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March 22, 1995

Mr. Brian Lewis
M.L.A., Yellowknife Center
Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9

Dear Mr. Lewis:

I am writing to express my concern about the desire to cut the librarian's position at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre is well positioned to collect and house all materials, published and unpublished, relating to the human history of the NWT for the people of the NWT as well as interested individuals beyond those boundaries.

If the librarian's position is eliminated, the expertise required to gather and retain published material on the history of the NWT will be lost. The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre is the logical repository for all information related to the human history of the NWT. Expertise is available at the Centre to weave all types of information together - archival, archeological, and printed - in order to achieve the clearest picture possible of the past. The librarian brings one part of this expertise to the whole. Published material on the human history of the NWT should be collected in the north and it should be collected at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre so that the best use of the staff resources is maintained.

One might argue that 'some other library' could acquire this material. Not only in the NWT but all over Canada everyone is facing the same problem - fiscal restraint. Who can ensure long term support of the acquisition of information on the human history of the NWT? While it is likely that another library would accept the collection and promise to 'keep supporting' it, there will be many pressures on the funds of the accepting institution. Despite promises, continued support cannot be assured. Control of the history of the north should stay in the north. The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre has recognised expertise in the human history of the Territories and this expertise should be maintained in one location. Support to ensure that a librarian position is retained at this Institution so that the Centre can continue to acquire the published material on the human history of the NWT is critical.

Sincerely,

Ms. Robin Minion
Canadian Circumpolar Library



