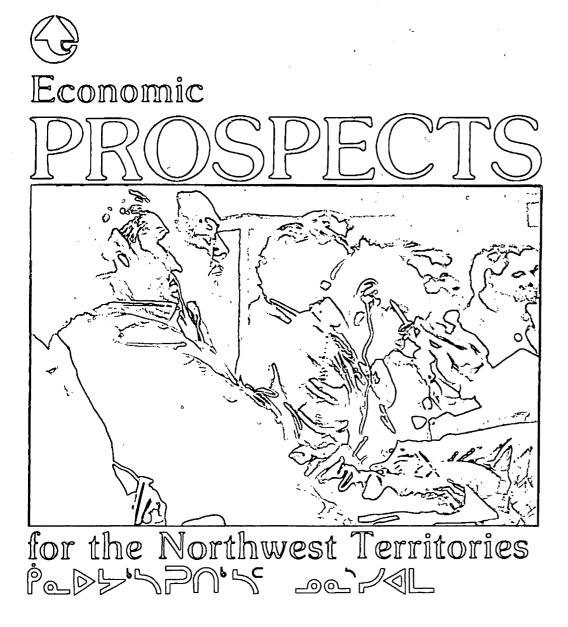
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES 8TH ASSEMBLY, 66TH SESSION TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 22-66 TABLED ON Oct. 27, 1978



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Proceedings of the First Economic Prospects for the Northwest Territories Conference

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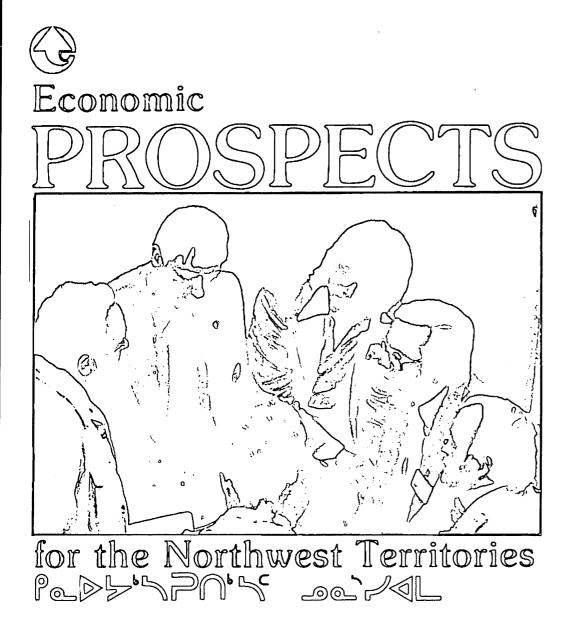
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This book is a summary of the material presented at the economic development conference held in Hay River, May 4-6, 1978.

Panelists' presentations and workshop reports for each day make up the front section of the book with all briefs summarized in the back section.

Copies of complete transcripts of any particular session are available on request. Write Outcrop Ltd., Box 1114, Yellowknife, NWT.

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Conference Summary

Development for the North....not of the North.

This was the theme of the Economic Prospects Conference held in Hay River in May.

It was repeated by more than a dozen panelists. It surfaced at each of the 10 workshop sessions held over three days. Panelists and delegates from over 40 communities, and representatives from many northern associations emphasized the possibilities for individual and group action in the NWT: to get a sluggish economy moving.

Called by Hugh Faulkner, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, the conference was designed to give northerners an opportunity to present the northern viewpoint on development in the North.

"Initiative in the economic planning process must be undertaken by governments. But the planning process itself must be spearheaded by the people affected," said Faulkner as he introduced the idea for the conference to the Territorial Council in January 1978.

The Minister invited representatives of communities, associations and every segment of the NWT economy to participate in this conference....and his call for northern input was heeded.

Representatives came from the Baffin, the Keewatin, the High Arctic, the Delta and the Mackenzie Valley. They spoke of their needs and hopes. And government observers from just about every department of the federal and territorial governments came to listen to the people of the north. In all there were 300 delegates...presenting ideas...listening and recording the ideas of the people.

Perhaps much to their own surprise, delegates from across the NWT found many areas of common thinking after a short decade of superheated development and controversy.

One of these areas was the common and urgent desire for a settlement to native land claims. Another was a universal attitude that any development in the North take into account the needs and ambitions of Northerners. Everyone agreed the conference was worthwhile and urged the government to follow up with more sessions on a regional basis and with concrete policie's and actions.

Summaries of the presentations by panelists, of the recommendations made by workshop sessions and of the many briefs presented at the conference are included in the following pages.

If you would like a copy of the complete text of any session, write to Outcrop Ltd., Box 1114, Yellowknife, N.W.T. If you prefer a tape of a particular session, they are available on request. Written Inuktitut translations of any particular session will be provided on request.

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"Economic development should take the real needs of Northerners fully into account."

Hon. Hugh Faulkner, Minister, Dept. of Indian and Northern Affairs.

This was the first of several criteria for economic development outlined by the Minister as a guide to public and private developers

In addition to the real needs of Northerners, the minister's criteria took into account the traditional way of life of many Northerners; the need to provide jobs to the many young people entering the economy; the need for a diversified and dispersed economy: the strengthening of northern based private enterprise and the preservation of the environment.

The minister urged delegates to make a commitment toward a greater sense of collective purpose in terms of economic development.

Faulkner outlined some realities facing his government in the North; shortage of dollars in his department; stagnant land claims negotiation; and a lack of knowledge and specific policies regarding renewable resources.

He also pointed out that on the other hand, certain federal government decisions of the last six months should significantly assist the NWT economy in the coming year.

As conference openers the Minister made several announcements. In the resources area, Mr. Faulkner announced an extended Beaufort Sea drilling season, and a new \$150 million, four year exploration plan in the Mackenzie Delta.

