



since 1946

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The Hon. Donald Morin
Minister of Government Services and Public Works
and GNWT Housing Corporation
Government of the NWT
Box 1320
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2L9

February 24, 1993

Info



Dear Mr. Morin:

For the past 20 years the Yellowknife Guild of Crafts has occupied the basement of the old Northern Health Association Building in a charity lease arrangement with the Department of Public Works. We have very much appreciated this support. It is our understanding from correspondence with Mike Burns that this lease agreement is due to terminate on June 30, 1993.

In response to this, we formed a building committee some time ago to seek out other arrangements. Our long term goal of coordinating with other groups to form a community centre now appears as though it may be feasible. However, for the short term, we have not found a location to move to.

We understand that in order to occupy government premises, a department must be willing to sponsor us. We would like to know if the old Northern Health Building would be available for our continued use if we can find a new sponsor. We do not anticipate needing this assistance beyond 2-3 years. The Guild is actively fundraising and could contribute towards utility costs - however, it would be a great help if this money could instead be allocated towards our long term accommodations.

I believe the Guild is worthy of outside support. It was formed in 1946 as an educational non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging and promoting good craftsmanship. It offers 10 week courses in weaving, pottery and batik in fall and spring sessions, and generally there are 8-12 courses operating concurrently. Around 100 members use the facility which provides specialized equipment and instruction not available elsewhere.

The Guild has called a special general meeting of the membership for March 11, 1993. At this meeting, we will have to determine directions for the Guild, both long term and short term. We have a substantial amount of equipment and supplies to consider moving and storing as well as the disruption of our classes. We are asking for your help in finding out the final date of our eviction and if there is room for negotiation. We would appreciate a response before our meeting on March 11 to help us clarify our options.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please call me at 873-4122.

Yours truly,

Autumn Downey

Autumn Downey
President

cc. The Hon. Michael Ballantyne
Brian Lewis
Tony Whitford
Charles Dent



