

1986

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## OONARK WALL HANGING RESTORED

YELLOWKNIFE (February 10, 1986) - A wall hanging made by the internationally-known Inuit artist Jessie Oonark has been restored and will hang permanently in the Legislative Assembly Chambers in Yellowknife.

The large, appliqued wall hanging, which was presented to the Legislative Assembly in 1969 during an Assembly session in Baker Lake, has been cleaned, repaired and remounted.

The work was done at the Glenbow Institute in Calgary by textile conservator Doreen Rockliff, a private consultant.

The hanging is in generally good condition, Ms. Rockliff said, but had been wet at some time and, as a result, had shrunk slightly. It was also showing dirt from cigarette smoke, she said.

The wall hanging was washed using the Glenbow's facilities, blocked and dried, restoring its brilliant colours. A backing which had been added to the hanging some time after its completion was removed and decorative stitching was replaced. Velcro was handstitched to the hanging and, in Yellowknife, a wooden frame was built with Velcro also attached using non-rusting staples.

This provides an adjustable system for hanging the piece which allows for variations in its size due to changes in humidity, Ms. Rockliff explained.

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The hanging illustrates the traditional Inuit way of life at Mrs. Oonark's fish camp at Back River, 100 miles north of Baker Lake. It shows "there's no beginning or end when you have a lot of work to do, especially when you are living out on the land", according to the artist's description.

Jessie Oonark, who died in March 1985 at the age of 85, was the mother of former MLA William Noah. Acclaimed for her prints and wall hangings, she received the Order of Canada in 1984.

The wall hanging will be on display in the Assembly Chambers in Yellowknife during the next session of the Legislative Assembly which begins Wednesday February 12 at 2:30.

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METIS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS PRINT TO ASSEMBLY

YELLOWKNIFE (February 13, 1986) - The Metis Association of the Northwest Territories has presented a print by Yellowknife artist John LeMouel to the Legislative Assembly.

The limited-edition print, entitled 'Old and New', contrasts two Yellowknife buildings - the Yellowknife Centre, an office and shopping complex, and the Wildcat Cafe, one of Yellowknife's oldest buildings.

"The print reflects not only our changing surroundings but also the challenges we face in dealing with those changes", Metis Association president Larry Tourangeau explained.

"I think this Assembly has shown the willingness to meet the challenges that are before them", Mr. Tourangeau said during the presentation on opening day of the current Assembly session.

In accepting the print on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Donald Stewart, Speaker, thanked Mr. Tourangeau and the Metis Association and noted that the artwork "will be given an honoured position" in the Assembly Chambers.

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS YOUNGEST IN CANADA

YELLOWKNIFE (March 10, 1986) - The youngest legislature in Canada now has the youngest Sergeant-at-Arms in the country.

At the age of 19, Mickey Akavak has been appointed to a position traditionally held by retired police or military staff.

Mr. Akavak, from Lake Harbour, is acting as Sergeant-at-Arms during the current session of the Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife.

A recent Grade 12 graduate of Sir John Franklin High School in Yellowknife, Mr. Akavak has also attended schools in Frobisher Bay, Pangnirtung and Ottawa.

Mr. Akavak's appointment continues the practice of naming Sergeants-at-Arms from communities across the Northwest Territories. The appointments are made on the recommendation of local MLAs. During the last several sessions, Sergeants-at-Arms have come from Rankin Inlet, Fort Simpson and Yellowknife.

The Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for the safekeeping of the Mace, the symbol of the authority of the Legislative Assembly, which he carries into the Assembly Chamber at the beginning of each sitting day.

The Sergeant-at-Arms is also responsible for supervising the Pages and for preserving order in the Chamber and Visitors' Gallery, on orders from the Speaker.

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SPEAKER MARKS COMMONWEALTH DAY

YELLOWKNIFE (March 11, 1986) - "The Commonwealth has been the most successful example of international co-operation", the Hon. Donald Stewart, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, said yesterday in an address marking Commonwealth Day.

In his speech to the Assembly March 10, Mr. Stewart noted that the Commonwealth "has served as a bridge between races and cultures, countries and continents and has provided a sense of belonging among its members".

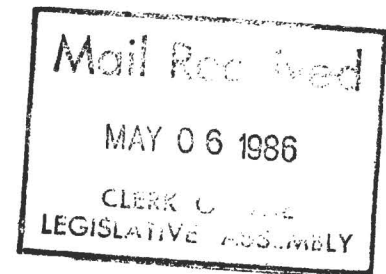
"It is a body without any military force but, by its moral authority, it restrains the nations from straying into wrong paths", the Speaker added.

Mr. Stewart also noted that 1986 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), an organization of legislators from Commonwealth countries. The Association's aim is to promote understanding and co-operation among its members through conferences, meetings, seminars and exchanges of delegates. Twenty of the 24 MLAs are members of the Northwest Territories Branch of the CPA.

Brought together by history, member countries of the CPA are devoted to the common ideals of peace, democracy and respect for the dignity of man, Mr. Stewart said.

"On this Commonwealth Day, let us each make a promise that we shall continue to do our utmost to create a society which is just and equitable and that we shall stand by the people who are still oppressed by poverty, racial discrimination and colonial domination", he concluded.





PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE TO REVIEW GNWT SPENDING

YELLOWKNIFE (April 25, 1986) - The Legislative Assembly's Public Accounts Committee will meet in Yellowknife May 6 to 8 to review the Territorial government's accounts and the Auditor General of Canada's report for 1984-85.

The Committee's sessions will be open to the public, beginning at 1:30 each day, in the Caucus Room of the Legislative Assembly Building.