To facilitate negotiations with COPE in the Delta, Mr. Faulkner announced relinquishment of three million acres of exploration leases and deferment for one year of the granting of new oil and gas permits in the Mackenzie Valley and Delta. In the Baker Lake region he announced that mineral exploration would be allowed to resume but under conditions designed to protect wildlife

Northern Canada Power Commission was to receive \$7.5 million cash infusion. NCPC was asked to undertake new development studies and investigate a move of headquarters to the North.

"Each of these situations has in common the need for balance and a sensitivity to local concerns and needs." said the minister.

"The Government's decisions I outlined....do represent a modest beginning of a strategy of balanced development and are indicative of the challenge we all face in planning northern economic development." he concluded.



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Day 1 Economic Needs and Expectations of Northerners



"Surely it is not asking too much for elected governments to do just that -- Govern."

Jim Robertson, Mayor of Inuvik

Government should make the policy decisions on primary industry and then get together with industry to work out "the best way to build it." Non-elected government agencies should confine themselves to making recommendations on how to build things, not whether they should be built at all Faster decisions by governments on applications for developments are needed.

If industry is given firm guidelines on such things as "restraints, environmental concerns and legitimate social aims," it will either live by the rules or move elsewhere. "We would expect they would stay and provide employment in the North."

Small Northern businessmen, like others, anywhere in Canada, need a stable government framework within which to operate. Northern businessmen also need lessons in how to manage finances, which could be occomplished by setting up a small business management course at the community college level.

Existing NWT loan funds should be consolidated and the mandate of the economic development department should be re-evaluated. In the current economic climate. "many of its programs are little more than make-work projects."

Labour and taxation legislation also need re-examination. The introduction of a tip differential provision, similar to that of Ontario and Quebec, should be considered for the hospitality industry, and minimum wage and overtime provisions should be closely examined.

Now that the NWT has its own taxation powers, the federal and territorial governments should look at taxation as a way to encourage business growth capable of generating employment. Territorial council's size should be increased and Northerners should be allowed to take more responsibility for governing themselves.

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"We want to do it by ourselves and for ourselves."

Charles Overvold, President, Metis Association of the Northwest Territories



Despite the announcement in 1972 of a new Northern policy which put people and environmental protection ahead of large-scale development, federal encouragement of large-scale non-renewable resource development to the detriment of the small-scale development needed by Northerners has continued

Historically, Mackenzie Valley settlements grew up around the fur trade and most aboriginal people lived a good life on the land. But now, people can't rely entirely on the land and still give their children a choice for their futures. Traditional activities must be combined with others which will bring in cash.

Northerners, "on the doorstep of the largest and richest market in the world," should be able to make and process things for that market as well as for Northern consumption. Northerners need to get "our money back in economic aid which will produce new wealth," not in welfare and other non-productive payments.

Northern people need a real government commitment to small-scale economic development through adequate financial and management help, technological experimentation and research and proper marketing, not an ever-increasing Ottawa bureaucracy which focuses its attention on "helping large corporations undertake large non-renewable resource development."

Many government-sponsored projects have failed in the past because "too many decisions were made in Ottawa and too many of the project officers were unfamiliar with the North." Aboriginal peoples provided European settlers with the capital they needed to build a new life in the form of land. Now aboriginal peoples want the resources and capital to build for themselves and by themselves a balanced economy and healthy society.

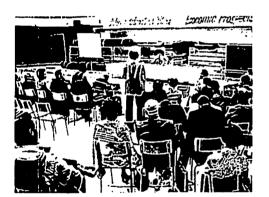
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"If immediate solutions to an expected high rate of unemployment are not found, the consequences could be disastrous."

Bill Lyall, Territorial Councillor



Northern needs and aspirations have changed as the economy changed. People are leaving the traditional ways of life to enter the wage economy. In 1976, the North's estimated labor force was 25,900. By 1986, it may grow to 35.100, although the NWT economy doesn't have the capacity to employ that number. Northerners generally want a better standard of living and full-time wage employment. Therefore, territorial council strongly supports positive economic development activities, whether renewable or non-renewable.

Large-scale non-renewable resource development has been beneficial to communities such as Coppermine, where Gulf Oil used a work rotation scheme to employ native Northerners from 1972 to 1977, and Arctic Coast communities whose residents now work for Dome Petroleum. Coppermine, whose cash flow jumped 75 per cent during the first year of Gulf's program, is just one of the communities left with increased expectations and a high unemployment rate following the federal decision not to build a Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline.

Council believes Cominco should be encouraged to develop its Arvik lead-zinc property on Little Cornwallis Island as soon as world lead-zinc prices rise again. The mine could employ about 40 native people from seven nearby High Arctic communities.

Undue restrictions should be removed from small businesses, which are the stabilizing force in the Northern economy.

Support also must be provided to people who wish to continue traditional hunting and trapping activities, especially in light of the recent drop in sealskin prices.

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"When a group of people lose their selfsufficiency, they lose control over their own lives culturally and in societal structure."

Peter Ittinuar, Executive Director, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada

The traditional Inuk was self-supporting, free and independent, master of his own fate, "as far as any living creature can be master of its fate in this imperfect and ever-changing world," said anthropologist Diamond Jenness.

While the phrase "ever-changing world" is more true today than ever, Inuit economic independence has only been seriously hampered in the 30 years since the fall of the fur market in 1948. As people moved into communities for religious and educational reasons, they generally became dependent on government welfare and social assistance payments.

Choosing to open up the North for large-scale industrial and economic growth, while often beneficial, also has meant that small Northern enterprises have "become increasingly open to 'outside' competition which they have found difficult to understand and withstand."

Some industries, such as those in the non-renewable resource and related fields, have benefited from government aid, while small entrepreneurs ranging from trappers to small businesses have declined or remained static "partly because they receive little public support." Despite the good intentions behind them, government loan and grant programs involve external business concepts which make it difficult for local people to meet the conditions. In cases where the government must arbitrate disputes between small businessmen and Crown corporations, the corporations invariably seem to be favored. Development should wait until land claims are settled so economic growth can take place in "parity."

