

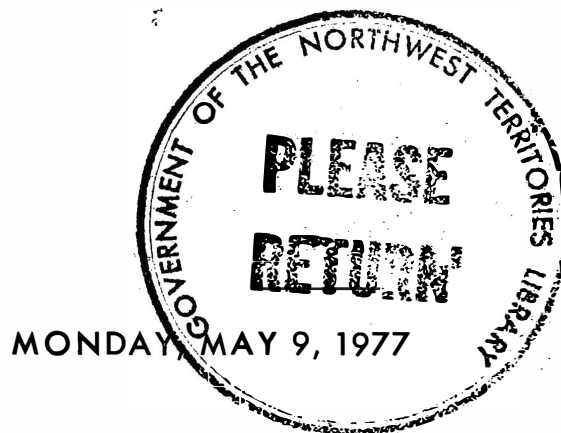


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

62nd Session

8th Assembly

Official Report



Speaker The Honourable David H. Searle, O.C.

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

MONDAY, MAY 9, 1977

The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories was convened in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories at two-thirty o'clock p.m., on Monday, May 9, 1977, for the second session, 1977, this being the sixty-second session.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Lyall, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Whitford, Hon. Arnold McCallum, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Hon. Peter Ernerk, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Pudluk, Hon. David Searle, Hon. Dave Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

BISHOP P. PICHÉ: Let us pray. Almighty God, from Whom cometh all wisdom and power, we, the Legislative Assembly 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.

SPEAKER (Hon. David Searle): Please be seated. May I take this opportunity firstly to thank His Excellency Bishop Piché for being with us this afternoon. Thank you very much, sir. May I also recognize in the audience a very distinguished visitor, ex-Commissioner of the Yukon Territory, Mr. James Smith and his wife. Welcome.

--- Applause

Mr. Clerk, would you with the Sergeant-at-Arms see if the Commissioner is available to address this House?

ITEM NO. 2: COMMISSIONER'S OPENING ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER (Mr. Hodgson): Please be seated. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Council of the Northwest Territories:

Earlier this year the Hon. Warren Allmand, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, in response to Council's request for federal funding for Council to conduct a public inquiry to ascertain the views of territorial residents on a multitude of issues, announced his decision to put together a policy statement to be released in early summer that would signify the direction the Government of Canada intended to pursue in dealing with the major issues facing all territorial residents.

For some years now, this Council and the administration have been aware of the major issues facing northern Canadians in both the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and the need for clearcut decisions. While both areas are territories and have similar legislative bodies and administrations, there the similarity ends. The issues may be similar but the problems are different. Nevertheless both territories require decisions.

Issues Related To Resource Development

In the Northwest Territories the issues of which I speak are directly related to resource development, responsible government, and native land claims. While each of these items taken individually is an issue important and difficult enough to

confound any people or their government, when linked together, as they are, they seem to be almost insurmountable. Therefore, this past month this Council has been actively engaged in bringing together the views of the people of the Northwest Territories whom you are elected to represent, in an attempt to answer some of these fundamental basic issues facing territorial residents.

One of the major difficulties that is little understood by all commissions is that they tend to focus their views and recommendations on the North per se, or in total, when in fact other than the original Carrothers Commission, no other commission's responsibilities, terms of reference or report was intended to be based on the total picture. It has been said before, and needs to be said again and again and again, the Northwest Territories is the biggest geographic area in Canada administered by a government, in this instance the Government of the Northwest Territories and legislated by in this instance the Council of the Northwest Territories. It is an area so immense and so little understood that only a handful of Canadians can claim to fully understand its complexities, its size, and the internal issues. Thus, when people talk about the North that they have visited or are involved with, they unconsciously and most times unintentionally tend to lump together the entire 40 per cent of the land mass of Canada with their specific views.

Changes That Have Taken Place

This Council has been in existence for over 100 years, and down through the course of history has faced similar problems as the residents strove to find their rightful place within confederation. Many, many changes have taken place since confederation, and it could be argued that what this Council is presently experiencing is a replay of what took place in western Canada around the turn of the century. There are several noticeable differences, however. Among these are, the times in which we are living, the present world in terms of communication and transportation, and the particular position in which the nation finds itself in relationship to the rest of the world. Values have changed, as has public opinion, and it is difficult to treat any longer what happens in the world, in a nation, or even a section of a nation, in isolation.

