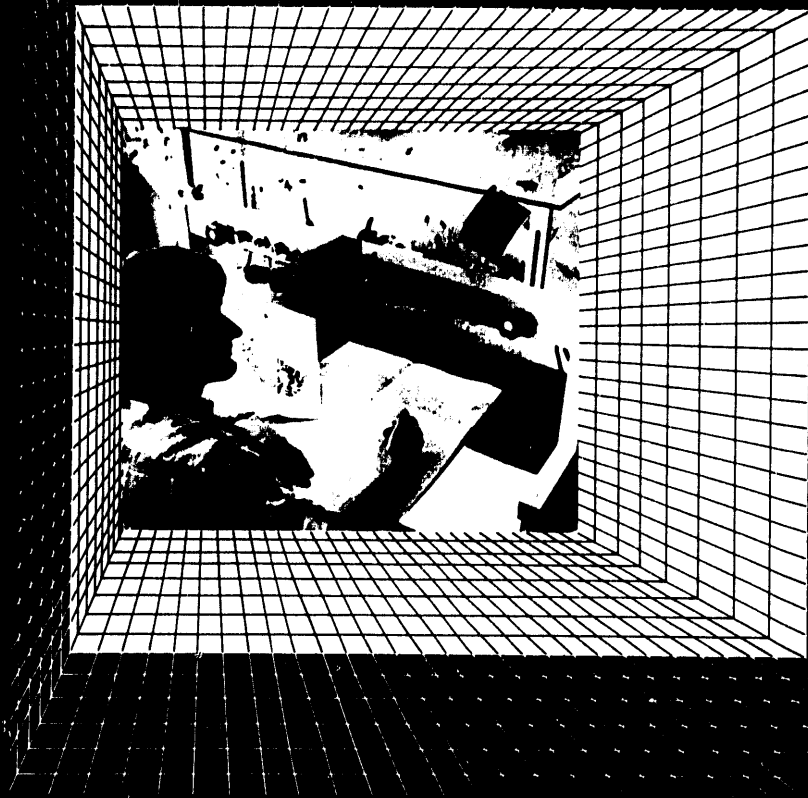


**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
9TH ASSEMBLY, 10TH SESSION**

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 27-83(1)

TABLED ON MAY 9, 1983

RECOMMENDATIONS TOWARDS
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
SCIENCE INSTITUTE FOR THE NWT



Presented to the
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
by the Science Advisory Board

May, 1983

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CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Recommendations	4
Institute Objectives	4
The Institute Structure	4
The Board of Directors	6
The Research Labs	6
The Advisory Committees	6
The Directorate	6
Financial Implications	7

INTRODUCTION

Recognizing the importance of northern science in the development of the NWT, the Legislative Assembly of the NWT directed the Science Advisory Board to present recommendations on the establishment of an NWT Science Institute to its spring session. The Board is therefore pleased to submit the following proposal for consideration.

The SAB recognizes that much of the science currently being conducted in the north is useful and valid. However, because such science is being conducted largely by southern-based establishments for their own purposes, it does not necessarily meet the needs of northern residents. The Board suggests that it is a Government responsibility to ensure that northerners gain the benefits from the application of science and technology. The Legislative Assembly took the first step in 1975 when it established the Science Advisory Board. Now the Board feels it is time for the second step, the creation of a Science Institute. Our proposal is based on the one made to, and approved by, the then Minister of DIAND in 1979.

By taking such a step the Assembly could open three avenues for directing northern science. Most obviously, the Institute could itself undertake research identified as being important to northern residents. Secondly, through its research labs the Institute could facilitate selected research by providing logistic support to non-resident researchers. Third, the Institute could support key research projects through a "grants-in-aid" program.

Perhaps most importantly, an NWT Science Institute could play a key role in the establishment of a northern scientific community. With its satellite research labs, the Institute could involve northern students in research programs directed towards northern problems. This could ultimately lead students to careers in northern science and, in any case, would train them in the use and understanding of science and technology.