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"Without a settlement and the recognition of our rights ... progress in economic development is no good."

Francois Paulette, Representative of the Dene Nation



Economic development is "secondary to the settlement and the rights of the Dene". While the loss of the Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline is seen by many Northern people as a bad thing, it "was the best move that ever happened in the Territories" as far as the Dene were concerned.

Although many people believe the Dene Nation is entirely opposed to development. "that is not so." Instead, the Dene see development in a different way. Rather than short-term economic development, which benefits people in a limited way for one or two years, the Dene want to see human and renewable resource development which provides benefits for 50 or 100 years.

Mining developments such as Pine Point Mines open-pit lead-zinc operation benefit Dene of the region to a small extent but also pollute the land and water. The sawmill at nearby Fort Resolution is an example of the kind of development the Dene want because it is controlled by the people of the community. "People are happy with this, this is the kind of thing that they need when they talk of development." Civil servants and government jobs are not development. >5"~< >c', Ar d' <26' >6'''.

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Workshop Reports -Day 1

- 1. Land claims should be settled as quickly as possible. Only when the claims have been settled will it be possible to plan properly for the North's future.
- 2. More training and education programs are needed for Northern businessmen. Young people should be given a variety of jobs before making a career choice. Northerners should be hired first.
- More local control is needed, at local, regional and territorial levels. Studies should be done at the request of communities instead of being imposed and regional councils should have a greater voice in economic decisions.
- 4. The federal freeze on agricultural land should be lifted and the government should actively encourage farming. Greater efforts should be made to find alternatives to non-renewable resource development.
- Tenders should be advertised in communities where work is to be done and broken down into small enough units that some of them can be carried out locally. Bonding assistance should be available to small Northern contractors.
- There is too much regulation in the North. Too many studies are being done, and industry is frustrated by a lack of co-ordination between the two levels of government.
- 7. A Northern energy policy is needed so businessmen can have some idea of power costs. The federal government should decide if it wants to see the NWT tied into the southern Canadian power grid.
- A transportation subsidy is needed, especially for High Arctic settlements where air freight costs run as high as \$1.00 a pound.
- 9. Loan policies should be re-examined. Many native people find Small Business Loans too difficult to get and DREE too complicated.

- 10. Land should be made available for small scale economic development while land claims negotiations are taking place.
- 11. Interest in tourism should be encouraged by building more roads and tourist facilities.
- 12. Assistance should be given to communities which are largely dependent on sealhunting.

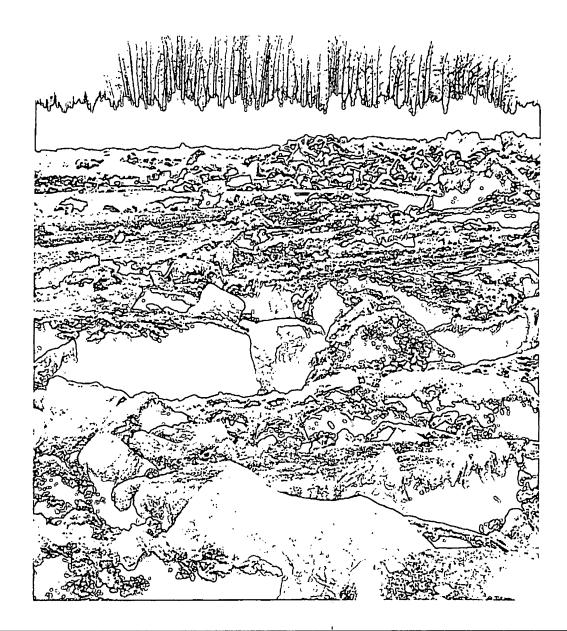
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Day 2 The Need for Balance in Resource Development



"Only together can we bring about a balanced or responsible resource development."

1.

Ronald J. Hawkes, President, Northwest Territories Chamber of Mines

Before considering the meaning of balance in resource development, the nature of non-renewable resource development must be understood clearly. A non-renewable resource is one which does not replenish itself after it is used. It has no value when left in the ground; its value comes when it is mined, processed, marketed and transported to a buyer.

Because the resource is not renewable and there is only a fixed amount of it, the mining developer or investor has only one chance at it. That is why the mining industry complains about uncertainties or changes in the rules and regulations: it needs to know the rules of the game before it takes that one chance.

The industry exists because of people's demands for the metal it mines, but if Canadian mines do not meet that demand, the mining industries of other countries will do it.

In discussing resource development, the word "responsibility" might be a better choice than "balance", and it should be noted that everyone has a responsibility. From the comments made by panelists yesterday, it is apparent that many of the objectives and needs of both NWT residents and the non-renewable resource industry can be met concurrently if all groups work together responsibly.

"Therefore, on behalf of the mining industry in the NWT, 1 invite those native groups in the NWT seeking a land claims settlement to become directly involved in the mining industry now. Take an active part in exploration and development. You can have a direct say now in exploration and development and the benefits they can bring to the people of the NWT.''

Ronald J. Hawkes, $\forall \forall \forall \forall b \forall b \in \mathbb{N}$ $\forall \Box \Delta^{\perp} \Box^{\perp} d^{\perp} \land \forall \forall \forall \forall b \in \mathbb{N}$

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"Travel could be our number one industry by the 1980s, if we all pull together."

Trish Warner. President, Travel Industry Association of the NWT

In the past, tourism has been ignored because governments were dealing with more important problems. But now that those problems are solved or are being resolved, and it's evident something besides resource-based economic development is needed in the North, it's "time to put some effort into tourism."

