

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
9<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY, 5<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 14-81(2)**

**TABLED ON MAY 23, 1981**

TD #14-81(2)

Tabled on May 23, 1981

STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
FINANCE

10TH REPORT  
ON  
SPENDING PRIORITIES FOR  
1982-83  
OPERATIONS/CAPITAL

MAY 1981

## O/M PRIORITIES 1982/83

Members will remember that your Standing Committee recommended, and this House adopted, the following priorities for government action and spending for this current 1981/82 budget.

1. Constitutional Development (including the Legislative Assembly).
2. Economic Development (particularly responding to non renewable resource development).
3. Northern resident Employment and Training
4. Language

### A. CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Under this priority, the expanded Executive Committee, the expanded Legislature and its much more active Standing and Special Committees, two field sessions per year, the Unity Committee recommendations for a western constitutional and impact of division committee, all were to have been funded.

While the dollars allotted to Constitutional Development were indeed increased, within the Legislative Assembly and in specific departments of government such as Local Government, the Executive Committee reported that additional funds were being sought under a B-level submission.

Unless those additional funds are found the work of both special committees will be severely curtailed and the implementation of the Unity Committee recommendations will be difficult if not next to impossible.

Further, it has been announced by the Executive Committee that the House will debate further Constitutional change at the Fall Session - recommendations having financial implications will most likely be adopted.

Recommendation: Your Committee therefore recommends that Constitutional Development be a priority for 1982-83

B. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Responding to the Impact of Resource Development)

Under this priority your Committee had stressed the fact that during 1981-82 we wished to see a strengthening of the N.W.T. Government's ability to respond to the impact of resource development. We emphasized that money should be made available under a Developing Zone Policy to communities for planning for infrastructure needs, and for the Government to strengthen its internal resource sector so that it could better deal with companies and corporations. In addition, we stressed the need for a strengthening of the Government's ability to make representation before regulatory agencies such as the EARP, LANCASTER SOUND, NEB, Parliamentary Committees, etc.

Because it is evident that in some areas of the N.W.T., resource development is expanding, your Committee is concerned that Territorial Government response to that expansion must improve.

2. Recommendation: Your Committee therefore recommends that the Legislative Assembly recommend that Economic Development, particularly as it affects responding to resource development, continue as a major priority for 82-83.

C. EDUCATION

The third priority for 1981-82 as adopted by the Legislature last year was northern resident employment and training. Your Committee, as a result of discussion during the last Session, has reworded that priority and placed it under the heading of Education. (Members will remember that the House adopted a motion calling for Education as one of the priorities for government spending during the Budget Session in Yellowknife).

ARGC #3 Recommendation: Your Committee therefore recommends that Education be a priority for 1982-83 spending and that the following areas be emphasized: Training for employment; vocational training in schools; on the job training; adult upgrading; the need of the Special Committee on Education.

With respect to Northern resident employment I will make a comment and recommendation concerning that following the recommendations for priorities on spending.

D. LANGUAGE

Under this priority your committee emphasized last year that it wished to have a language policy for the N.W.T. Government developed. We also stressed that we felt that the first step in addressing the whole area of languages in the Northwest Territories had to be the Governments use of the languages to serve the public and the Legislative Assembly and the use of languages as a vehicle for teaching and training as is now being done in the Department of Education rather than the cultural aspect or the preservation/revival and/or development of the languages.

- to date a policy has not been established
- A language commission to look at this issue was suggested but never implemented
- A Dene languages study was completed and tabled which addresses the development and preservation of the Dene Languages
- A review of the Interpreter Corp is currently underway
- Work is being done in the TEP program for the teaching of school subjects in the Inuktitut language

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Recommendation: Your Committee therefore recommends that we call for the development of a language policy concerning languages as a vehicle of government service (interpreter Corp, information to public) and for training/teaching purposes.

The Standing Committee on Finance is extremely concerned about the cultural aspect or the preservation/revival and/or development of the languages of the N.W.T.

This Assembly, and Assemblies before it, have always stated that the strengthening and further development of the native languages was a priority however, unless the money is made available to do just that this Government will merely be paying lip service to that priority.

Your Committee faced that issue during its last meeting and held a frank discussion on whether we could support saying that we felt languages were a priority when we knew full well that the money to do what must be done to revive and develop further many of the languages, and various dialects of those languages, would not be easily found by the Territorial Government.

After debate and some soul searching, your Committee decided to bring this serious dilemma to your attention with the following recommendation.

# 5 / Recommendation: Your Committee therefore recommends that money for the cultural development, revival and preservation of native languages be found within the various land claims settlements and that we as a Legislature urgently support the advancement of monies from the Federal Government to the Native Groups who wish to do this.

NOTE: The Territorial Government would continue to serve the public in native languages. The Department of Education would continue to develop its native language curriculum for the TEP program and for the schools and the various departments would continue to inform the general public of government services in the native languages (radio, television, film). The Interpreter Corp would continue to serve the government and Legislative Assembly.

