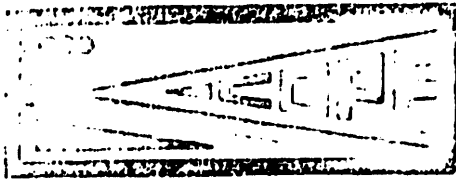


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
8TH ASSEMBLY, 63RD SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 9-63

TABLED ON Oct. 20, 1977



T.D. 9-63
COMMITTEE for ORIGINAL PEOPLES ENTITLEMENT

Post Office Box 2000
Inuvik, N.W.T.

Tabled on
Oct 20, 1977

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COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
S.M. HODGSON

COPE'S POSITION ON THE PROPOSED WILDLIFE ORDINANCE FOR THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

We appreciate the opportunity to present the views of the Committee for Original Peoples' Entitlement to you, Mr. Commissioner, on the subject of the proposed wildlife ordinance for the Northwest Territories.

First, the Inuvialuit do not want any new wildlife legislation passed by the Northwest Territories prior to the settlement of our land rights with the government of Canada. Second, the Inuvialuit do not want this particular proposed ordinance passed at any time the way it is written. Third, the Inuvialuit propose that new and vigorous efforts to truly involve Inuvialuit should be implemented before any new ordinance is developed.

You, Mr. Commissioner, appreciate that the wildlife and the harvesting of the wildlife are so fundamental to the Inuvialuit life style, culture and values that nothing stirs more concern and controversy in the community than new legislation about wildlife. This is why the Inuvialuit have presented a detailed and comprehensive proposal entitled "Inuvialuit Nunangat" to the government of Canada for the settlement of our land rights in the Western Arctic. As part of the settlement we have proposed certain fundamental changes to the wildlife legislation and to the decision making process for the development of wildlife legislation, in addition to the entrenchment of certain hunting rights for Inuvialuit. Our view is that any new legislation passed by the Northwest Territories before the settlement of our land rights might be prejudicial to our negotiations and therefore should not be passed into law at this time. Should you or the Territorial Legislative Assembly disregard our concern about

prejudice to our land rights negotiations and settlement we insist that the proviso be inserted to the ordinance stating clearly that the new ordinance is without prejudice to Inuvialuit Land Rights Claims negotiations or aboriginal rights.

Dispite our efforts to develop a rational, fair and reasonable proposal for the management of wildlife in the Western Arctic (Part 5 of Inuvialuit Nunangat) your administration has chosen to distort our proposal on several occasions. On page seven of the Review of the Wildlife Ordinance you talk about land rights deciding who owns the wildlife. There is absolutely nothing in our proposal to suggest that Inuvialuit are seeking ownership to wildlife, and to state such misinformation only confuses the issues and creates hysteria among the ill-informed.

It appears that your administration has used land claims as an excuse to sidestep the pressing issue concerning wildlife management in the Northwest Territories. By so doing the proposed ordinance has only succeeded in suggesting cosmetic changes to the present ordinance which will only serve to perpetuate the present system of wildlife management which has proven unsatisfactory.

We appreciate that your administration has attempted to implement some involvement of other people in the development of this proposed ordinance. However, we feel, as many others do that the involvement of native people, particularly at the local level has been completely inadequate and therefore to claim that this "proposed wildlife ordinance is, in many respects, an ordinance by and for the people of the Northwest Territories" is a zealous overstatement.¹ This claim is more ludicrous when the detailed proposed ordinance are examined. For instance, the proposed ordinance is suggesting that children in the future who are eligible for general hunting license can lose their right by residing outside the Territories for five years (section 34 (3)). This ofcourse is unacceptable to all the native people who are the holders of general hunting licenses. Section 34 only talks about eligibility for the general hunting license but does not talk about protection of the right for the native people, and section 49 allows the Commissioner to revoke any rights. Quite frankly this proposed ordinance cannot be

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for the native people of the Northwest Territories, which are the vast majority and should have preferential use of all the wildlife resources. We have a long list of other details in the proposed ordinance that should be changed, however, there is no need to go into them now.

Over the past week you have heard numerous request from all over the Northwest Territories to delay this proposed ordinance. You have heard demands for more consultation. You have heard some of the many reasons that we do not want this proposed ordinance to be passed into law.

Mr. Commissioner, we do not want to appear overcritical or negative for we, better than anyone, appreciate the need for and the desirability of better wildlife management and laws in the Western Arctic.

Sincerely,



Sam Raddi, president

Committee For Original Peoples' Entitlement

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OCTOBER 16, 1977.