In the past 10 years, the industry has grown from a handful of hotels and lodges to 48 hotels and motels and more than 60 lodges and outfitters, including 20 operated by Northern natives. Tourists visit the North all year round to see a different way of living, learn about Northern culture, eat Northern foods and buy Northern crafts.

Tourism is a renewable resource that doesn't damage the environment, alter the land or harm fish and animals, and while the TIA doesn't think it's the answer to all Northern problems, it does give communities a choice.

To attract more tourists, the association wants government help to hire a full-time executive director, who would keep in touch with businesses, communities, tourist operators and the government. The industry could run training courses for employees, if it had an executive director.

The association thinks the government should consider appointing a minister responsible solely for tourism and should carry out a study of prospects for new travel-related businesses. Employment opportunities related to tourism also could involve such things as selling wild meat and fish to hotels and lodges to be used for tourists' meals and selling native crafts through lodges and hotels. Community people would decide on those, and other ideas, for tourism in their settlements.

Trish Warner, $\forall \forall \forall \flat \flat \flat, > c \forall \flat C \flat)$ $\sigma^{\flat} b L \geq c b \geq \flat b \cap c \flat \forall c a \forall r d c.$



"Nobody becomes an expert within a day."

Jens Lyberth, President, Inuit Development Corporation



Economic development is such a recent phenomenon for many people in the NWT that "many of us have still not understood what it means." And while Eastern Arctic Inuit have benefited from better health services, social development and improvements in transportation, economic development hasn't benefited them the same way.

Inuit prints and carvings have made millions of dollars, for example, but people "still haven't got better housing, a better educational system and better living conditions."

Another example is the oil and gas industry, which has pumped millions of dollars into the North but "so far, the result has been that when the companies are finished. they will leave behind an old trailer. a couple of hundred empty oil drums and then half-skilled labourers unemployed."

In 15 years of exploration, there still isn't an Inuit drilling foreman; in 15 years of building houses, ''we still haven't got an architect or engineer or even a planner:'' in 15 years of education, ''we still haven't produced any of the higher level educated Inuit.''

There is a gap in communication between the people who originate the ideas for economic development and the native people who actually carry out the development. "Because you didn't know what you would lead to when you came into the North and you came up with something without knowing what you were doing exactly. On paper you knew, but you didn't know how to apply it to the people and you failed."

The Inuit have wound up with the "shiny stuff" -- snowmobiles, outboard motors or colour television sets, not the things they really needed. Although the difference of cultures have been recognized, the responsibility and job to be done in the North still hasn't been recognized.

But while inuit want to learn how to use a million dollars, they want to keep their own way of life and try to find a balance.

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"Northern people are like a young dog breaking into harness, wanting to go places, eager to pull."

Tom Butters, Minister of Natural and Cultural Affairs, Government of the NWT



Northerners have always accepted the need for balance in development of the North's resources as self-evident.

But there has been a serious imbalance in the development of the North's human resources. The advice on how to solve Northern problems always comes from "Northern experts" who live south of the 60th parallel, but that's not necessary.

The Northern experts who can resolve Northern problems are "here in the North, among Northern people, people of many racial backgrounds and beliefs but who collectively share and possess hundreds of years of northern experience, know how and patience."

The issues facing the North have not changed: land claims must be resolved and mineral areas must be freed for exploration and development. Hugh Faulkner is the man who must find a balance between the apparently opposite viewpoints of developers and native peoples. expressed to him during the conference by the NWT mining industry and the Dene Nation.

But, while Mr. Faulkner is searching for that precarious balance. Northerners themselves must "begin looking for some common ground whereon we can build the better society we all say we want." During the past six years, the native slogan of "No development until land claims are settled" has been the reality. But because the benefits of an NWT land claim settlement must come from early development of the North's resources (as in Alaska), perhaps the slogan for the next six years should be "no land claim benefits until development is settled."

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Workshop Reports -Day 2

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- 1. The importance of the tourism industry should be recognized. Studies of its potential should be done and there should be more federal encouragement for tourists to visit the North. Consideration should be given to creating a separate tourist division and an executive director should be appointed by the Travel Industy Association.
- 2. The idea of partnerships between mining companies and native development corporations should be investigated further by both parties, including the kind of training that would be needed for native peoples.
- 3. The commercial fishing industry should be given assistance and incentives to regain its economic viability. The Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation should be replaced by a local fish marketing board.
- 4. Inter-settlement trade in renewable resources should be subsidized and money made available for outpost freezers with portable generators. Full time trappers and hunters should receive a subsidy on major tools and supplies.
- 5. Changes should be made to the NCPC Act to ensure cheaper power is available in the North and reduce the corporation's debt load. Studies of alternative power sources should be carried out.
- 6. A resources and capabilities inventory should be done on a community-by-community basis.
- 7. Regional economic councils should be established.

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Day 3 Strengthening the Role of the Private Sector in the N.W.T.



"You can't strengthen what you don't have."

Nick Sibbeston, lawyer, Fort Simpson

For native people in the NWT, the question is not how you strengthen private business: "It's more a matter of starting and developing native businesses."

There are few Dene or Metis businesses in the NWT because "native people have never been business people," and for that reason they need a lot of help and encouragement. While the government structure of economic development officials and loan and grant programs is in place, the government also must make a strong commitment to get native people into business by exercising "positive discrimination."

Native residents of the Fort Simpson area noticed during Hire North construction and training programs that they had jobs but supervisory positions were held by non-natives. often southern non-natives. They also realized that despite the thousands of dollars of work provided through Hire North. they had nothing to show for their work because they didn't know how to manage the money they made.

When completion of the Liard Highway was announced, they decided that they wanted control of the construction and of economic activity generated by it. As a compromise, they accepted native control of Hire North.

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Native people need to get into small businesses which will last long after the highway construction is completed. To do that, they need an aggressive economic development officer who will spend most of his time starting native businesses.

