

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

8TH ASSEMBLY, 63RD SESSION

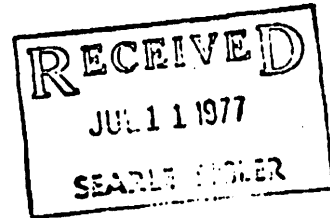
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SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

R. R. #1
Bolton, Ontario
LOP 1A0

June 30, 1977



Hon. David H. Searle, Q.C.
Speaker
Legislative Assembly of the Northwest
Territories
P. O. Box 939
YELLOWKNIFE, N. W. T.
XOE 1H0

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the honour to present the First Annual Report of the Science Advisory Board of the Northwest Territories, as required under Section 14 of the Science Advisory Board Ordinance.

The members of the Board are deeply appreciative of the assurances of support they have received from the Legislative Assembly. Should the Assembly at any time have matters they wish to refer to us we will do our utmost to respond.

Yours sincerely,

Omund M. Solandt
Chairman

SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

ANNUAL REPORT 1976-77

ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD

The Science Advisory Board was established by an ordinance passed by the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. The ordinance originated as a private member's bill and sets out in broad terms the duties of the Board. Basically these duties are to identify needs, initiate or recommend studies, and provide advice to the Assembly on matters related to science, engineering, and technology. The Board is therefore the creature of the Assembly and is responsible to it.

The Board began its operations in November 1976 when the members were formally appointed by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and the first meeting was held.

This is therefore the Board's first annual report and covers its activities during the formative stage. In order to provide a clearer picture of the direction of the Board's work, this report includes activities up to the time of writing and not merely during the 1976-77 fiscal year.

MEMBERSHIP

There are nine members. In keeping with the provisions of the ordinance, five are residents of the Northwest Territories and four are residents of southern Canada.

A list of the members appears at the end of this report.

STAFF

Up to the present time the Board has had no staff of its own, and essential support services have been provided by personnel of the Government of the Northwest Territories. However, this Government has recently agreed to provide funding for a full time Executive Secretary and recruiting for this position is now under way. Office space will be provided in the Arthur Laing Building in Yellowknife.

The Board expects that having its own full time permanent staff member will greatly facilitate the work it is trying to undertake.

MEETINGS

Three meetings have been held to date. The first was in Yellowknife November 12 and 13, the second in Yellowknife March 4 and 5, and the third in Ottawa May 9 to 11. At the November and May meetings the members were briefed by appropriate officials on government activities and programs relevant to the Board's interests.

It is expected that nearly all the meetings will be held in the Northwest Territories, mainly in Yellowknife but with perhaps one per year in a smaller community.

ACTIVITIES

The activities which are being planned or have been undertaken can be considered under several headings.

1. Development of a Northern Scientific Capability

One of the Board's most important long-range goals is to have a large part of northern research carried out in the north by northern people. This goal will not be fully achieved until northerners play a major role in planning and leading research as well as in conducting it. Only then can research be fully responsive to the aspirations and priorities of northern people.

This goal will not be accomplished quickly or easily. The Board will however undertake specific activities directed toward it, and will bear it in mind in the conduct of all other activities.

The first or interim objective will be to have southern scientists based in the north for much longer periods, and to make much more extensive and effective use of native paraprofessionals. This will at least give northern people a chance to be involved in research as partners. It is hoped that extensive use can be made of the Scientific Resource Centres existing in Inuvik and Igloodik and planned for Frobisher bay, Yellowknife, and Resolute.

The ultimate objective will be to develop a cadre of fully-qualified northern scientists. At the present time young native people are not embarking on careers in science, presumably at least in part because they do not identify with the scientists who are working in the north. The Board has therefore undertaken a program of placing high school students in the field for the summer with carefully selected mature scientists. The Government of the Northwest Territories has provided the

funds for four students for this summer. Through the cooperation of the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta, the following students who have just completed either Grade 10 or Grade 11 in our high schools are now in the field:

Pauloosie Onalik of Frobisher Bay
Madeleine Eecherk of Eskimo Point
Harry Beaulieu of Fort Resolution
Gregory Frank of Hay River.

2. Conduct of Practical Studies

The Board anticipates that one of its major functions will be to commission studies where the application of science can help in a practical way to improve life and living conditions for the people of the Northwest Territories. Examples would be in the mechanics of small communities -- energy supply and conservation, water supply, waste disposal, housing, etc.

The resources directly available to the Board are limited, but the resources and expertise of the major scientific agencies in southern Canada are very considerable. The usual approach will therefore be for the Board to identify and outline a problem and then use its influence to have the major part of the work carried out by another appropriate agency.

Several projects in this category are in the early planning stage but no firm decisions have been made nor projects undertaken.

3. Information or Advice to the Legislative Assembly

The Board will from time to time commission studies on matters which it feels should have the consideration of the Legislative Assembly.

Arrangements for the first study of this type are now being completed. The study will identify the long-term implications of continuing the present high rate of population growth, including the effects of both natural increase and in-migration. The implications of continuing the present trend toward urbanization -- with people moving from smaller centres to larger ones -- will also be considered. An attempt will be made to identify the facilities and services which, as a result of these trends, will have to be provided to meet people's needs. The effects on life styles and quality of life will also be identified.

The Board is concerned with indications of widespread heavy metal contamination in the Arctic, and particularly in marine mammals used for food. It will attempt to satisfy itself that adequate monitoring programs

are being undertaken. The arsenic situation in Yellowknife is also being watched carefully. Recommendations on these matters will be brought to the Legislative Assembly if found necessary.

4. Recommendations to Other Agencies

As a minor function, the Board will from time to time take positions on specific matters that are not of a nature to warrant being brought to the Assembly.

A recommendation was made to the Federal Government that it continue to produce maps of the Land Use Information Series. The future of this program appeared to be in some doubt because of budget constraints but the maps were felt to be highly useful.

The Board advised that it was not prepared to endorse a proposed Atlas of Northern Canada, and suggested alternatives which it felt would be much less costly and more effective.

June 30, 1977

SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MEMBERS

Dr. Omond M. Solandt	Toronto, Ontario	(Chairman)
Dr. Walter O. Kupsch	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	(Vice-Chairman)
Dr. William A. Fuller	Edmonton, Alberta	
Dr. J. A. Hildes	Winnipeg, Manitoba	
Mr. Frank Hansen	Inuvik, N. W. T.	
Mr. Mike Kusugak	Rankin Inlet, N. W. T.	
Mr. James Evans	Fort Smith, N. W. T.	
Mr. Robert W. Spence	Yellowknife, N. W. T.	
Mr. Donald L. Stewart	Yellowknife, N. W. T.	