of Information will step up their programming support and liaison with the Northwest Territories' 11 community radio broadcasting stations.

Department Of Economic Development Programs

The Department of Economic Development will concentrate on putting together a master plan for the development of tourist and territorial parks in the Northwest Territories. In the field of arts and crafts, in addition to carving, print making and handicrafts, a major effort will be made to market jewelry produced in the Eastern Arctic. Hopefully 1976 should see expansion at the Rankin Inlet fish cannery. Mention has already been made about the introduction of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion program capacity into the Northwest Territories. The department hopes to try once more to establish a tanning business and other plans will be discussed during the budget discussions.

Your administration has been hard pressed attempting to put together and produce all the material in time for the session. We are pleased that we were able to have the budget in your hands by last week. Copies of all pieces of legislation were turned over to the Council's legislation committee for their meeting last Thursday.

More Responsibility At Local Level

Last September Members of Council discussed the resolution titled "Social Development". One of the basic thrusts advocated in that resolution was that the administration should begin analysing many territorial programs to see what more authority and responsibility could be turned over to the municipal, hamlet, settlement and community councils. I thought perhaps I should give you the benefit of my thinking on this subject. I believe that there is much that can be achieved in this regard and that the administration should develop a schedule of programs that could be offered to the various councils if they wished to take advantage of the proposal.

I would think, based on the experience of other jurisdictions, the Northwest Territories Council must soon begin seriously looking at the possibility of passing legislation that would introduce resource revenue sharing and a system of income tax. At the same time, some of the responsibilities now reserved for municipalities should be extended to villages and hamlets and some of the responsibilities of hamlets should be extended to those settlement councils who wish to take advantage of this.

As of April 1st, all settlement secretaries and the funds for them will be turned over to settlement councils. By mutual agreement, we will begin looking at the possibility of, in a number of settlements, withdrawing settlement managers and in their place someone will be given the responsibility of looking after and co-ordinating territorial government responsibilities. Some areas will require a full time person and in others the responsibilities will be assigned to an existing employee of the government. There will, of course, be some settlement councils who will need direct support for some time to come, but in those areas where at the various council levels it is possible to consider offering a variety of government programs to be run by the settlements, this will be done.

I would suggest that in each case, town, village, hamlet or settlement councils should be the co-ordinating body, and that as all members of council are elected, one member each from the council should be assigned to each of the elected boards established to look after the various responsibilities.

Suggestion That Council Consider Transfer Of Programs And Services

If you think well of this proposal, I believe that it may be worthwhile for Council to spend some time discussing this subject during this session. It would seem only proper that there be some clear understanding with regard to authority and responsibility for the programs and services to be transferred. In some instances there may well be legislative changes required. The administration would have to look at any new costs or changes to the existing "A" level program in order that it can be identified as soon as possible and thus be properly reflected in the 1977-78 forecast. Individual communities should be offered the choice of the programs and services they wish to take over. It will require considerable planning and organization as well as drawing up a smooth-functioning structure, in order that programs are co-ordinated within the communities.

I would think that a target date should be set that will allow all communities, regardless of their size, plenty of time to prepare. This will provide ample notification to those communities wishing to participate. As there is no time limit implementation could be programmed for the most suitable time, if and when the communities feel they have developed the expertise to take on these new authorities.

Disciplines Responsible For Transfer

It would seem to me that the following disciplines within the government would be assigned the following responsibilities: The Executive would be responsible for policy; the Department of Planning and Program Evaluation would be responsible for putting together the transfer plans; the Department of Local Government would have the responsibility to develop, prepare and institute the transfer, and provide regular guidance, assistance and evaluation. Assistance would naturally come from the various departments. Depending upon the jurisdiction and the originating department charged with responsibility for the program and whose budget the funds are being transferred from, that department would have an ongoing professional interest.

