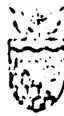


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
8<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY, 62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 10-62

TABLED ON May 12, 1977



OFFICE

PLEASE QUOTE

10-62

Tabled Document No.

Tabled May 12, 1977

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
CANADA

Tabled Document NO 10-62 (Tabled by no. Whitford)  
Snowdrift, N.W.T.  
FISHING Problem in Snowdrift January 27, 1977

Pierre Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Government of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Sir;

For the past eight months, with the support of the Settlement-Band council many members of the community of Snowdrift have voiced concern and interest in establishing an on going economic base for the community. These interests and concerns have manifested themselves in establishing an viable commercial fishing industry for Snowdrift residents. In the course of resourcing potential and viability, the Settlement-Band council have been in touch with numerous departments of the Territorial and Federal government. To wit:

- (a) Department of Economic and Development- Tourism
- (b) Federal Fisheries Branch
- (c) Department of Economic Development- Indian Affairs
- (d) Department of Fish and Wildlife-Gov't of the N.W.T.
- (e) Department of Social Development
- (f) Fishermen's Loan Fund Board
- (g) Fresh water fish marketing board-Hay River

Our initial attempts in early June, 1976 at actioning the expressed and felt needs of those to be actively engaged in commercial fishing in Snowdrift, were met with disappointment,



GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
CANADA

frustration and misunderstanding. It was at that time that we the people of Snowdrift were first informed of closure of administrative area 6 to commercial fishing. It should be pointed out here that at no time were the residents of Snowdrift involved in, or contacted to be involved in, assessing a need for closure, or our future intentions to make use of our resources by means of commercial fishing.

The fact that we the residents of Snowdrift have not in the past sought to utilize our resources by means of commercial fishing in no way should be construed as a matter of non-intent.

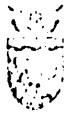
We have historically, harvested our re-newable resources by means of trapping, hunting and fishing in the area surrounding the north east end of Great Slave Lake to a boundary of several hundred miles in any direction and feel we have the right to expect consultations with any government agencies involved in planning for future development and/or administration of the above mentioned area.

Granted, we are an isolated settlement numbering some 250 chipewyan Dene and thereby are somewhat slow in receiving information from the main stream culture, however this is 1977 and we are becoming increasingly aware of our need to take an active part in the maintenance of our own livelihood.

We realize this can only be done with help from our elected and appointed government representatives and so we now make this appeal to you:

(a) We require that administrative area 6 be opened to Snowdrift residents only for the purpose of Commercial fishing

(b) As the nearest receiving station for fresh water marketing board is at Simpsons Islands, we require a small



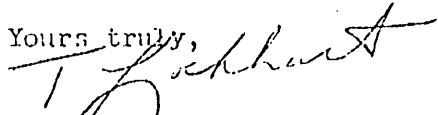
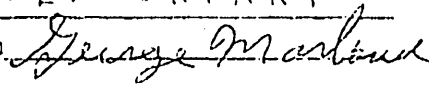
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
CANADA

packing boat as well as an ice making plant at Snowdrift. this would be less expensive and more suited to our need than construction of a full packing plant

(c) We require assistance in establishing a fishermen co-operative to enhance the economic viability of this proposal,

(d) We require that a quota be established in administrative area 6 set high enough to ensure economic viability for those participating in this proposal

In conclusion we wish to stress the urgency of our situation at Snowdrift as it requires immediate attention. Realizing the time factor in the proposal is short owing to the fact that the commercial fishing season begins somewhere in early June, we appeal to you to take appropriate steps to help ensure the success of this venture by, and for, the Snowdrift Dene.

Yours truly,  
  
Tom Lockhart for Settlement-Band  
Council of Snowdrift  
Chief JOE LOCKHART  
Chairman. 

- cc: Commissioner, S. Hodgson  
Gov't of the N.W.T.
- cc: Wally Firth, Member of Parliament
- cc: George Erasmus, President of Indian Brotherhood of N.W.T.
- cc: Noel Starblanket, President, of National Indian Brotherhood



PLEASE REPLY  
FILE.....

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
CANADA

cc: Richard Witford, Territorial council rep.  
cc: Warren Allmand, Minister of Northern and Indian Affairs  
cc: R.B. Tingling, Culture and Natural Affairs-gov't of N.W.T.  
cc: Hugh Trudeau  
cc; E. Turfus





