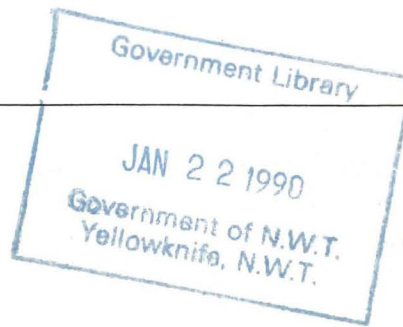


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NWT TO CONSTRUCT PERMANENT LEGISLATURE BY 1993

Yellowknife (January 18, 1990) An historic decision to construct a permanent facility to house the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories by 1993 was announced today by Speaker Richard Nerysoo.

In making the announcement on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Nerysoo said this unique and history-making project will be financed through an innovative approach to funding that requires minimal outlay of capital funds at a time when the government is facing fiscal restraint.

The question of establishing a permanent home for the Legislature has been discussed for more than 20 years. The building will be constructed on land over-looking Frame Lake, in close proximity to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. The land was set aside as a Capital site in 1968 and is already owned by the government.

"The project has been designed to create opportunities for northern investors, both individual and corporate, and to allow for design input from the people of the north. The new Legislative building will truly be a building built by the people for the people," he said.

Over the next year and a half, major planning and design for the project will take place. The building will include a Legislative Assembly Chamber, offices for MLAs and support staff, a Legislative Library, Committee and Caucus rooms, media facilities, an interpreters' area, a public gallery and reception area, and a small cafeteria. At approximately 40,000 square feet, it will be less than one third the size of the Stanton Yellowknife Hospital.

To finance the project, a private development corporation will be established to finance the construction of the building and then lease it back to the GNWT for 20 years. At the end of the lease, the government will own the building. It is expected that at least 25% of the capital cost of the project will be raised through private investment, with the balance obtained through a conventional mortgage

Ownership in the development corporation will be open to all residents and businesses in the NWT and various investment vehicles will be established to attract both large and small investors, including the issuance of bonds similar to Canada Savings bonds.

It is anticipated that large investors could include native development corporations and other large northern development companies. The general public, employees of smaller northern businesses and government, and band development corporations would also be given an opportunity to invest.

Construction of the estimated \$12 million building is slated to begin by December 1991, with completion set for approximately a year and a half later in 1993. The government's northern preference policy will apply to the construction of this very important project.

The project will be managed by the Legislative Assembly's Management and Services Board, which means that Northern people will be able to have input on the project through their local MLA. The Board is Chaired by the Speaker, the Honourable Richard Nerysoo and its members include Jeannie Marie-Jewell, Nick Sibbeston, Ipeelee Kilabuk, and Red Pedersen.

The NWT Legislature is the only one in Canada which does not have a permanent building. Since 1951, when the first three NWT electoral districts were established, the Legislative Assembly has held its sessions in a variety of locations across the north, including school gymnasiums, the banquet rooms of Explorer Hotel and its present leased facility in a complex attached to the Yellowknife Inn.

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Downe Named Director of Research at Legislative Assembly

Yellowknife (March 12, 1990) The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Richard Nerysoo, today announced the appointment of Alan Downe as Director of Research Services.

Mr. Downe holds a Masters degree in Counselling Psychology from the University of Calgary, and has an extensive background in research and systems applications.

He comes to the Legislative Assembly from the Department of Social Services, where he served as Acting Director of Alcohol, Drug and Community Mental Health Services for a ten month period. Prior to that, he was the department's first Corrections Psychologist and worked closely with the Court system in the field of forensic psychological assessment.

In 1989, Mr. Downe travelled throughout the Baffin Region as a member of the Baffin Custodial Suicide Task Force which was established to examine causes and develop solutions for the problem of inmate suicides.

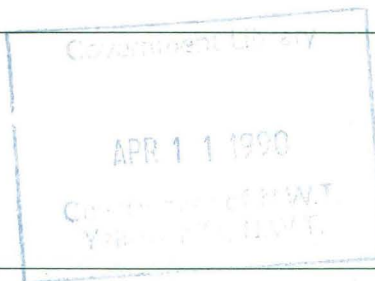
During his tenure with the department of Social Services he also coordinated a strategic planning exercise related to the development of alcohol and drug treatment services in the NWT.