Native people also must be given a chance to supply services to Hire North, as well as obtain

jobs through it. Current native businesses should receive support through negotiated contracts.

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"Adopting a heavier commitment to enterprise that is owned and controlled by the people of the NWT."

Louis Tapardjuk, President, Canadian Arctic Co-operative Federation Limited



The 37 member co-operatives of the federation are involved in most of the commercial opportunities available to them. In 1976-77, they employed 393 people full-time and supplied more than \$2 million to primary producers from gross revenues of more than \$13 million. But while they have taken advantage of opportunities, many have incurred operating losses and need government support and action to strengthen their private sector role.

The co-operatives have a strong role to play in development of small non-renewable resources such as soapstone, fossilized whalebone, sand and gravel and in the harvesting of such renewable resources as fish, trees and animals. Opportunities for expansion in that area are limited to fishing, forestry and farming and only fishing has so far proven to be a viable industry in the NWT.

Because there seems to be no opportunity for new commercial enterprises to strengthen the private sector's role, it is necessary to look at changes that can be made in the current roles of the private and public sectors in order to strengthen the private sector.

Hamlet and settlement councils should be encouraged to contract out and administer municipal services, not perform the services themselves. Many co-ops lost needed revenue through the loss of service contracts. Co-operatives also are concerned about commercial activity by hunters' and trappers' associations and other community groups, which could kill off the co-operatives.

Wherever possible, government employees should be encouraged to go to the private sector for supplies, labour and accommodation.

"Northerners have to look out for their own opportunities and problems."

Dick Hill, Arctech Resource Management Services, Inuvik

All native and non-native groups support the need for balanced northern development; they just want a greater say in when and how.

Most small Northern businessmen support the settlement of land claims and the government's dual lifestyle policy. allowing traditional lifestyles, participation in the wage economy, or both.

The serious imbalance between territorial income and expenditures, which encourages a welfare system, could be cured by creative financial agreements and encouragement of renewable and non-renewable resource development.

Given the fact that most public services now are funded by ''outside'' dollars, it is necessary to work towards regional self-sufficiency as soon as possible. Regional economic councils which would work with the territorial government's proposed regional community councils are needed, as are regular small economic prospects conferences to support them.

A co-ordinating agency to help small Northern businesses should be established. 'Enterprise North'. located in Yellowknife, would provide administration and central office services for all economic enterprise associations, such as the Chambers of Commerce, Chamber of Mines, Travel Industry Association and NWT Truckers' Association. Long-term economic planning with the full involvement of Northern residents is urgently needed, and further progress towards responsible government for the NWT is essential.

All Northern residents should be encouraged to train in the mining and oil industries because traditional pursuits cannot provide enough jobs for everyone. Once the territory became economically self-sufficient, planning for real political independence and northern control of northern affairs could take place.

Dick Hill, Arctech Resource Management Services (אביןעלסי ארב האטרה) אבאיך.

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Workshop Reports -Day 3

- 1. A committee should be appointed to review the conference proceedings and identify issues which require immediate government action.
- 2. Matters involving the NWT should be turned over to the control of the Northwest Territories council.
- 3. Enterprise North, as suggested by Dick Hill of Inuvik, should be set up to help small Northern businesses.
- 4. Territorial ministers of renewable and non-renewable resources should be appointed.
- Co-operatives should be given more money to produce more carvings and carving materials should be subsidized. National advertising of native crafts should be done.
- 6. Large-scale hydro-electric development should go ahead on the Slave River if it is found to be feasible.
- 7. Regional institutions patterned on the Adult Vocational Training Centre in Fort Smith should be set up.
- Native people familiar with both school curriculums should be allowed to develop a new curriculum which would be easily adaptable to the native lifestyle and language.
- 9. Contracts should be broken down into small units so small Northern contractors get a chance to bid on them.
- 10. Market gardening should be encouraged.
- 11. A tannery should be started in the NWT and hunters encouraged to supply hides to it.
- 12. The idea of community economic development corporations should be investigated.
- All Northerners should be treated alike as far as terms of employment and working conditions to avoid discrimination in hiring practices.

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Briefs

J.A. Severn for the Rotary Club of Yellowknife

Trust and a co-operative attitude need to be developed if the role of the private sector in the NWT economy is to be strengthened. The primary industries must be coached and helped, not refereed and handicapped.

It must be recognized that business is a socially useful function on which everything else depends and that the businessman's job is to make a profit. "Every attempt possible should be made by they who work, and those who control the public purse, to provide guidance, direction and assistance to the business community and let's not misconstrue guidance, direction and assistance with controls, permits and taxes.

The idea that business is suspect must be overcome by society.

Gerald Carter for Bison Developments

Bison Developments is planning to build the 214-suite Skyview Towers apartment and commercial complex in Yellowknife, a multi-million project which will be the largest of its kind in the NWT. The project was designed by northern consultants, controlled by northern businessmen and represents 150 man years of work for northern workers. Should it fail for lack of government support, similar projects will be

5 prevented in the foreseeable future.

The project will provide a shot in the arm for a struggling construction industry. Without viable businesses located in the North, everyone will be the loser. Contractors need the mining industry and private development as well as government if they are to survive financially.

G. Monuik for Norman Wells Chamber of Commerce

In late 1977, delegates at economic development conferences held by the territorial government all diagnosed similar problems and proposed similar solutions. There was a lack of local employment, job training and co-operation between governments; there was a need for more use of local businesses and products. But those conclusions have been ignored.

For many years, small Northern businessmen have at their own expense been training and employing native people while large companies such as Dome Petroleum, Shell Oil and Imperial Oil now are being praised for doing so.

Small businessmen in communities are ignored by government studies and surveys, not consulted about loans or grants which are being considered or about the economic viability of proposed projects. Grants and loans programs should be re-examined to see if they are providing real assistance or merely acting as a form of welfare.

Development should be community based, geared to meet a community's real needs through local businesses and workers.