Six Communities To Be Chosen To Start Program

With the foregoing in mind, I submit the following suggestions for your discussion and consideration. The Department of Personnel would identify six to-be-agreed-upon communities, for a period of one year, to include non-governmental persons from the community on the selection boards for social workers, economic development officers, local government development officers, and fish and wildlife officers. The person nominated by the town, village, hamlet or settlement council would be on the committee responsible for allocating staff housing in the six designated communities. The Department of Information could consider transferring two fully-funded interpreter positions, one in Frobisher Bay and the other at Rankin Inlet. The territorial government could investigate the possibility of sharing with the municipalities and hamlets, revenues from the sale of gasoline and diesel oil. Hunters and trappers associations may be interested in administering the funds for programs such as fur subsidy, organized caribou hunts, trappers' loans, administrative grants, housing on the land, commercial fishery development, and resource harvesting. Sports north could take on the full responsibility for the Canada Winter Games, the Canada Summer Games, and the Arctic Winter Games. Funds for community museums could be transferred over to the community level. In each and every case, steps would have to be taken to ensure proper fiscal management and control, and this is one of the reasons why all programs should be through the town, village, hamlet or settlement councils.

The Department Of Finance Should Monitor Funds

It goes without saying that the Department of Finance would have to establish a very precise monitoring system in order to ensure the Government of Canada, the Auditor General and the Council of the Northwest Territories that funds are being used for the purpose for which they were transferred.

The Department of Economic Development could begin work immediately on developing community economic development corporations. Once formulated, the department could begin the gradual transfer for all responsibilities for specific development programs of that department. The community employment program presently in operation at Fort Liard, Fort Smith and Cambridge Bay could be extended to other communities.

Development Of A System Of Local School Boards

The Department of Education has already transferred a number of programs to local authorities. Principally, however, what could be developed is a system of local school boards. At the present moment the Department of Education provides full capital funding for all schools within the Northwest Territories. Two of the existing school boards at the capital raise 25 per cent of their operating funds. It would seem a hardship on communities without an adequate tax base if they were required to raise 25 per cent of their operating costs to operate a school. This, then, should not become a stumbling block, and it may be necessary to overlook this criteria. This should certainly not be a major stumbling block and is something you might like to give some thought to.

Transfer Of Responsibility From Housing Corporation

Finally, the Department of Public Works will continue to employ local people on all construction programs. However, it might be worthwhile to suggest to the Housing Corporation that they might like to transfer the responsibility for construction, as well as maintenance, for northern rental housing, to those communities who meet the corporation's criteria.

This session could indeed become a milestone, a milestone not only for the Northwest Territories but a first for Canada because none of the provinces, nor has our sister territory, ever considered such a wide-sweeping transfer of authority and responsibility to a lower level of government. I commend these matters to you for your earnest consideration and in so doing, there is no hurry nor is there any timetable. It is up to you, and if it takes time then take all the time you need. If you have not finished during this session, it can be raised again at later sessions until you have come up with a satisfactory plan.

Tribute To The Late Senator Laing And Dr. Coffey

At this time I would like to mark the passing of two people who have given great service to this Council and to the North; the late Senator Arthur Laing, who passed away last February and Dr. Mace Coffey, who died in April while on active service in Malaysia.

Mention has already been made of Mr. Gary Mullins, who will arrive in early March to take over from former Assistant Commissioner Cotterill. Mr. Victor Irving has just been appointed director of the Department of Public Services, and he will also take on his new responsibilities in March. This, then, brings up to strength all departments of the administration and completes the new structure as recommended by the late Dr. Coffey.

Distinguished Visitors To The N.W.T. During 1975

1975 saw a number of distinguished visitors. Heading the list was His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, who came to us in April. The Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, visited the High Arctic in August, and The Honourable Peter Lougheed, premier of the province of Alberta, spent eight days in the territories in late July. There were many other visitors, and I am sure all of them enjoyed their stay in the North. During this year there will be a number of distinguished persons who will be spending time with us. Their names will be announced at a later date.

Members of Council, during this session the administration will introduce for your examination a total of 11 bills. Five of these are of a financial nature and although differing each year in detail, are placed before Council at every winter session. There are two new ordinances of a non-financial nature and amendments to four existing ordinances.

Introduction Of Legislation

As is customary at each January session, the single most important item of business to be introduced will be the Appropriations Ordinance to provide the funds required to carry out territorial government programs and projects for the forthcoming fiscal year commencing April 1st, 1976. Approval for an amount of \$206,445,300 is being sought from Council on this occasion.