Mr. Downe was raised in Kingston, Ontario, and lived in Edmonton and Calgary for close to 10 years prior to his move to Yellowknife in 1987. He has travelled extensively in the NWT, and brings to his position a broad knowledge of northern communities and issues.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE PROPOSES OFFICIAL STATUS FOR ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES

Yellowknife (April 5, 1990) Aboriginal languages moved one step closer to Official status today, with the release of recommendations by the Legislative Assembly's Special Committee on Aboriginal Languages.

In its report, the Committee proposes major changes to the NWT's Official Languages Act which would give six aboriginal languages Official status. The Chairman of the Special Committee, the Honourable Titus Allooloo, in his capacity as Minister of Culture and Communications, then formally introduced the proposed new language bill in the House.

Other members of the Special Committee are MLAs Nick Sibbeston, Peter Ernerk and Michael Ballantyne. It was created last fall during the Fifth Session of the Eleventh Legislative Assembly to review existing language legislation, prepare draft legislation dealing with aboriginal languages, review the status of the Aboriginal Languages Agreement with the federal government, review existing policies and practices of the government, and consult with aboriginal organizations on the issue of aboriginal languages.

The amendments, if passed by the NWT Legislative Assembly, would make the Northwest Territories the first jurisdiction in Canada to give aboriginal languages status as Official Languages. The amendments would apply to the six aboriginal languages spoken in the NWT: Chipewyan, Cree, Dogrib, Gwich'in, Inuktitut and Slavey.

"This legislation says that the future of the north does indeed include an important place for aboriginal people, their language and culture," said Allooloo. "The passage of this legislation would finally give official recognition to the principle that aboriginal languages deserve to be treated as full and equal partners in the linguistic family of the Northwest Territories. I do not think that it is an exaggeration to say that these proposed amendments will probably be the most important legislation many of us will ever have to consider."

Aboriginal languages have been used in debates in the NWT legislature since 1975. While some government services are already provided in native languages, right now there is no legal obligation to provide government or court services in aboriginal languages, nor is there any protection of aboriginal language rights guaranteed under present NWT law.

Committee member Peter Ermerk said, " The legislation would greatly expand the legal rights of aboriginal people with respect to the use of their language in the legislature, the courts and by government departments."

He added that the proposed new legislation also provides for printing and publication of Territorial Acts into one or more of the Official aboriginal languages after they become law, at the discretion of the government. Interpreted sound recordings of the legislative debates would also be made available to the public upon request.

In the courts, aboriginal languages could be used by any person, in any court established by the Legislative Assembly, with the advice and consent of the Legislature. As well, there are provisions for sound recordings of court decisions and judgements to be made available to people upon request, under certain practical or special circumstances.

Michael Ballantyne, a committee member and Minister of Justice said, "For most people, the real value of this law will be found in the kinds of government services which will be provided at the local level. People will want to know what new services will be provided and guaranteed by this law."

"In this area the proposed new Official Languages Act is quite clear. Any member of the public would have the right to communicate with and to receive services from any regional or community office of the government in NWT in the local native language. These regional or community services would be made available where there is significant demand for services in that language or where it is reasonable to expect that services in that government office be available in such language."

The new Act would also establish an Official Languages Commissioner with responsibility for ensuring recognition of the rights, status and privileges of each of the Official Languages, and compliance with the spirit and intent of the Act by the government and its institutions. The Commissioner would have the right to investigate reasonable complaints and make recommendations for action, and would provide a report to the Legislative Assembly each year. The appointment would be for a four-year term.

Special Committee on Aboriginal Languages member Nick Sibbeston said the decision to introduce this legislation followed extensive study and consultation with Northerners and aboriginal organizations. He said the people of the Northwest Territories told the Committee that, "not only was there an extreme need for more direct services to people, but they also expected government to demonstrate even greater leadership in meeting those needs."

At present, aboriginal people make up approximately 60% of the NWT population. Nearly 40% of NWT residents use an aboriginal language as their first language. But recent studies have shown that the use of aboriginal languages, especially by young people, is rapidly diminishing.

Allooloo said that a languages policy paper which will suggest a practical and rational approach to providing Aboriginal and French languages services is being prepared by the department of Culture and Communications. It is expected to be completed and forwarded to Cabinet for consideration in the near future. Cabinet will also be presented with information on the anticipated costs of implementing the legislation and services.

Allooloo said the financial obligations will likely be significant, but they must be met.

"The argument of fiscal restraint and tough times, should not, and cannot stand in the way of respecting and upholding fundamental rights which are guaranteed in law. Clearly, the GNWT will have to increase its own financial commitments to providing aboriginal language services."

"We are also confident the federal government will continue to recognize and honour its responsibility by continuing to provide strong and unflinching financial support for minority language programs in the north."