Finally, we emphasize that the following recommendations represent a "core" proposal only. Without doubt, if an Institute is established it will attract funds from both government and industry to support research. However, the SAB feels that if the Institute is to pursue a course of independent research directed by northerners then it must have core funding. Hence the identified "working level" funds must be assured.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

1. That the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Executive Committee the establishment of a Northwest Territories Science Institute as a corporation reporting to the Legislature through a designated Minister.
2. That the Science Advisory Board's responsibilities together with its budget and man-years be transferred to the Institute.
3. That, where practicable, certain science-related functions currently being carried out by Departments of the GNWT be transferred complete with budgets and man-years to the Institute.
4. That the activities of the Institute be directed by a Board, the majority of whom would be northern residents selected for their interest or involvement in scientific activities.
5. That the GNWT negotiate the transfer to the Institute of DIAND's research labs in Inuvik, Frobisher Bay and Igloodik along with the man-years to cover annual operations, the lab administrative component presently located in Ottawa, and funding equivalent to the current O&M budget.
6. That the GNWT negotiate with DIAND the establishment of annual core funding to support research programs in each of the labs and that a minimum requirement be set at \$150,000 per lab (450,000 1983 dollars).
7. That the GNWT negotiate with DIAND the transfer of that portion of the funds currently used by the department for providing grants in support of northern research which would be compatible with Institute programs, and that those grant programs be administered by the Institute.

OBJECTIVES OF AN NWT SCIENCE INSTITUTE

It is recommended that the Institute be assigned objectives somewhat expanded from those of the present Science Advisory Board. They may be stated as follows:

To foster the application of science, engineering and technology to improve the quality of life and living conditions of the people of the NWT.

To assist in the growth of a resident scientific community.

To conduct research of northern scientific problems as identified by the Board of Directors.

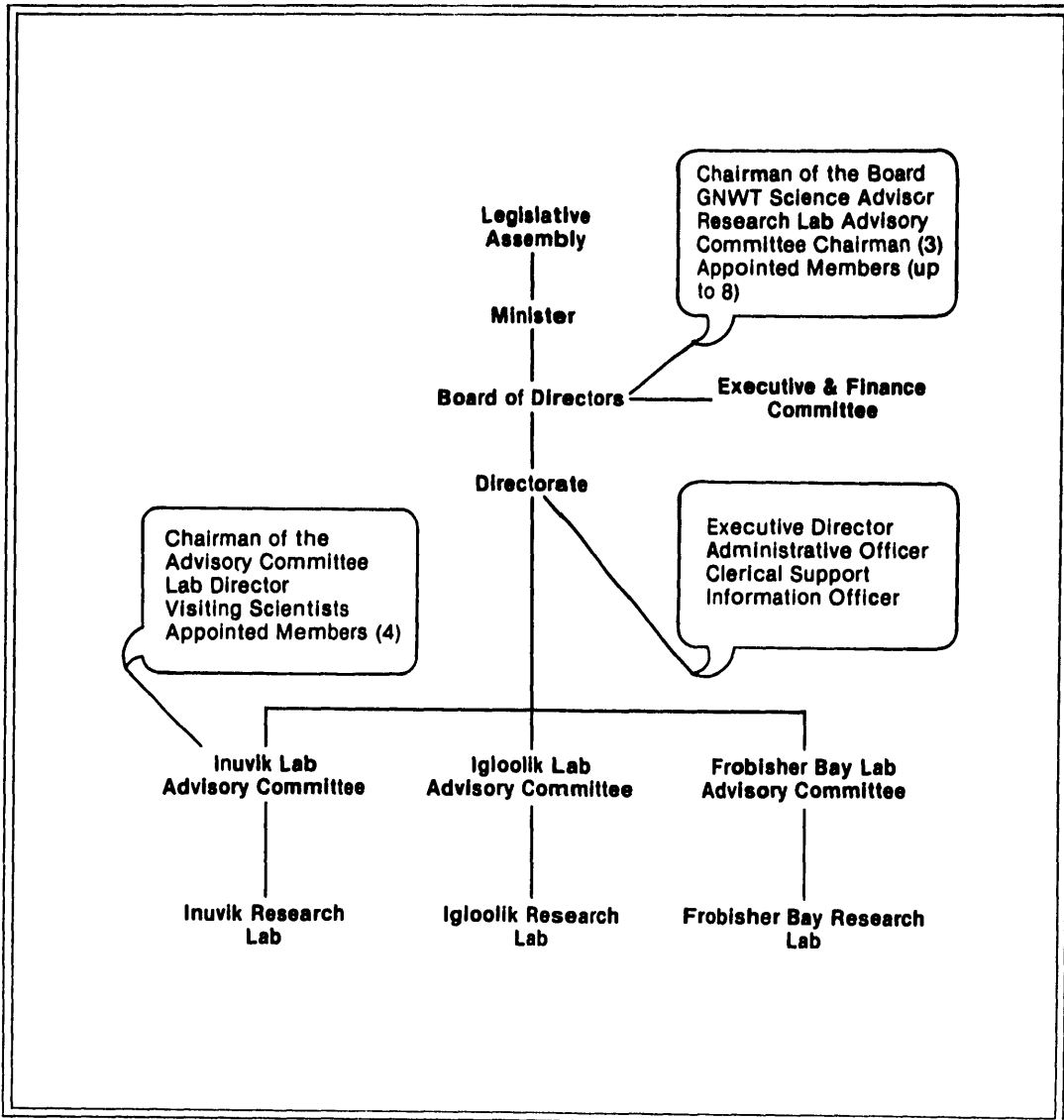
To facilitate the research of northern problems through the provision of support and logistic services.

