

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
6<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, 37<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 10-37

TABLED ON JULY 2, 1968

BRIEF TO THE COMMISSIONER

BY  
LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FORT SIMPSON - JUNE 1968

URGENT:

HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION NEEDS

PREPARED BY:

W. SCOTT KLIPPER M.D.  
FATHER J. LUSSON  
B.M. TRALNBERLY  
T. TRINDELL

APPENDED: Rex. #3  
Rex. #4  
RELET JUNE 1967

HOSPITAL REQUIREMENTS

FORT SIMPSON AND ENVIRONS - 1968

1. Sixteen hundred (1600)<sup>1</sup> citizens may be without hospital facilities by 1970,<sup>2</sup> when the 1931 St. Margaret's Hospital, Fort Simpson is condemned and closed as a fire hazard<sup>3</sup> to its patients and personnel.
2. If the church authorities concur with the findings of the N.W.T. Fire Marshall's report of January 1967, the hospital could be condemned and closed by them at an earlier date for the protection of staff and patients who are presently enclosed in a building which is a fire hazard and fails to meet the minimum construction requirements of the National Building Code of Canada,<sup>4</sup> 1965.
3. Renovations to bring the 1931 St. Margaret's Hospital up to minimum requirements as outlined in the Fire Marshall's<sup>3</sup> report are estimated to cost a minimum of \$250,000 (1967 estimate),<sup>2</sup> an amount the church authorities have no intention of investing in<sup>5</sup> the obsolete buildings and equipment and an amount which exceeds the present and generous assessment value of \$231,626.10, (includes hospital, employee's and Nurses' residence, Warehouse with deep freezing)<sup>6</sup>.
4. For the last two years the hospital has averaged <sup>2,5,6,8</sup> 47 deliveries per year, and

<sup>2,5,6</sup>  
228 acute medical emergencies, as well as 670 x-rays and 820 emergency out patient  
<sup>5</sup>  
procedures. Only two obstetric and 100 general medical or surgical cases required  
<sup>5</sup>  
transfer in the year 1966.

If the Fort Simpson area is without a hospital then a major expenditure will be required annually to transfer patients from the Fort Simpson area to the necessary facilities, either by private charter or P.W.A.

Further expenses will be incurred in boarding costs while patients await the bi-weekly flight to Fort Simpson.

5. The x-ray facilities are obsolete and an extreme radiation hazard to the staff and patients as no radiation shielding is incorporated in the hospital structure.

6. If Fort Simpson does not have a hospital, obtaining a full time doctor for the  
<sup>1</sup>  
area's 1600 people will be more of a problem than it is at present.

7. On the positive side, a) the present residence could be utilized for nurses for some years to come, thereby negating the immediate expenditure of monies for a  
<sup>5</sup>  
nurses residence.

<sup>2</sup>  
b) The hospital will be torn down, and the land released for the building of a  
<sup>5</sup>  
new hospital.

C) The Grey Nuns, who have served this area so faithfully for so many years, might remain to staff the Registered Nurses positions as required.<sup>5</sup>

SUMMARY

A. Hay River has a relatively new hospital, presently inadequate perhaps, and with a settled foundation, but not a hazard to its occupants or liable to be closed in the immediate future.

B. Yellowknife also has a new hospital, and though its needs are likely to increase in the near future, the staff and patients are not housed in a structure declared unsound according to the National Building Code or condemned by the Territorial Fire Marshall.

C. Fort Smith has a hospital which is safe and adequate for its present and foreseeable future. (According to the authorities which run hospitals at both Fort Simpson and Fort Smith, the needs at Fort Simpson are much more urgent).

D. Within a maximum of two years the present hospital facilities at Fort Simpson will be closed, either by order of the Church authorities or the Territorial Fire Marshall, with resulting delays, difficulties and expense in obtaining

1  
medical aid for the 1600 people of this locale, and increased difficulty obtaining  
a full time medical practitioner.

E. If financially practical and feasible, an all citizen accommodation should be  
built utilizing the central heating, dining and laundry facilities. This would provide  
care for chronic nursing patients and the elderly without occupying the acute care  
beds. Utilization of central facilities would require a smaller capital outlay for  
the total facilities.