By enactment of the Supplementary Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1975, the Commissioner would be authorized to enter into and execute an agreement with the Government of Canada relating to additional financing for the current fiscal year.

As a companion piece of legislation, a Supplementary Appropriations Ordinance for the current fiscal year is being introduced to obtain approval from Council for previously unanticipated expenditures.

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation would be empowered by enactment of an appropriate ordinance, to borrow funds from the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to carry out programs under the provisions of the National Housing Act.

The Commissioner would be authorized to borrow funds from the Government of Canada to finance loans to municipalities for capital purposes, to make loans to third parties for second mortgages, and to make loans for the development of the Strathcona Sound townsite, by enactment of the Loan Authorization Ordinance.

The Financial Agreement Ordinance would authorize the Commissioner to enter into agreement with the Government of Canada providing for the payment of operating and capital grants to the territorial government.

A Rental Price Control Ordinance would limit to eight per cent annually the amount by which rents may be increased. This legislation is being introduced in consequence of the federal government's anti-inflation measures.

Persons who render emergency medical aid or first aid treatment to accident victims would, subject to certain conditions, be protected under the provisions of the Emergency Medical Aid Ordinance.

Minor and miscellaneous amendments found necessary in the administration of the Co-operative Associations, the Trustee, the Survivorship and the Justices of the Peace Ordinances would be enacted by amendments to these ordinances.

Representatives of the Auditor General of Canada will, during this session, appear before Council to report on the Territorial Public Accounts for the fiscal year 1974-75.

Council will also be asked to consider a proposed agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada relating to provincial-type police services to be provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This agreement will come into effect April 1st, 1976.

You have a very heavy agenda. Every effort has been made to make your session as profitable as possible. For some of you, this will be your first experience of a budget session. The administration has put together an introduction to the budget. The purpose of this is to explain the budgetary cycle and financial plan. This will be included in the papers provided with your estimates.

"B" Level Funding

For the first time, the administration has been successful in obtaining close to \$3 million in "B" level funding. The funds and the programs that they are to finance have been identified at the back of your book of estimates. This funding can be taken as the government's response to your requests, as each of these items were raised by Members of Council. Next year they will become part of the "A" level presentation and it is hoped as new programs are adopted they will be identified as "B" level, and so on.

I therefore commend to you this and the other business as I declare open this, the 58th session of the Council of the Northwest Territories.

--- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members of Council, Council will come to order. I am advised by the Clerk that coffee is ready now. I would like to invite, on behalf of Council, all of those who are here for the opening to stay and have coffee and to be able to talk with Members. Council therefore stands recessed for 15 minutes for coffee.

--- SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: The Council will come to order. Turning to the orders of the day, gentlemen, Item 3, notices of motions to introduce bills for first reading.

ITEM NO. 3: NOTICES OF MOTIONS TO INTRODUCE BILLS FOR FIRST READING

Bill 1-58, the Trustee Ordinance, Mr. Ernerk.

Bill 1-58: Trustee Ordinance

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, January 27, 1976, I shall move that Bill 1-58, An Ordinance to Amend the Trustee Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have been told by Members that we have no power for interpretation and maybe we could just wait a minute until it gets plugged in. Are we all right now? The simultaneous translation is working. Bill 2-58, Mr. McCallum.

Bill 2-58: Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Loan Ordinance No. 1, 1976.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, January 27, 1976, I shall move that Bill 2-58, An Ordinance to Authorize the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to Borrow Funds, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 4-58, Mr. McCallum.

Bill 4-58: Appropriations Ordinance, 1976-77.

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, January 27, 1976, I shall move that Bill 4-58, An Ordinance Respecting Expenditures for the Public Service of the Northwest Territories for the Financial Year Ending the 31st day of March, 1977, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 5-58, Mr. Ernerk.

Bill 5-58: Survivorship Ordinance

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, January 27, 1976, I shall move that Bill 5-58, An Ordinance to Amend the Survivorship Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 6-58, Mr. Ernerk.