THE INSTITUTE STRUCTURE

In considering appropriate organizational structures for the Institute the SAB kept in mind three points:

1. Scientific programs undertaken or supported by the Institute should be relevant to the north. This would best be achieved by ensuring a strong resident presence on the Board of Directors.
2. The new institute should facilitate the conduct of science in the north.
3. Under current conditions of fiscal restraint, emphasis should be placed on redirecting funds for greater effect rather than increasing expenditures.

An organizational chart for the Institute is shown on page 5. It illustrates that the Institute would retain the special relationship with the Legislative Assembly currently enjoyed by the SAB. The following are the key elements in the structure.



The Board of Directors

All activities of the Institute would be directed by a 13 member board, the majority of whom would be northern residents appointed with due regard for regional and ethnic representation. Non-resident members would be selected on the basis of the scientific expertise they would bring to the Board. One member of the Board would be designated chairman. As is presently the practice with the SAB, all members would be appointed by the Commissioner-in-council.

Each of the research labs would have an advisory committee to deal with matters of interest to the individual labs. The chairman of each of these advisory committees would be a member of the Board of Directors. The Board would select an executive committee from amongst its members to deal with administration and finance.

One of the Institute's key roles would be to contribute towards the co-ordination of government scientific activity in the NWT. To achieve this and to establish the necessary links between the Institute and departments of the federal government most active in the north, those departments would be invited to appoint permanent observers to the Board. Such observers would participate in most activities but would not have voting privileges.

Similarly, a Board representative would be an observer at meetings of the federal Interdepartmental Committee on Science and Technology in the North which presently reports to DIAND.

The Research Labs

The three research labs currently operated by DIAND in Inuvik, Igloolik and Frobisher Bay are seen as necessary and integral parts of the Institute. The labs with the advice and assistance of their associated committees would form the operational arm of the Institute. Each lab would assume responsibility for a "theme research area", an area of science in which it would specialize. Although these themes would have to be determined in conjunction with the Institute

Board and the community, an example might be the study in Igloolik of the factors affecting the levels of certain marine mammal populations. Lab staff would be selected accordingly.

