

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
10TH ASSEMBLY, 7TH SESSION**

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To the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

The Hay River Reserve is a developing community. In the past few years the people in this community have made some headway in the social and economic issues. This is evident by the fact that there are few reserve residents on welfare. Also by the employment record of the community.

Since 1978 the children and parents have taken education very seriously. The children to a great degree had a hand in this. They attended school with no encouragement from their parents. The staff of the school and Band Council supported this interest, by providing a good atmosphere in the school and rewards. Eventually the parents gave in to their children's insistence and started seriously supporting their children's interest in school by providing good homes. The attendance records and registration proves this point. Attached are the percentage rates of attendance since 1978.

The natural results of this was for the parents to evaluate their lifestyle and started to improve it. Now many homes on the Reserve have no or little alcohol problems. This increased the demand for jobs and other source of entertainment from the community. The Band Council tried to respond to these demands by providing as much employment as possible. Also by providing recreation programs.

This brings us to the point why this letter is being written. Although our children are attending school regularly the Band Council feels that they are not getting the wholistic human development necessary to function in the present society. The academic skills of our children is being developed by the fact that it is concentrated on. Whereas the physical development is impaired by the lack of physical activities due to the shortage of a gymnasium in the school. Organized sports such as volleyball, basketball, batmanton aren't available. This places our children at a disadvantage, when they enter high school where all other children have already developed the skills and co-ordination required in most sports. With a gymnasium available our children will be able to achieve this physical development necessary.

The youth and adults are demanding more recreation activities on the Reserve. As mentioned before many homes no longer have alcohol problems and have more time for leisure. The Band Council tried to arrange the use of three gyms available in Hay River this past fall. The only times we could get all three gymnasiums were for three nights a week, one night for each gym in which two nights were on weekends. This is hindered by the fact that it is a 40 mile round trip to the gym. Attached is a letter written to all M.L.A.'s in 1984, which gives other points for the need of a gymnasium which still apply today.

The Band Council are suggesting that the Multi-purpose hall and senior citizen's home be switched for planning and construction Attached also is a petition signed by our senior citizens giving their consent to this move.

Pat Martel
Pat Martel, Chief

Florence Cayen
Florence Cayen,
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Philip Fabian
Philip Fabian, Councillor

Fred Martel Jr.
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Enclosures