Don Hendry on behalf of the Town of Pine Point

One of the biggest roadblocks in the way of Northerners achieving a standard of living comparable to southern Canadians is the federal government's "heavy handed control of land required for economic development." Without access to that land on reasonable terms, Northerners will never be able to raise their standard of living. A major change in the federal government's attitude toward investment is urgently needed, instead of a series of short-term make-work projects. Rather than concentrating on the short-term benefits available from oil and gas development, the government should cut the red tape surrounding the mining industry and develop long-term policies which would aid the industry's investment decisions.

The long-promised comprehensive federal policy on agriculture should be made public and encouragement should be given to development of forestry and fishing as well. More concern should be shown for the replenishment and regeneration of renewable resources.



Fred Richinger for the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce

The federal government must provide leadership in the growth and expansion of the Northern economy by making early decisions and long-term commitments on the transportation of Northern oil and gas to southern markets.

Federal policies and legislation must encourage mineral exploration in the NWT rather than make it more difficult. The mining industry still is the most important part of the Northern economy's private sector but new exploration is needed to ensure its continued health.

Native land claims must be settled quickly to allow a climate of certainty for economic development.

A strong private sector and a diversified economy, not increased territorial and federal government bureaucracies, are needed for a healthy economy.

To help the private sector, the road transportation system into the NWT must be improved. Small businessmen should be relieved of high power costs by amendments to the legislation setting up the Northern Canada Power Commission.

And a firm policy to aid small Northern businessmen who can't fairly compete with large southern businesses must be developed.

Harold Rattai for the NWT Construction Association

While the NWT Construction Association recognizes the importance of starting new businesses in the North, 'we think it is much more important to sustain those people already established but in difficulty because of the lag in Canadian and world economies and because of our government's pipeline decision.'' The association was shocked by the recent departure of one of its directors from Inuvik because of the poor economic situation. Changes in bonding provisions that would allow Northern contractors to bid on large projects are urgently needed and have been repeatedly requested.

Also needed are provisions to reduce contracts to smaller units that can be handled by Northern contractors. Allowing Northern contractors to carry out the work not only aids the NWT economy by developing local human resources and cutting down welfare expenses, but it also can save the Canadian taxpayer substantial amounts of money. Northern contractors saved the taxpayer almost \$700,000 on construction of four Northern roads, for example.

Presented on behalf of Mayor Fred Henne, President, NWT Association of Municipalities

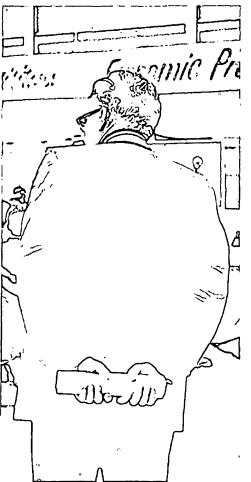
Northern businesses need and deserve the support of territorial and municipal governments through Northern preference policies. If the federal government cannot follow such policies, it should consider creating a Crown corporation for northern contracts or farm out such contracts to the territorial department of public works.

New road construction would encourage tourism, and both activities would create hundreds if not thousands of jobs for Northerners.

Renewable resources cannot provide the diversity of opportunity offered by the mineral and oil and gas industries. While mines may cause some environmental and social problems, in the total scheme the benefits outweigh the problems. Controls on mines and exploration should not be so onerous that they force a halt to development.

The NWT does not need dependence on welfare and unemployment insurance. It needs jobs and the authority to make its own decisions about development through its elected representatives, not have them made by those who do not have to live with the results of their decisions. The private sector must be allowed to do the job wherever possible and federal policies should help small northern businesses accomplish that aim.

Crown corporations designed to serve Northerners, such as the Northern Canada Power Commission and Northern Transportation Co. Ltd., should be based in the North.



Presented on behalf of Mayor Don Stewart, Town of Hay River

Economic development in the NWT has not kept pace with the development of government, population growth or increasing education of young people.

The decision to "locate the proposed Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline in the wrong Territory" dealt a serious and occasionally near-fatal blow to the economy of most communities. Genuine alternatives are needed, ones which are developed by the communities themselves with federal funding aid instead of being done for them.

Five major proposals are made for the Hay River area.

Establishment of an integrated forest resource industry in the south Mackenzie area should be examined. The study should look at construction of a centrally-located mill and co-operative kiln drying facility, as well as a pre-cut/modular house building industry.

A fish cannery should be set up in the territorially-owned Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation packing plant, with the ultimate intention of canning almost all the commerical catch landed in Hay River.

Construction of a southwest shore highway, as well as completion of paving of the Mackenzie Highway and construction of tourist access roads, would increase tourism to the area, as well as aiding fishermen.

Study should be made of the possibility of setting up a multi-mineral processing facility in the area as part of a mineral-producing co-operative including prospectors, miners, mill and administrative staff.

The Fort Smith administrative region should be re-examined and consideration given to setting up a sub-regional office in Cambridge Bay, an administrative centre at Rae-Edzo to serve nearby native communities and a new regional office at Hay River.

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In anticipation of any further pipeline or large scale development which may take place in the NWT, small scale impact information centres of the type suggested by Mr. Justice Thomas Berger should be set up.

Bertha Allen for the Native Women's Association of the NWT

A tannery should be set up in the NWT. to provide aid to the many people who supplement their income by the sale of handicrafts. In years when prices for fur were low, trappers could have their furs tanned and crafts made from them.

Concentration on human development is necessary if native people are to take part actively in economic development. For the association, that objective means allowing native women to develop leadership skills. Courses are available to do so, but require some government funding.

The territorial government should recognize native womens' experience and ability rather than formal education and allow them to be involved in such fields as home management and midwifery.

The territorial education system should be evaluated and parents should be given more of a role in the hiring of teachers.