The Public Accounts Committee, a standing committee of the Legislative Assembly, conducts an annual review of the government's accounts and financial transactions to determine how the government's money was spent and to ensure it was spent in accordance with proper procedure.

Kenneth Dye, Auditor General of Canada, will appear before the Committee as a witness on Wednesday, May 7. Other witnesses will include officials from government departments mentioned in the Auditor General's annual report.

During this year's review, the Public Accounts Committee plans to examine three main areas. The Committee will follow up on its report from the previous year to ensure its recommendations have been implemented.



committee review - 2

As well, the Committee will look into concerns and recommendations resulting from the Auditor General's audit of Territorial accounts and financial statements for 1984-85. Finally, the Committee plans to examine the government's accounts, reviewing the format and any changes in accounting practices and principles.

Copies of the Auditor General's report are available from the Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife at (403) 920-8096.

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For more information, contact:

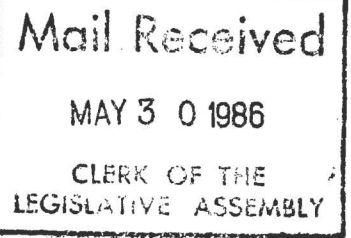
Ann Taylor

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECONVENES JUNE 10

YELLOWKNIFE (May 15, 1986) - The Seventh Session of the Tenth Legislative Assembly reconvenes in Yellowknife Tuesday June 10.

The Legislative Assembly adjourned March 13 after sitting for five weeks. During the session, the Assembly approved the government's 1986/87 budget of \$714 million and four other financial bills.

Still to be considered in June are 15 new and amending bills, including amendments to the Jury Act, allowing for the selection of jurors who speak neither French nor English, and to the Official Languages Act, extending the date for the implementation of French as an official language to 1989.

Among other items for discussion at this session are the first report of the Legislative Assembly's Special Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges; the report of the government's Task Force on Aboriginal Languages; and, a sessional report, Constitutional and Political Development in the Northwest Territories.

This session, which is expected to last about a week, begins in the Legislative Assembly Chamber at 1:00 June 10. All sittings are open to the public. Sitting hours are 1:00 to 6:00 Monday to Thursday and 9:30 to 1:00 Friday.

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Constituents wishing to talk to their MLA during the session should telephone (403) 873-7999 and their message will be passed on as quickly as possible.

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COPPERMINE TAPESTRIES ON EXHIBIT DURING ASSEMBLY

YELLOWKNIFE (June 3, 1986) - A collection of sealskin tapestries made by members of the Coppermine Women's Group will be exhibited in the Legislative Assembly Chamber beginning June 10.

The tapestries were made as part of a special project involving seven Coppermine women and a local instructor. The project was funded under the federal Inuit/Indian Community Human Resource Strategies program and administered by the territorial Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

The aim of the seven-week project, which began in February, was to develop a unique arts and crafts product in Coppermine and encourage the use of sealskins.

"Local hunters have been discouraged by the low price of sealskins and the number of seals taken in the area has decreased from 893 in 1982/83 to 323 in 1984/85. This project should increase the demand for sealskins and result in economic and social benefits for the community", according to Riki Sato, economic development officer for Coppermine.

Sealskins are also a traditional Inuit resource which the men hunted and the women cleaned and sewed, Ms. Sato added.

The ten large tapestries on display in the Assembly Chamber use whole sealskins decorated and appliqued with sealskin pieces, leather and other materials. The hangings show scenes of traditional hunting activities and games.

On completion of the project, a public exhibition was held in the community complex in Coppermine, attended by 150 people. In September, the project's instructor Ida Jane Kapakatoak will travel to Expo 86 in Vancouver to demonstrate tapestry making.

The Legislative Assembly reconvenes June 10 at 1:00. The tapestries will be on exhibit in the Assembly Chamber in Yellowknife during regular sitting hours - 1:00 to 6:00 Monday to Thursday and 9:30 to 1:00 Friday. All sittings are open to the public.

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SPEAKER TO ATTEND COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

YELLOWKNIFE (September 8, 1986) - The Hon. Donald Stewart, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, will join representatives from more than 100 other Assemblies in London, England this month to assess future directions for the Commonwealth.

Mr. Stewart will attend the 32nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference as a member of the Canadian delegation.

Issues such as terrorism, natural and man-made disasters and the situation in South Africa, along with specific questions on the future of both the Commonwealth and parliamentary democracy, are among the subjects to be addressed by the 200 delegates attending the conference from September 23 to October 1.

The conference is being held in London this year to help mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in 1911. The conference is the principal form of consultation among Parliaments and Assemblies in Commonwealth countries today.

Mr. Stewart will also attend the Sixth Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of Members from Small Countries to be held in Jersey September 20 to 23.

These special conferences allow members from the smallest branches (with populations of less than 250,000) to discuss common problems. This year, the Small Countries' delegates will consider possible responses to threats to their countries from pollution, financial domination and drug running involving larger neighbouring states.

Mr. Stewart will present two papers during discussion at the Small Countries' Conference on the parliamentary scrutiny of public spending and the future of parliamentary democracy in small states.

Delegates to the general conference will consider the Commonwealth's relationship with South Africa, as well as the future of the Commonwealth as an international association of member nations. Members will also discuss the effects of such varied economic factors as fluctuating oil prices, agricultural commodity marketing and development aid.

As well as the formal sessions, delegates will tour the Palace of Westminster, the 'mother of Parliaments', and visit the Thames Barrier, built to protect London from flooding.

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