W. Scott Klippner, M.D.  
J. Kusser  
Hospital Administrator  
J. Trundell  
Mittelman

REFERENCES

- |    |                        |       |
|----|------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Fort Simpson Residents | 900   |
|    | Fort Simpson Hostels   | 200   |
|    | Nahanni Butte          | 60    |
|    | Fort Wrigley           | 160   |
|    | Fort Liard             | 275   |
|    | Trout Lake             | 43    |
|    | Jean Marie             | 40    |
|    |                        | <hr/> |
|    |                        | 1,678 |
2. Minutes June 6, 1968 meeting of Local Advisory Council and Hospital Board.
  3. Fire Inspection report, St. Margaret's Hospital, January 1967, Office of the Fire Marshall, N.W.T. (Appended).
  4. Letter - 5 April, 1967 from office of the Fire Marshall, N.W.T., Department of Public Works, Ottawa, Ontario.
  5. Personal Communication from meeting with Father Luissou and Father Pesset, June 1968.
  6. Excerpt from the Financial Returns of St. Margaret's Hospital (certified by Chartered Accountant).

St. Margaret Hospital  
FORT SIMPSON, N. W. T.

ADDRESS REPLIES:  
DEPT. PUBLIC WORKS  
SIR CHARLES TUPPER BUILDING  
OTTAWA, ONT.



OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

April 5, 1967.

Rev. Sister Marie Lemire,  
Hospital Administrator,  
St. Margaret's Hospital,  
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.

Dear Sister Lemire:

Re: Fire Inspection - St. Margaret's Hospital -  
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.

A Fire Prevention Inspection of the above-noted building was made on January 25th, 1967, under the provisions of the Fire Prevention Ordinance of the Northwest Territories. A copy of the inspection report is attached.

The construction of the hospital does not meet the minimum requirements as required by the National Building Code of Canada, 1965. A summary of the main undesirable features is detailed on Pages 2 and 3 of the report. It is obvious that major construction changes are required if the building is to be permanently occupied as a hospital. We request that plans indicating the improvements required may be forwarded to this office for review.

If you have any questions or alternate proposals to make concerning the recommendations, we would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Yours very truly,

for R.G. Whatmough,  
Fire Marshal.

C.C. Mr. S.M. Hodgson, Commissioner  
Bishop Paul Piche, Fort Smith, N.W.T.  
Dr. G.C. Butler, Regional Director  
Mr. J.L. Madore, Territorial Hospital Insurance Services  
Mr. L. Adrian, Fire Inspector

Att.

FE:lw



St. Margaret Hospital  
FORT SIMPSON, N. W. T.



OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Report No. 1

Inspected by: L. Adrian

Date: January 26, 1967

NAME: St. Margaret's Hospital

LOCATION: Fort Simpson, N.W.T.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: A two storey wood frame building occupied as a hospital with kitchen and laundry facilities, heating plant and resident staff quarters. The hospital was constructed in 1931 with an addition to the main building constructed in 1933.

CONSTRUCTION:

Height: Approximately 26 feet from grade to peak of main roof.

Dimensions: Hospital - 130' x 40'  
Boiler room - 30' x 25'  
Addition - 40' x 20'

Roof: Bonded tar and gravel

Walls:

Exterior: Wood with galvanized steel siding  
Interior: 1/2" gypsum board - combustible fibreboard and shiplap.

Ceilings: 1/2" gypsum board and combustible fibreboard.

Floors: Wood

Insulation:  
Main walls and attic: Sawdust

OPENINGS:

Staircase: Continuous from the basement to the 2nd floor and not enclosed.

Laundry chute: Basement to 2nd storey, tin lined.

Dump waiter: Basement to 2nd storey, lined with gypsum board.

**EXITS:** The south exit doors and centre exit doors front and back, open against the direction of egress. Panic hardware is not provided for any of the exit doors.

**Basement:** Adequate in number

**First storey** Adequate in number

**Second storey** Adequate in number

**ELECTRICAL:** Main entrance and main service panels are located in the southwest section of the laundry. The wiring is then taken to the hallway opposite the kitchen to small panels. The main kitchen wiring is in conduit. The wiring to the rest of the hospital is part loomex, part sheated and part twisted cord wire. Some places the wiring is surface mounted and others, it is concealed. Many light fixtures are pull chain type. There is a 3 kilowatt emergency power plant manually operated, which is connected directly to a panel. Power can be transferred to the main panel from the generator panel.

**WATER SYSTEM:** Water enters the hospital through two  $\frac{1}{4}$ " pipes and is brought to a "T" where there is a reducing valve reducing the pressure from 40 PSI.