He said negotiations with the federal government to secure new agreements for the funding of language services will begin almost immediately.

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Chairman
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(403) 873-7113

Dave Porter
Deputy Minister
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(403)-873-7146

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A Companion Resolution modelled on the proposal put forward by Premier McKenna in March has the best prospect of solving the current constitutional impasse, according to the report. Recommendations for the content of a Companion Resolution which are of particular interest to the North include: a return to the pre-1982 formula whereby Parliament alone could create new Provinces; constitutional conferences every three years dedicated solely to aboriginal matters; guarantees that territorial leaders would be invited to First Ministers Conferences on the Constitution and the economy; and a role for territorial governments in appointments to the Senate and Supreme Court. The Report also acknowledges that provincial boundaries should not be extended into the territories without prior discussion with the territories.

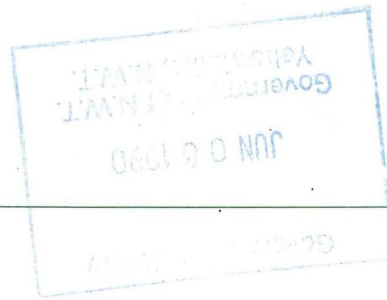
"We are encouraged by the Report's recommendation for a separate Constitutional process to deal with aboriginal matters", said the Honourable Richard Nerysoo, "The importance of this sort of process cannot be underestimated." Mr. Nerysoo expressed some reservations about the "Canada clause" which would recognize aboriginal peoples and a multicultural heritage as "fundamental elements of Canada". "The distinct place of aboriginal peoples as the first nations of Canada should not be overlooked", he said.

The NWT Special Committee will monitor progress towards resolving a stalemate over the Meech Lake Accord, as discussions leading up to a First Ministers' Conference continue.

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NWT Special Committee on Constitutional Reform
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Doug Schauerte
Committee Clerk
(403) 920-8098



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RELEASES HISTORICAL VIDEO

Yellowknife (June 7, 1990) **"History in the Making", a video presentation about the Legislative Assembly will be shown to tourists when they visit the Northwest Territories' capital this summer.**

The 10 minute presentation is designed as a public information tool, the video will be used in the Assembly's Summer Visitor Program and will also be made available to schools and through government offices across the NWT upon request.

This lively production brings the fascinating history of the development of government in the NWT to life with a lively soundtrack and bright narration. It features historical film footage interspersed with pictures of modern life to help viewers understand the rapid changes that have taken place in the development of government in the NWT. It also explains consensus government and the organizational structure of the present Legislative Assembly.

"This video will help NWT residents and visitors from all over the world to understand how our government has developed--from the days when the NWT was run from Ottawa by appointed bureaucrats, to our present system of responsible government in which elected MLAs represent the people they serve", said the Honourable Richard Nerysoo, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. "It also provides some insight into the rapid political development which has taken place in the north since the Carrothers Commission in 1966, and the complexity of the issues currently before the Legislature."

The video was produced under contract by the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation in English, French and Inuktitut. Plans are to eventually make it available in all of the NWT's official languages.

IBC won the contract to produce the video based on its reputation for technical excellence and its ability to bring together a team of northern-based media and resources to develop the project.

Northern media outlets involved in the production include the IBC Production Centre in Iqaluit, CBC Yellowknife, the Native Communications Society of the Western Arctic, Pido Productions, and Yellowknife Films. In addition, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and its Archives, Arctic College and northern

researcher Fran Hurcomb played important roles in providing material for the production, as did the CBC National News Library, and the National Archives of Canada.

Anyone wishing to view the video may arrange to do so by contacting the Legislative Assembly Public Affairs staff at (403) 920-8096 or by calling 1-800-661-0784, toll free.

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FORT RESOLUTION - JULY 3, 1990

**MORIN SLAMS GOVERNMENT DECISION ON LAND FOR
MILITARY BASE**

TU NEDE MLA DON MORIN HAS SLAMMED THE G.N.W.T. DECISION TO LEASE LAND TO D.N.D. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MILITARY AIR BASE IN YELLOWKNIFE.

"THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT HAS IGNORED ITS OWN STAFF, DEFIED THE DENE AND METIS, DENIED THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH THE RIGHT OF A FULL PUBLIC REVIEW AND HAS FALLEN UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE", SAYS MR. MORIN.

"FOR THIS GOVERNMENT TO CLAIM THAT THERE WILL BE NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS, IS A DIRECT DENIAL OF THEIR OWN COMMITTEE'S ASSESSMENT".

