

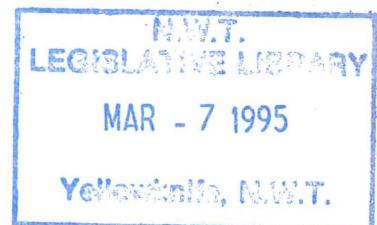


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**RESPONSE TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGENCIES, BOARDS
AND COMMISSIONS REPORT ON
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ARTS COUNCIL**

**Prepared by the
Department of Education, Culture and Employment**

February 15, 1995



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AND COMMISSIONS REPORT ON
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ARTS COUNCIL**

Introduction

The Standing Committee on Agencies, Boards and Commissions presented two recommendations in their Report on the Northwest Territories Arts Council. The recommendations and the responses of Education, Culture and Employment are discussed below.

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation:

1. That the Government grant the NWT Arts Council authority to establish a trust fund through which the Council could solicit donations. These donations would then be distributed by the Council according to their existing guidelines.

Response:

Given fiscal restraint in government, it is appropriate to encourage private sector donations in support of the arts. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment will be discussing with the Arts Council the best way to set up this trust account at its March, 1995 meeting. It is recognized that there will be increased efforts required to solicit donations, process tax receipts and make payments as directed by the Arts Council.

Recommendation:

2. That the NWT Arts Council Policy be amended to provide for a total membership of seven on the Arts Council.

Response:

At present, the Arts Council has six members, one representing each of the administrative regions of the Northwest Territories, including Yellowknife. Council members meet twice yearly. All travel costs, plus honoraria, are paid by the Department.

The Committee has also recommended that the Arts Council be provided extra time during its regular meetings to consider policy issues relating to the arts. Education, Culture and Employment concludes that the financial resources for the administration of the Council could be better used to extend the duration of the meetings for this purpose, rather than adding another member to the Council.

General Comment:

The Committee also indicated that it would like to see the Arts Council and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment work more closely with Economic Development and Tourism to ensure that eligible artists have every opportunity to access sources of funding.

Response:

Education Culture and Employment and Economic Development and Tourism officials responsible for arts funding have met to ensure that each has full information on the programs of the other department so that this information can be communicated to artists. Departmental officials have also met with representatives of the Canada Council to ensure that federal funding sources are also made available to NWT artists.