The North has been in the news this decade, and if you will pardon my saying so, I believe I have made a major contribution toward bringing it to the attention of Canadians, and from time to time keeping it in the news. Many Canadians, perhaps southern more than northern, have some very interesting views on what the future should hold for the North. It all makes interesting listening, and some of it, if not all, makes sense. The sad part of it, though, is that much of this has tended to divide the North to the extent that the people are polarized in a multitude of opinions and differences of opinion. In general, the impact of these differences is beginning to take its toll.

The Need For Decision And Direction

What the North needs more than anything else is decision and direction. There is nothing more frustrating and traumatic than to see the results of uncertainty and the general sense of hopelessness. Sooner or later the people of the North have to come together, preferably through their leaderships, but come together they must, because the flow and ebb of public opinion and items that focus public attention will not always be from within the Northwest Territories. In the end it will depend on how well territorial residents, no matter what their ethnic origin or where they come from, can work together.

"When I first spoke to this Council as Commissioner some ten years ago, on March 9th, 1967, I said my goal in the North was to provide a government that takes into consideration the interest of all people. In addition I said, and I quote: "I am well aware of the responsibilities of this high office and the heavy weight that will rest on my shoulders. I offer no magic formulas, no medicine or potions, but merely pledge to Canada that I will use every means and energy at my disposal to do the best job that I can. In accepting the appointment I realize that I can not do this myself. It takes organization and welding together the means, facilities and dynamics necessary if we are to be successful."

I have devoted my entire energies these past ten years to fulfilling that commitment, and will continue to do so as long as I am here.

True Views Of The People

The North has come a long way these past ten years, and while it may seem that the end is in sight, I think rather, on reflection, we are really just getting under way. Perhaps I should say to you that while at times it may seem discouraging and that you may not really be getting anywhere, it is worth remembering that success does not always depend on the number of TV cameras or the power of the spotlights. What does count is that the programs and policies are based on the true views of the people you are elected to serve.

The leadership that you give, and your willingness to function as a team, standing firm at times and seeking middle ground at others, but always being prepared to co-operate with others, is what counts. Ideas' and opinions' true worth depend on the fundamental moral values and policies on which they are built. It is not always who is right that counts but what is right.

During this session the administration will introduce and ask you to consider a total of seven bills, four of which are new legislation while the remainder are amendments to existing legislation.

Perhaps the most significant among these are the Economic Development Agreements Ordinance and the Small Business Loans and Guarantees Ordinance. The former would authorize the entry into agreements with the Government of Canada relating to economic expansion, employment opportunities and social improvement in the Northwest Territories. The latter would permit the provision of financial assistance in the form of direct loans or loan guarantees to small business enterprises. The effect of both of these measures would be to encourage economic development within the territories by means which have not previously been available to this government.

An amendment to the Social Assistance Ordinance would provide for the delegation to a municipality, settlement council or other local authority of certain social assistance and welfare services functions, and would provide for increases in the membership of social assistance appeal committees and the Social Assistance Appeal Board.

Provision for the payment of fees and expenses to Members of the Science Advisory Board for attending meetings of that board would be provided for by an amendment to the Science Advisory Board Ordinance.

An amendment to the Municipal Ordinance would authorize the setting of different mill rates for various municipalities for the purpose of school taxes.

Legislative guidelines for the procedure and conduct of boards, committees and investigative bodies, given the power under any legislation to make decisions affecting the rights, powers, liability or eligibility of any person would be established by the Tribunal Procedures Ordinance.

A Supplementary Appropriations Ordinance would provide the funds required to meet in the current fiscal year previously unanticipated expenditures.

The Report of the Auditor General for the year ending March 31, 1976, will be placed before you for your consideration. You will also be asked to consider a proposal for the transfer of legislative authority for territorial elections from the federal government. In addition, various annual and other reports will be placed before you for your information and consideration.

With these few words, it is my pleasure to welcome you once again to Yellowknife and to declare open, this, the 62nd session of the Council of the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. Members of this House, I think I should comment for the record that Messrs. Steen and Butters are absent today because they are of course in Inuvik participating in a television program this evening and Mr. Stewart is in Yellowknife but is away temporarily at the CBC building, all on the business of this House.

ITEM NO. 3: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Turning then to the orders of the day, Item 3, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Hon. Peter Ernerk, Bill 1-62.