THE DEFICIENCIES IN D.N.D.'S PROPOSAL ARE NUMEROUS AND HAVE BEEN OUTLINED TO THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT CLEARLY BY ITS OWN COMMITTEE, THE DENE AND METIS AND MANY INDIVIDUALS.

"A STRONG PRECEDENT HAS BEEN SET IN NORTHERN QUEBEC WHERE A THOROUGH REVIEW OF A SIMILAR PROPOSAL WILL TAKE PLACE OUR GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE USED THIS PRECEDENT TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS AND RIGHTS OF NORTHERNERS", HE EXPLAINED.

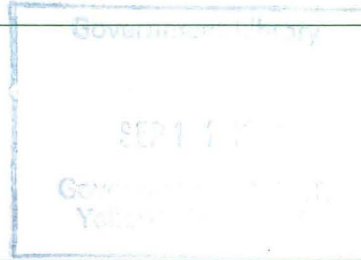
MR. MORIN BELIEVES THAT THE CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF THIS GOVERNMENT IS MEANINGLESS, "IF THEY DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO STAND UP TO D.N.D. NOW, THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD IN THE FUTURE IF D.N.D. BREAKS THEIR AGREEMENT".

MR. MORIN WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE DENE AND METIS TO ESTABLISH A FULL PUBLIC REVIEW OF D.N.D.'S PROPOSAL.

For further information call:

Don Morin
MLA, Tu Nede
Fort Resolution, N.W.T.

(403)394-3471



LEGISLATORS TO REPRESENT NWT AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Yellowknife (September 10, 1990) Two Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Clerk will represent the Northwest Territories at the 36th Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in September.

Tu Nede MLA Don Morin, Yellowknife South MLA Anthony Whitford, and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, David Hamilton, will join 225 leading Commonwealth politicians in Harare, Zimbabwe from September 11 - 22, 1990.

The CPA is an association of 10,000 Commonwealth Parliamentarians which promotes the advancement of parliamentary democracy and the improvement of understanding between member nations.

"Participation in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association provides the NWT with an opportunity to exchange ideas and information with jurisdictions from around the world. Many Commonwealth legislators are dealing with issues relevant to the NWT, such as the environment, preservation of language and culture, aboriginal rights, and the advancement of women," said the Honourable Richard Nerysoo, Speaker of the NWT Legislative Assembly. "The NWT has a lot to gain from participation in this conference, and we also have a responsibility to contribute our own knowledge and experience," he continued.

As the NWT delegate, Mr. Morin will make presentations at a number of the conference plenary sessions. Mr. Whitford will hold official observer status at the conference. Mr. Hamilton is attending in his capacity as First Secretary to the Canadian provincial and territorial representatives of the CPA .

The major focus of this year's conference will be charting a new course for the CPA, which is considered one of the world's most important international organizations. Under the heading "The Commonwealth - Future Directions", delegates will debate how Commonwealth programs and crisis response mechanisms should best operate in the international environment of the 1990s and beyond. Their findings will be relayed to Commonwealth Heads of Government for inclusion in their 1991 re-assessment of the activities of this 50-nation community.

Among the other topics to be covered are:

- helping to accelerate concrete changes toward democracy in South Africa.
- Multiculturalism - Australian and Commonwealth Experiences and their implications for other commonwealth countries.
- safeguarding human rights with reference to refugees.
- protecting developing countries from being turned into toxic waste dumping grounds.
- enhancement of the socio-economic status of women.
- co-operative efforts to tackle environmental and natural resource conservation problems.

Just before the main conference, the NWT will join the Yukon and Prince Edward Island at the 10th Annual Conference for Members from Small Countries. Its agenda includes discussions on post-secondary education costs, disaster rehabilitation, aging and immigration. More than 50 CPA Members from Parliaments and Legislatures in nations, states, provinces and territories of 250,000 people or less are entitled to be delegates to this meeting.

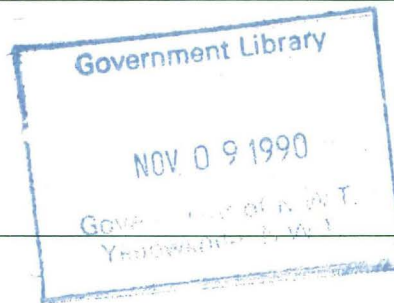
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Librarian
Government Library



NWT Passes Canada's First Environmental Rights Act

Yellowknife (November 8, 1990) **The Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly has passed a precedent-setting Private Members' Bill on Environmental Rights.**

The Bill gives environmental rights to all people of the NWT, and complements what the government has already set out under its Environmental Protection Act. It gives individual residents of the NWT the right to take direct action against any person or corporation who harms the environment, and a statutory process for doing so. It provides protection for "whistle-blowing" employees who bring actions against their employers and sets out a process for investigating complaints, laying charges and setting fines for violations.

