

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
8TH ASSEMBLY, 66TH SESSION

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Yellowknife, N.W.T.
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31 May, 1978.

The Honourable J. Hugh Faulkner, P.C., M.P.,
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs,
400 Laurier Avenue West,
Ottawa, Ontario.
K1A 0H4

Dear Mr. Minister:

On behalf of Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Nickerson and myself I want to first of all thank you for taking the time to meet with us last Friday, May 26, to discuss the forthcoming amendment to the N.W.T. Act. The purpose of this letter is to confirm with you the results of our meeting, articulating in definitive terms those actions which you as Minister agreed to take in advancing to Parliament an amendment to the Northwest Territories Act, and those corresponding actions which we as the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories will take to assist you in gaining support for such an amendment.

You agreed to introduce into the House of Commons, not later than this fall, and if at all possible prior to the summer recess, an amendment to the N.W.T. Act providing a mechanism for increasing the size of our Legislature, and officially changing its designation from "Council" to "Legislative Assembly". The details of this amendment have been discussed by us numerous times, and Mr. Drury, in two separate letters to you, has recommended each of these provisions.

For our part, we as the Legislature have agreed to continue to assist you in gaining all-party consent for this amendment. The Progressive Conservative Party, through Doug Neil, has already given you assurances in this regard, and as you know we are continuing to work with Wally Firth of the N.D.P. In this regard we believe we will be successful. We shall

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also continue our dialogue with those native associations in the N.W.T. who are interested in discussing this matter with us, to assure them that in pursuing these two short-term goals we have no desire to prejudice land claim negotiations, nor do we believe there is any cogent basis for such fears. In this regard Mr. Ernerk, Mr. Dickerson and myself met in Ottawa with Eric Tagoona and Peter Ittinuar of the I.T.C., and other members will be pursuing the matter with C.O.P.E. and the Metis Association as well.

I would very much appreciate your keeping me fully informed of the progress of this amendment as it moves through its various stages prior to introduction into the House. You are aware that the Legislature attaches great importance to this matter and we appreciate the commitment which you have given to assist us in realizing our objectives. In this regard, it is our expectation that you will use the full measure of the resources available to you as Minister to bring in this Bill prior to the summer recess.

I look forward to your early response confirming these arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
ARNOLD J. MCCALLUM

Arnold J. McCallum, M.L.A.,
Caucus Chairman.

AIRHART/var

c.c. C. M. Drury