Introduction of Bill 1-62: Economic Development Agreements Ordinance

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on May 9th, 1977, I shall move that Bill 1-62, An Ordinance to Authorize Agreements Between the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada Respecting Economic Development be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 2-62, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Introduction Of Bill 2-62: Municipal Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on May 9th, 1977, I shall move that Bill 2-62, An Ordinance to Amend the Municipal Ordinance be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 3-62, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Introduction Of Bill 3-62: Science Advisory Board Ordinance

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on May 9th, 1977, I shall move that Bill 3-62, An Ordinance to Amend the Science Advisory Board Ordinance be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 4-62, Hon. Peter Ernerk.

Introduction Of Bill 4-62: Small Business Loans And Guarantees Ordinance

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on May 9th, 1977, I shall move that Bill 4-62, An Ordinance to Authorize Loans and Guarantees to Small Business Enterprises be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 5-62, Hon. Dave Nickerson.

Introduction Of Bill 5-62: Social Assistance Ordinance

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on May 9th, 1977, I shall move that Bill 5-62, An Ordinance to Amend the Social Assistance Ordinance be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 6-62, Hon. Dave Nickerson.

Introduction Of Bill 6-62: Tribunal Procedures Ordinance

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on May 9th, 1977, I shall move that Bill 6-62, An Ordinance to Provide Procedures Governing the Exercise of Statutory Powers Granted to Tribunals be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, tabling of documents. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

ITEM NO. 4: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following documents: Tabled Document 3-62, Report of the Auditor General for the Year Ending March 31st, 1976. Tabled Document 4-62, Letter from the Commissioner to Employees of the Development Division of the Department of Local Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following documents: Tabled Document 1-62, Report of Commissioner's Orders and Regulations for the Period January 1, 1977 to April 1, 1977. Tabled Document 2-62, Fire Losses in the Northwest Territories 1976.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Dave Nickerson.

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following documents: Tabled Document 5-62, Annual Report of the Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Board for the Year Ended December 31, 1976. Tabled Document 6-62, Alcohol and Drug Co-ordinating Council Report to the Council of the Northwest Territories, May 1977.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5. Hon. Arnold McCallum.

Unanimous Consent Given To Move To Item 10

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would request that this House give unanimous consent to move immediately to Item 10, notices of motion, on a matter of urgent public importance.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent required to move to Item 10, notices of motion, is it agreed?

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Any "nay's"? Proceed, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

ITEM NO. 10: NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice of Motion 1-62: Committee Of The Whole Consideration, Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice of motion:

WHEREAS the Hon. Mr. Justice Berger has today released in Ottawa the first volume of the Report of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry;

AND WHEREAS the recommendations of the said report if implemented would have far reaching and significant consequences for the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS it is imperative that this Legislature undertake at once a detailed and careful examination of the recommendations of this report;

NOW THEREFORE, I move that:

- (a) this Legislative Assembly be now adjourned until 2:30 p.m. tomorrow Tuesday, May 10th, to provide individual Members with an opportunity to study Volume One of the Report of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry;

- (b) after reconvening at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow this House be resolved immediately into committee of the whole to consider the said report;
- (c) all intervening items of business listed on the orders of the day for Tuesday, May 10th be set aside and be taken up at some later time during this session and;
- (d) on each succeeding day, until consideration of the said report has been completed, this House upon being convened, be resolved immediately into committee of the whole for consideration of the said report and that all intervening items of business listed on the orders of the day for such days be set aside to be taken up at some later time during this session.

I would ask, Mr. Speaker for unanimous consent to make this motion, to move to Item 12, motions.

MR. SPEAKER: Unanimous consent requested now to move to Item 12, motions.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Are there any to the contrary? None to the contrary, proceed, Hon. Arnold McCallum.

ITEM NO. 12: MOTIONS

Motion 1-62: Committee Of The Whole Consideration, Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Speaker,

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AND WHEREAS the recommendations of the said report if implemented would have far reaching and significant consequences for the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS it is imperative that this Legislature undertake at once a detailed and careful examination of the recommendations of this report;

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- (c) all intervening items of business listed on the orders of the the day for Tuesday, May 10th be set aside and be taken up at some later time during the session and;

(d) on each succeeding day until consideration of the said report has been completed, this House upon being convened, be resolved immediately into committee of the whole for consideration of the said report and that all intervening items of business listed on the orders of the day for such days be set aside to be taken up some time later during this session.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a seconder? Hon. Peter Ernerk. Discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

Motion Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Question being called. All in favour? Down. Contrary? The motion is carried.

---Carried

This House stands adjourned until 2:30 o'clock p.m., May 10, 1977, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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