

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
10TH ASSEMBLY, 4TH SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 47-85(1)

TABLED ON MARCH 15, 1985

Coppermine, N.W.T. Friday, March 08, 1985.

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Tabled Document No. 47-85(1)
Tabled 15/03/85

The Mayors of the Beaufort Sea communities and Kitikmeot West met today to discuss the report of the Constitutional Alliance adopted by the Legislative Assembly in late February. The report set out certain terms to division of the Northwest Territories including a boundary ratification process.

The Mayors unanimously rejected the report and requested its immediate repeal by the Assembly. They wished to make it clear that this present position of the Beaufort Sea and Kitikmeot West communities is that they intend to be part of Nunavut.

The report was found unacceptable because it ignored the Beaufort communities wishes endorsed by motions of their councils to be part of Nunavut and did not recognize the right of the communities of the region to decide for themselves and by a process that they themselves determine. This they stated would be the only accepted process for the future. They requested their respective M.L.A.s to take their message to the Assembly.

In addition, the Mayors discussed related matters and future plans to work closely together on issues of division and constitutional development.

For further information contact:

Kane Tologanak, Councillor,
Hamlet of Holman
Holman, N.W.T.
Ph: (403) 396-4241 (o)

Ernie Bernhardt, Mayor
Hamlet of Coppermine
Coppermine, N.W.T.
Ph: (403) 982-3381 (h)
982-4901 (o)

MEETING OF MAYORS OF THE BEAUFORT SEA AND KITIKMEOT WEST

On March 8, 1985 the Mayors of the Beaufort Sea and Kitikmeot West met to consider the Legislative Assembly Motion 8-85(1), a "Motion Accepting the Report of the Constitutional Alliance" and have passed the following resolutions:

1. WHEREAS, the Mayors object in the strongest terms to that motion of the Legislative Assembly;
RESOLVED we respectively request that the said motion be re-pealed;

2. AND WHEREAS, in particular the Mayors object to the denial of the right of the Beaufort communities to determine for themselves which new territory they wish to belong;
RESOLVED that in any future considerations of new constitutional arrangements that the Beaufort communities shall have the right to decide as a region which territory they wish to belong and the Kitikmeot West communities wish to join with the Beaufort Sea communities to formulate the question, conduct the vote and interpret the results;

3. AND WHEREAS, the Beaufort communities have passed motions electing to be part of Nunavut;
RESOLVED that these motions are hereby confirmed and endorsed;

4. AND WHEREAS, these motions have been tabled at the Fourth Session of the Tenth Legislative Assembly;
RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly respect the wishes of the communities as expressed in those motions;

5. AND WHEREAS, the said motions refer also to a willingness to consider other constitutional arrangements and the communities of the Beaufort Region have determined that a regional government equivalent to W.A.R.M. is an essential part of its new constitutional arrangements;
AND WHEREAS, the Nunavut Constitutional Forum has indicated its willingness to embrace W.A.R.M. within the Nunavut Constitution;

AND WHEREAS, the Western Constitutional Forum has indicated in public meetings, in discussions with COPE and in it's own writings that it will not entertain such constitutional arrangements in any Western Territory; AND WHEREAS, meaningful discussions with the W.C.F. would be impossible until they change their position;

RESOLVED that before any further discussions' on other constitutional arrangements that the Legislative Assembly indicate its willingness to support the adoption of the proposed Western Arctic Regional Municipality as tabled in the Ninth Legislative Assembly;

6. AND WHEREAS, the communities of the Beaufort Sea and Kitikmeot West wish to remain united on the issues of division and constitutional development;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayors shall continue to work together closely in the future.

Communities represented: Cambridge Bay / Coppermine / Holman Island / Paulatuk / Sachs Harbour / Tuktoyaktuk