**FIRE HOSE AND STANDPIPES:** There are two standpipes on each floor. Each location has one length of 100 ft. galvanized line hose and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " solid stream fire nozzle.

**FIRE ESCAPES:** Outside wooden fire escapes are provided at each end of the building reaching from grade level to the 2nd storey.

**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:** All fire extinguishers in the hospital are obsolete. They are 1 1/2 gal. vaporizing liquid type. There is a 20 lb. dry chemical fire extinguisher and a 2 1/2 gal. foam type extinguisher in the Boiler room.

**FIRE ORDERS:** Fire orders are posted in the hospital.

**MUNICIPAL FIRE PROTECTION:** Volunteer Fire Brigade with 500 GPM Fire Pump carrying 500 gals. of water.

**MAIN UNDESIRABLE FEATURES:**

1. Open stairwells
2. Interior walls and ceilings partially constructed with combustible material
3. No fire alarm system

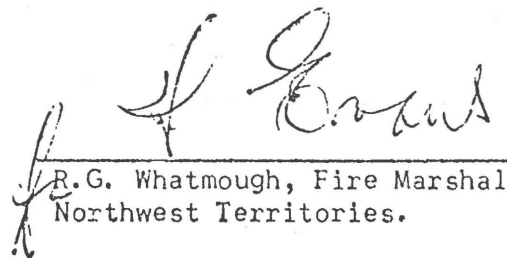
4. Sawdust insulation is used in attic and ceiling of the upper floor.
5. Transoms above each room.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The combustible sheathing and the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " gypsum board on all walls and ceilings shall be replaced by gypsum board providing a  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. fire resistance rating. This will include all open wood joists in the basement storage area.
2. The main stairwell at the basement, 1st and 2nd floor level is to be enclosed. Self-closing doors equivalent to a  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " solid wood core door, metal covered are to be provided. If windows are required in these doors only clear wired glass shall be used.
3. Solid wood core doors shall be provided in the corridor on the 2nd floor at the head of these stairs. Clear wired glass may be used in these doors. Door closers are to be provided.
4. Provide an automatic dry valve sprinkler system.
5. The sawdust insulation is to be removed where it is easily accessible and to be replaced by mineral wool insulation.
6. An electrically supervised closed circuit fire alarm system is to be installed throughout the building. Two pull fire alarm boxes to each floor. One alarm to each floor and a 6" weather proof bell installed outside on the building.
7. Panic hardware is to be provided for all emergency exit doors leading to the fire escapes and directly outside of the building. Exit doors are all to swing out in line with exit travel.
8. The transom windows to all rooms are to be removed and the area on both sides sheathed with gypsum board providing a  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. fire resistance rating.
9. The door between the boiler room and the kitchen shall be a  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " solid wood core door metal clad and provided with a door closer.
10. All old type twisted cord wiring and drop type light fixtures should be replaced.
11. The corridors leading to the emergency exits on the basement, 1st and 2nd floor shall be provided with battery operated emergency light units which will operate automatically in the event of a power failure. Units operated by dry cell batteries will not be acceptable.

12. The following fire extinguishers are to be provided:
- (a) One 1 lb. CO<sup>2</sup> outside of the dark room.
  - (b) One 4 lb. ABC Multi-purpose cartridge operated dry chemical fire extinguisher at Nurses station.
  - (c) Two pressurized 2½ gal. water type extinguishers - two to each floor.
  - (d) One 20 lb. ABC Multi-purpose dry chemical fire extinguisher - kitchen.

Request that plans be forwarded to this office for review before improvements are undertaken. If there are any alternate suggestions to be made, we would appreciate receiving them for review.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
R.G. Whatmough, Fire Marshal,  
Northwest Territories.

BRIDE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSIONER

BY LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL OF FORT SIMPSON, N.W.T.

JUNE 1, 1967

Firstly, we would like to prove that Fort Simpson does need a hospital. The Town of Fort Simpson has a permanent population of 750, which is expanded to 930 during the school year when the student residences are occupied. The surrounding settlements of Fort Wrigley, Nahanni Butte, Fort Liard, Trout Lake and Jean Marie River all look to Fort Simpson for thier primary medical care. This brings the total population that is covered by the Fort Simpson Hospital to 1500.