Not only is the Environmental Rights Act the first of its kind to be passed in any jurisdiction in Canada, it is also the first Private Members' Bill to ever receive passage by the NWT Legislature. Proposed by Brian Lewis, MLA for Yellowknife Centre, more than a year of work went into developing the legislation. The method used by Mr. Lewis to gain support for his Bill is viewed as a prototype which could be used by legislators in other jurisdictions in Canada. Historically, Private Members' Bills have rarely been passed in most Canadian jurisdictions.

Mr. Lewis was praised by the Minister of Renewable Resources, Titus Allooloo for the cooperative manner in which he brought forward his legislation, allowing time for consultation with both the government and the public before it was introduced in the Legislature. "In the government's view, this cooperative effort is an indication of the strength of the consensus government process," said Mr. Allooloo.

In supporting the Bill, Peter Ernerk, MLA for Aivilik and Chairman of the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Legislation said, "Perhaps nowhere else in Canada is integrity in caring for the environment more important to the cultural survival and economic development of the people than here in the NWT. In our northern setting, every citizen has a stake in ensuring that the environment is adequately protected from pollution."

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"Work was begun on this Bill," said Mr. Lewis, " because in the very first year of the mandate of this Assembly, several Members raised the issue of the northern Arctic environment being endangered. There were several statements made in this House about PCBs, about mercury poisoning, the need to clean up DEW-Line sites, concern about uranium mining, the lack of our capability to handle oil spills."

The NWT Environmental Rights Act became law on November 7, 1990.

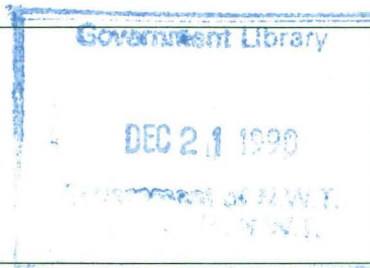
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Legislative Assembly Building Society Bonds Now Available

Yellowknife, NWT (December 20, 1990) **Bonds to help finance construction of a permanent Legislative Assembly Building for the Northwest Territories are now available for purchase.**

Mr. John Parker, Chairman of the N.W.T. Legislative Assembly Building Society announced the launch of the Society's \$5 million bond issue today. The cost of design and construction of the future home of the NWT Legislative Assembly will be covered by sale of the bonds, together with a conventional mortgage.

The bond issue is the first part of an innovative approach to funding the new building. The Assembly will lease the building from the Society for 20 years, and then own it. The Honourable Richard Nerysoo, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, announced the start of the project earlier this year. Construction is expected to be completed in 1993.

The bonds are available only to northern residents. With denominations starting as low as \$500, many Northerners will have an opportunity to invest. The general public, employees of government and northern businesses, native development corporations, northern companies, band development corporations and northern institutions could all become investors. The bonds are also eligible investments for pension funds, insurance companies, trust companies, and other regulated investment groups.

"The four series have varying minimum amounts and terms, designed to ensure the widest possible involvement for all northern residents", said Ernest Johnson of FCG Securities, the selling agent for the issue. "Our company has over twenty years of investment history in the Territories and we are delighted to be part of this historic step. The attractive interest rates, and RRSP eligibility will give Territorial residents a unique way to invest in our own future," he added.

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Mr. Parker, who was Commissioner of the Northwest Territories from 1979 to 1989, expressed his excitement at the further evolution of this project that today's bond issue represents: "We have great people from all parts of the Territories involved in the Society who have dedicated themselves to this endeavor. Our new Legislative Building will become a true place of assembly and a focal point for all of the Northwest Territories. The bonds are an opportunity for all Northerners to directly invest in their future. We also hope to see both children and adults becoming members of the Society to share the realization of this dream."

Public information seminars will be held throughout the NWT over the next several weeks. Brochures will be distributed to all communities. Application for the bonds can only be made in accordance with the Prospectus, which is available from:

FCG Securities Corporation
5107-53rd. Street
Box 2188
Yellowknife, NWT
X1A 2P6

Phone: (403) 873-8740
Fax: (403) 873-6436

For further information, contact Ernie Johnson at FCG

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