Bill 6-58: Emergency Medical Aid Ordinance

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, January 27, 1976, I shall move that Bill 6-58, An Ordinance to Protect Certain Persons Rendering Aid Following an Accident or in an Emergency, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ernerk, Bill 7-58.

Bill 7-58: Co-operative Associations Ordinance

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, January 27, 1976, I shall move that Bill 7-58, An Ordinance to Amend the Co-operative Associations Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 8-58, Mr. Ernerk.

Bill 8-58: Justices Of The Peace Ordinance

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, January 27, 1976, I shall move that Bill 8-58, An Ordinance to Amend the Justices of the Peace Ordinance, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 9-58, Mr. McCallum.

Bill 9-58: Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1976

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, January 27, 1976, I shall move that Bill 9-58, An Ordinance Respecting a Financial Agreement Between the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 10-58, Mr. McCallum.

Bill 10-58: Loan Authorization Ordinance No. 1, 1976-77

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, January 27, 1976, I shall move that Bill 10-58, An Ordinance to Authorize the Commissioner to Borrow Funds from the Government of Canada and Make Loans to Persons in the Northwest Territories During the Fiscal Year 1976-77, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 12-58, Mr. McCallum.

Bill 12-58: Supplementary Financial Agreement Ordinance, 1975

MR. MCCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, January 27, 1976, I shall move that Bill 12-58, An Ordinance Respecting a Supplementary Financial Agreement Between the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Turning to the order paper, Item 4, tabling of documents, Mr. Stewart.

ITEM NO. 4: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table Tabled Document 9-58, copies of correspondence relating to the proposed meeting between this Council and the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

For the convenience of Members a copy of the motion adopted by this Council in September of 1975 is attached.

MR. SPEAKER: Further tabling of documents?

MR. ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following documents:

Tabled Document 1-58, Report on Commissioner's Orders and Regulations For The Period January 1, 1975 to December 31, 1975.

Tabled Document 2-58, 21st Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Liquor Control System for the Fiscal Year 1974-75.

Tabled Document 3-58, Report of the Committee Which Considered Indemnities and Expense Allowances Paid to the Members of the Northwest Territories Legislative Council. It was established in compliance with Motion 7-54.

Tabled Document 4-58, Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Review of Operations, December, 1975.

Tabled Document 5-58, An information kit concerning the federal government anti-inflation program.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr. Ernerk. Further tabling of documents?

MR. McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following documents:

Tabled Document 7-58, The Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Public Accounts, for the fiscal year 1974-75.

Tabled Document 8-58, Policing Agreements, a proposed agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories relating to Royal Canadian Mounted Police services for the period April 1, 1976 to March 31, 1981.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McCallum. Are there any further documents to be tabled? Gentlemen, two announcements: Firstly, tomorrow morning there will be a meeting of the standing committee on rules and procedure. This will be held in the staff training room, 6th floor of the Laing Building at 9:00 a.m. Members of the committee are Mr. Barnaby, Mr. Butters, Mr. McCallum, Mr. Wah-Shee and myself.

Secondly, arrangements have been made with the Department of Information to take the formal photographs of Council at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow afternoon in this room, I take it, Room A. Could we please ask all Members to be here and be here on time because it will only take a few minutes. It is absolutely essential, I might point out, that all Members be here because if there is one missing, then we will have to try it another time and it is difficult to get all the staff, photographers and everybody lined up. Are there any further announcements? This evening I believe there is a supper. Everyone is familiar with that, I am sure. Further announcements, anyone?

Mr. Clerk, Item 5, orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 5: ORDERS OF THE DAY

THE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL: Orders of the day, January 27, 1976, 2:30 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
3. Questions and Returns
4. Oral Questions
5. Presenting Pétitions

6. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
7. Notices of Motions
8. Motions
9. Tabling of Documents
10. First Reading of Bills: Bill 1-58, Bill 2-58, Bill 4-58, Bill 5-58, Bill 6-58, Bill 7-58, Bill 8-58, Bill 9-58, Bill 10-58, Bill 12-58
11. Second Reading of Bill 4-58
12. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 4-58
13. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Council stands adjourned until 2:30 o'clock p.m. on the 27th day of January, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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