Research Lab activities would revolve around the following primary tasks:

- a) the theme research program
- b) scientific support
- c) community science services
 - i) regional or community research projects
 - ii) education and training
 - iii) information
- d) cooperative studies

In due time each lab might become affiliated with a university that had similar research interests.

The Research Lab Advisory Committees

Each lab advisory committee would consist of seven members including five residents of the region chosen by a method acceptable to both the regional governing structure and the Board. The committee would also include the lab director (who could not be chairman) and one other scientist appointed for his expertise in the lab's theme research area.

The committee's prime responsibility would be to ensure that community interests were reflected in the activities of the lab. As noted above, the Chairman of each of the committees would also be a member of the Board of Directors.

The Directorate

The executive director along with clerical and administrative staff would be responsible for implementing programs and policy defined by the Board of Directors. In administrative matters the executive director would work closely with the executive committee of the Board.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As stated earlier emphasis has been placed on re-directing existing funds, both at a federal and territorial level rather than calling for increased spending. The resulting proposal requires little additional funding from the GNWT and only modest increases on the part of DIAND.

In general terms, funding requirements and the probable source of the funds are as follows:

Requirement	Source
Board of Directors	Current funds from the SAB budget
Directorate	Current funds from the SAB budget plus DIAND-Ottawa Lab Administration funds and man years
Research Lab Operation	Current DIAND funds and man years
Theme Research	Core funding to be provided by DIAND
Grants-in-Aid	Appropriate current funds now administered by DIAND
Institute Accommodation	Administrative funds from DIAND

Funding Sources

New Funds

Accommodation Expenses from GNWT (Approx. \$20,000)

Project Funds To Be Negotiated With DIAND \$450,000

Grand Funds to be negotiated with DIAND \$200,000

Board Operating Expenses

Directorate & Administration Expenses

Lab Operations

Theme Research

Grants-in-aid

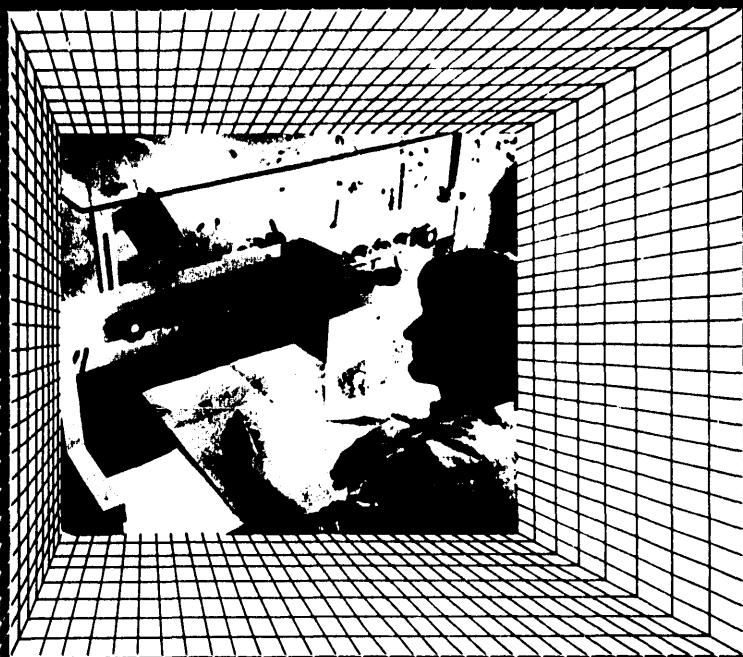
Existing Funds

Existing SAB Funds (\$207,000 and 2 p.y.)

DIAND-Ottawa Administrative Staff and Budgets (Approx. \$100,000 & 2 p.y.)

Current DIAND Funds (Approx. \$700,000 and 10' p.y.)

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