Glen Godt, Hay River

There have been Northern farms for a long time but "today in the North we have unemployment and welfare and lettuce that costs more than ground beef."

If resource development in the NWT is to be balanced, agriculture must be included. A Northern farmer should be named to the NWT Land Use Committee to represent the viewpoint of his colleagues. Agriculture in the NWT will be different from the kind of homesteading carried out in northern Alberta. Products must be marketed in an organized way. If the kind of planning that went into a non-renewable resource development such as Pine Point Mines was applied to agriculture, there would be many possibilities for such things as freeze-dried vegetable processing plants and sugar beet factories.

Mr. Emil Gieck for Ferguson Supply NWT Ltd.

As a supplier of heavy construction and mining equipment in the NWT, our company is concerned with the downturn in the NWT economy.

"What are the plans of local and federal government to stimulate the economy?"

We intend to stay and grow in the NWT if we have the support of government, both territorial and federal, contractors and mining people. We ask for support for local business.



W.A. Campbell, Fort Smith hotel-owner, on behalf of small business

The hospitality industry has experienced alarming increases in the cost of liquor and off-sale licences and is being "over-regulated, over-taxed and in general treated as a handy revenue product for the government."

Licensees now pay a minimum of four per cent above the counter price of goods sold in NWT liquor stores and now are being charged 10 per cent tax for each case of beer sold for off premises sale. Despite this charge, hotels receive no additional services. Some hotels are restricted to the day and time products can be purchased and all must pick up their own products, cool and store them and sell them at the minimum mark-up set by the NWT Liquor Control Board. Off-sale licences now cost more than \$400 each year, compared to \$50 in 1977.

"We invest our money, time and energy in our business and I find that as each year goes by the cost to our customers has got to be raised because we are being overcharged."

Marjory Taylor for the Territorial Farmers Association

The federal freeze imposed on agricultural land in the NWT in 1975 must be lifted immediately. and the comprehensive federal agricultural policy promised shortly afterwards must be introduced immediately. These actions would allow NWT residents to develop a safe and secure food source before the widely-predicted famines and food shortages of the late 1980's.

The \$43-million worth of agricultural products, including beef, pork, poultry, eggs, potatoes, carrots and cabbage, needed by the 20,000 residents of the South Mackenzie-Great Slave Lake area could support 107 farmers with a gross return of \$40,000 each annually. The existing small market gardens of 10 to 15 acres being worked near Hay River now are not enough for a viable full-time operation. As well as domestic markets, there is a large export market available for such cereal grains as rape, winter wheat and grass seeds, which have been grown successfully in the NWT.

The NWT agricultural situation contrasts sharply with that in Alaska, where 60,000 acres of land recently were opened up for 2,600-acre farms available through a lottery system. The state of Alaska will pay for access roads, clearing the land and developing a marketing system.

The Northwest Territories now is approaching 15 per cent of the Alaskan agricultural development of 1900 · "only 78 years behind."

Joe Mercredi for the NWT Metis Association

It would be a waste of time if the conference was just another case of trying to find out what the natives want, instead of a way to find solutions to the NWT's economic and labour problems. There must be a radical change in the approach taken towards the economy by native leaders.

The opportunity to educate oneself is available, although we do not expect all NWT native people to become doctors, educators or executives. The labour force must be balanced to meet the needs of the people and of the industry. Native people have made a great contribution to the NWT economy, through the fur industry, water, transportation and fishing.

All native people of the Mackenzie Valley should put pressure on the native leaders of the NWT to settle land claims quickly ''so that we can all get back to work.''

Bob Tustian for the Baffin Region Businessmen

Businessmen in the Eastern Arctic face problems that do not exist for businessmen in the Western Arctic, including geographical isolation and a resultant feeling of separation. The weekly government flight to Yellowknife cannot be used for private business purposes and Baffin businessmen find it much easier to carry out their business through Montreal. Government agencies must allow this practice, to alleviate the problems caused by late mail deliveries.

Most businessmen run into problems with the bureaucratic red tape involved in applying for development funding. More money for development of new ideas and products for Northern expansion is needed.

The territorial government should guarantee bonding for Eastern Arctic businesses so they do not lose hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars through being forced to relinquish contracts. Help is needed as well on raising working capital and guaranteeing loans on the annual Baffin sealift.

Paul Kaeser for the Town of Fort Smith

The town of Fort Smith recommends that an independent consultant be hired to review all studies done of the NWT's economic potential as soon as possible.

A Northwest Economic Development Council should be created to review the consultant's work and make recommendations about further development.

Fort Smith has several possibilities for economic growth. If the proposed Slave River Rapids dam was built, more than \$1 billion would be spent during the seven years of construction with more than 2,000 workers employed at the peak of construction. There is potential for construction of a highway between Fort Smith and Fort McMurray, which would provide some jobs and encourage tourism, and the community has most of the requirements for mining developments.

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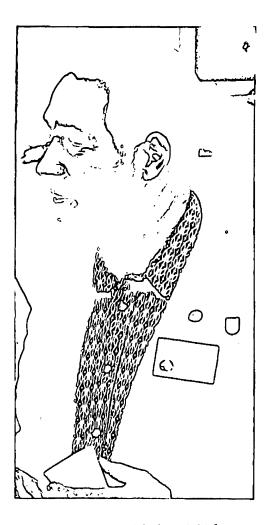
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"The North is people and this conference has happily not lost sight of that fact."

Commissioner Stuart Hodgson

"Economic development is, after all, not an end in itself, but a means to create a better and more satisfying way of life. Economic development of the North must be geared to producing for northerners a way of life which they see as being desirable for themselves - and it must be northerners who make those choices.....not government....not industry....northerners themselves."

About the conference, the commissioner said, "Never in my 11 years as commissioner have I attended anything quite like it. Together in one room we have assembled delegates representing practically every facet of life in the North today." Commissioner Hodgson said he doubted a messiah would appear to lead the Northwest Territories out of the ''economic wilderness''.