In 1966, 49 babies were delivered in the hospital, 278 patients were admitted for acute medical care, 820 outpatient emergencies were treated and 670 X-rays were taken. In comparison, only two obstetrical cases and approximately 100 general medical or surgical cases had to be referred outside because they required specialized treatment that could not be provided in our small hospital.

We are proud of the care that is given to the patients of St. Margaret's Hospital. This is achieved through the co-operation and goodwill of all the staff of the hospital who have to overcome the difficulties of an old fashioned physical plant.

St. Margaret's Hospital was built in 1931 with the specific purpose of caring for 50 chronic tuberculosis patients. The modern use of the hospital is very different and the building is too old, too large and yet too inadequate for our present needs.

We need a modern building which is built of fireproof material and which is provided with a sprinkle system in case of fire. We would like to see a building that would not allow sick and convalescent children to mix with maternity patients and newborn babies so that proper isolation techniques can be observed.

Our X-ray machine is old and has had to be sent to Edmonton for repair twice in the past year. With a stronger machine we could perform X-ray techniques not possible at present with less danger of radioactivity. Some of the patients sent to Edmonton were referred mainly for X-ray examinations which could have been performed here with a stronger machine. It would not be possible to put the new machine in the present hospital because there must be lead walls for the X-ray room to prevent radioactivity.

On your visit to the hospital this afternoon you saw the difficulties we have to overcome with this old building, therefore, we will not elaborate further at this meeting. We do, however, wish to impress upon you that in order to continue our present service to the community we must have a new modern hospital with added facilities.

We would like to take a few minutes now to discuss the project of a Senior Citizen's Home.

In the community of Fort Simpson and its surrounding settlements, there are 60 people who were born before the start of this century. Among these, there are 12 people who we feel are in need of immediate help in the form of improved accommodations.

In addition, there are in the hospital four long term patients who require special care, but should not take up beds in an acute care hospital.

We believe that there is a need for some sort of accommodation for the senior citizens of this community. Although it will be up to the experts to decide on the type of accommodation, we would like to suggest that it be built in conjunction with, though separate from, the new hospital so that the utilities and medical facilities may be shared.

We are confident that you will give your special and early attention to these essential needs of our community and area.



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FE:lw

Ref. #4

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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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Ceilings: 1/4" gypsum board and combustible fibreboard.

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Insulation:  
Main walls and attic: Sawdust

VERTICAL OPENINGS:

Main Stairway: Continuous from the basement to the 2nd floor and not enclosed.

Laundry Chute: Basement to 2nd storey, tin lined.

Dumb Waiter: Basement to 2nd storey, lined with gypsum board.

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FIRE ESCAPES: Outside wooden fire escapes are provided at each end of the building reaching from grade level to the 2nd storey.

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3..

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5. Transoms above each room.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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2. The main stairwell at the basement, 1st and 2nd floor level is to be enclosed. Self-closing doors equivalent to a 1 3/4" solid wood core door, metal covered are to be provided. If windows are required in these doors only clear wired glass shall be used.
3. Solid wood core doors shall be provided in the corridor on the 2nd floor at the head of these stairs. Clear wired glass may be used in these doors. Door closers are to be provided.
4. Provide an automatic dry valve sprinkler system.
5. The sawdust insulation is to be removed where it is easily accessible and to be replaced by mineral wool insulation.
6. An electrically supervised closed circuit fire alarm evacuation system is to be installed throughout the building. Two pull fire alarm boxes to each floor. One 6" bell to each floor and a 6" weather proof bell installed outside on the building.
7. Panic hardware is to be provided for all emergency exit doors leading to the fire escapes and directly outside of the building. Exit doors are all to swing out in line with exit travel.
8. The transom windows to all rooms are to be removed and the area on both sides sheathed with gypsum board providing a 3/4 hr. fire resistance rating.
9. The door between the boiler room and the kitchen shall be a 1 3/4" solid wood core door metal clad and provided with a door closer.
10. All old type twisted cord wiring and drop type light fixtures should be replaced.
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- (a) One 5 lb. CO<sup>2</sup> outside of the dark room.
- (b) One 4 lb. ABC Multi-purpose cartridge operated dry chemical fire extinguisher at Nurses station.
- (c) Two pressurized 2 1/2 gal. water type extinguishers - two to each floor.
- (d) One 20 lb. ABC Multi-purpose dry chemical fire extinguisher - kitchen.

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R.G. Whatmough, Fire Marshal,  
Northwest Territories.