#### CAPITAL PRIORITIES 1982-83

Members will remember that your Standing Committee recommended and this House adopted Communication Systems and Tank Farms as the priorities for government capital spending for the current 1981-82 budget.

We have, after consultation with many MLA's decided to recommend the following capital priorities for 1982/83.

Recommendation: That the Legislative Assembly call for a portion of capital to be used for retrofitting.

Recommendation: That the Legislative Assembly place a high emphasis on recreation facilities for communities, in the current plan as long as money for operation and maintenance is planned for by both the government and the community.

### Recreation Facilities

More than one MLA has talked about the need for good recreation facilities within each community. Some have mentioned the fact that having facilities attached to the local school. With a good school recreational program that was one way of attracting and keeping young people in school.

Others have mentioned that good family type recreation facilities such as swimming pools, skating rinks, bowling alleys were required to keep families "playing" together during the long winter months.

That concludes our recommendations to the Legislative Assembly concerning spending priorities for 1982-85.

The Committee does have another recommendation to make concerning Northern resident employment, northern purchase and northern business opportunities.

Those three items, northern employment, northern purchase and northern business opportunities have been a priority of every Legislature and all three have been mentioned by the elected representatives in some way or other during every session for as long as I can research back into our history.

Yet the statistics are not good enough and perhaps the biggest offender is our own government.

The political will to do it is there however somehow the translating of that political will into positive, and serious action still needs vast improvement.



Too many northerners are still unemployed, too many contracts are still going south and too many purchases are being made outside the N.R.T. Examples of such instances have been placed before our Committee not only by M.A.'s but also by Members of the public. We feel the time to act is now.

Your Committee strongly recommends that this Assembly take a much firmer stand on these three priorities through the establishment of a monitoring system, which would act as a watchdog on industry and indeed our own government and which would hear and investigate complaints surrounding northern resident employment, northern purchase and northern business opportunities.

This monitoring system, whether it be one individual or a team of individuals in a centralized location or appointed regional bodies/individuals located at the regional level would be established under legislation and would have independent powers, much like the food prices review board or the anti inflation board, to review industry and government policy and financial books with respect to legitimate complaints about any of the three priorities.

We realize that this is a serious recommendation. We realize, as well, that it needs to be further debated and if passed then more work must be done by our elected representatives on the Executive Committee or by a special committee of the Legislature, or by your Standing Committee on Finance to develop the concept more extensively and to consult with the regions on the make up of the monitoring system itself.

There were three principles that we agreed were most important.

1. That the monitoring system not be the government or a civil servant.
2. That the monitoring system be established under legislation.

3. That the monitoring system be responsible directly and report frequently to the Legislative Assembly.

If members of the Assembly can agree to these principles, what then must be discussed is the mechanism (monitoring system) itself.

The Committee, to help discussion along, poses the following questions:

1. Should the monitoring system be composed of an individual similar to an Ombudsman?
2. If so, should we have one centralized Ombudsman or should we appoint regional ombudsmen?

OR

3. Should we create a board similar to the labour standards board, to act as the monitor?
4. If so, should it be a centralized board with regional representation similar to our current board?

OR

5. Should boards be appointed on a regional basis with strict regional membership?

Before the Committee presents a full motion on the make up of the monitoring system we would like to see the Legislature debate this issue. Therefore, in order to open that debate we agreed to sponsor the following motion:

- U Recommendation: That the Legislative Assembly take a much firmer stand on encouraging northern resident employment, northern purchase and northern business opportunities by establishing a monitoring system.

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Recommendation: That the following three principles be adopted by the Legislative Assembly.

1. That the monitoring system not be the government or a civil servant.
2. That the monitoring system be established under legislation.
3. That the monitoring system be responsible directly and report regularly to the Legislative Assembly.

1. November/79 Revised Terms of Reference Priorities  
Calendar of Events
2. January/81 Recommendations: 1980-81 Budget
3. February/80 Recommendations: Supplementary Appropriations  
Auditor General's Letter  
Motion 5-80(1)
4. February/80 Recommendations: Financial Bills 6-80(1)  
7-80(1), 8-80(1)
5. March/80 Energy
6. June/80 Recommendations: Broad Spending Priorities  
(1981-82)  
General Recommendations  
(during Oct/Nov Session)
7. November/80 Recommendations: Supplementary Appropriations  
#20 & #21
8. February/81 Responding to Non Renewable Resource Development
9. February/81 Recommendations: 1981-82 Budget

Membership on the Standing Committee on Finance Consists of:

Lynda Sorensen (Yellowknife South) Chairman  
 Nellie Cournoyea (Western Arctic) Chairman  
 Don Stewart (Hay River)  
 Ludy Pudluk (High Arctic)  
 Bruce McLaughlin (Pine Point)  
 Peter Fraser (Mackenzie Great Bear)  
 Ipeelee Kilabuk (Raffin Central)