"What has come about at the conference is a new realization that the answer to developing the North is going to be found not in a messiah, not in a minister of the Crown, not in a commissioner, but in all of us, working together as responsible citizens, collectively seeking realistic means to achieve our common goals."

The commissioner pointed out that the third industry in the Territories after the public service and mining and exploration is the job creating and training programs of both federal and territorial governments.

"In effect they (the programs) have taken up much of the slack caused by the economic slowdown," he stated. He called them, "welcome additions to the northern economy", but warned that "it is a very shaky foundation on which to build an economic base or future. Such programs are entirely dependent on the federal treasury and could be changed or discontinued any time...."

The commissioner mentioned that the mining industry in the North has shown interest in developing new mines, and they should be encouraged.

He pointed to three proposals that are being developed by the oil and gas industry: the Polar Gas pipeline to bring natural gas from the High Arctic through the Central Arctic and Keewatin, a giant icebreaker to serve the Beaufort Sea, and a natural gas pipeline on Melville Island that would link with liquified natural gas container ships. He observed these plans "are much further advanced than is generally realized."

On the subject of land claims, the commissioner said, "It is quite clear from the views expressed by land claims people that they view the settlement of land claims as a positive and necessary step toward the economic development of the north....a step which will not only benefit the native groups themselves, but all people of the Northwest Territories. Land claims are intended by the native people to be a vehicle by which they are afforded opportunity to develop and control their own business ventures.

On balanced development he said, "A new perspective of balanced economy came out of the conference....the importance of balancing natural resource activity with human resource activity. The North's greatest and precious and lasting resource is its people. Throughout the conference, northerners have indicated that unless they can participate meaningfully in economic activity, they are not particularly interested in seeing economic growth occur for its own sake.

Discussing the private sector, the Commissioner said, "My impression is that people want government policies, regulations and programs made simpler and more beneficial to the private sector....this conference is asking that more reliance be placed, and more activities left to the private sector and private initiative.

On education he said: "Northerners must have the skills and training to work at all levels....and as several speakers stressed, the economic benefits are wasted, or actually harmful, unless people have the life skills to know how to handle money and all the things that it can bring.

On attempting to draw a common theme from the conference the commissioner noted that he was drawn repeatedly to the phrase human development.

"Throughout all our talk of small business, large industry, renewable and non-renewable resources and balanced economy and all the other buzz words of the day, we kept returning to the human development which is common to all our concerns."

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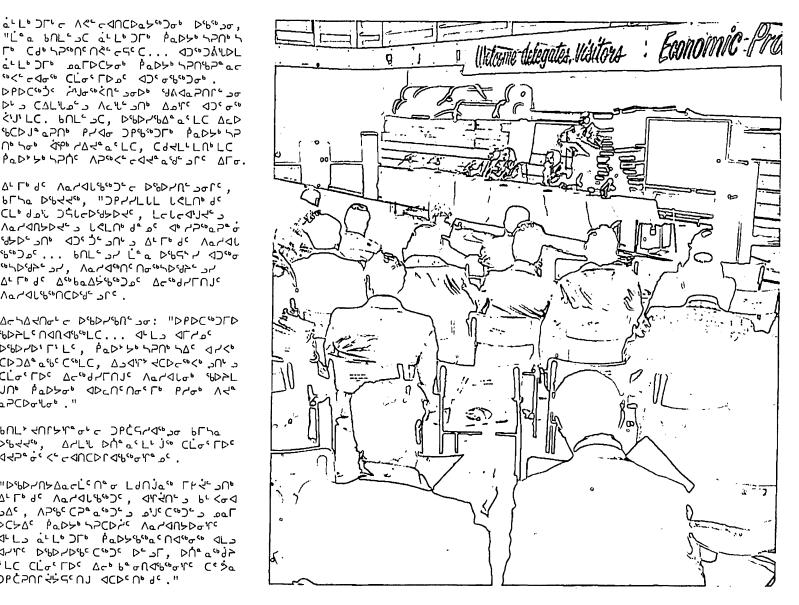
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Follow-up

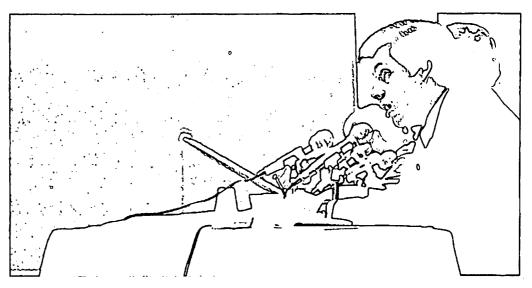
A special business advisory committee was set up following the economic development conference held in Hay River.

Members are:

Chairman, Jim Robertson, Mayor of Inuvik Bill Lyall, Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Central Arctic Charlie Charlo, chief of the Rae Edzo band Rod Douglas, vice president, Cominco Ltd. Yellowknife Louis Tapardjuk, president, Canadian Arctic Co-operative Federation Charles Overvold, president of the Metis Association of the NWT

The committee will monitor and advise Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Hugh Faulkner and Commissioner Stuart Hodgson of progress made on the suggestions at the three day minister's conference.
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Conference Officials

Co-Chairmen

Ewan Cotterill Assistant Deputy Minister Dept. of Indian and Northern Affairs

John Parker Deputy Commissioner Government of the Northwest Territories

Co-ordinator

Tony Belcourt Dept. of Indian and Northern Affairs

Additional copies of this report are available from Public Affairs Manager, Dept. of Indian and Northern Affairs, Yellowknife, NWT

Copies are also available in French.

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ک⁶د الک^۲ ک^۲ ۲ م^۲ ک^۲ مال کل² م^۲ کامیل^۲: Public Affairs Manager Dept. of Indian Affairs, Yellowknife, N.W.T.