



Kitikmeot Board of Education
Coppermine, NWT

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. . 46 - 88 (2) TABLED ON NOV 1 1988

September 26, 1988
CEC Chairpersons

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Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Re: Improvement of Kitikmeot Transportation Services

This topic came up for discussion at the KBE Executive Committee meeting in Spence Bay last week. The Executive Committee is extremely concerned over the lack of appropriate air service between Coppermine and the Eastern Communities in the Kitikmeot Region. With rumors of further reductions in air service in the near future, we have prepared a petition for circulation to all Kitikmeot communities. Our reasons for initiating this petition are as follows:

Since the head office for the Kitikmeot Board of Education was relocated to Coppermine just over one year ago, we have seen considerable deterioration of our transportation links between Coppermine and the four eastern Kitikmeot communities mentioned above.

When our Board Office was first established in Coppermine, there were three NWT Air Electra flights/week connecting Coppermine and Cambridge Bay. At present, we have been reduced to one Electra flight/week and one Twin Otter flight/week. It is rumored that, in the very near future, the service will be further reduced and we may not have any Electra flights connecting Coppermine and Cambridge. Connections between Coppermine and the communities east of Cambridge Bay have been reduced as well and are down to one direct flight/week each way.

We are also concerned about the flight connections between Holman and the rest of the Kitikmeot, particularly the four eastern communities. The poor transportation links that presently exist only serve to A) separate our region into two distinct areas and B) make it both difficult and expensive for people to travel between Holman and the eastern Kitikmeot communities (including Cambridge Bay).

The present air transportation links between the Board Office and the eastern Kitikmeot make it very difficult for us to maintain the levels of educational service that are required by these communities. Not only are our costs increasing, but it has become more and more difficult to make the necessary travel connections. To give you a more complete picture of the situation, let me describe the following for you:

We have just over 1000 students in our region. Out of these 1000 students, just over 70% live in the four eastern communities of Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay and Pelly Bay. In other words, because of the poor air service between Coppermine and the east, we face ever-increasing difficulty in providing support for most of our students, parents, Community Education Councils and staff in the Kitikmeot.

We are asking each Community Education Council to assume the responsibility for administering the petition in their respective community. A copy of

the petition is attached. Provided that you are able to afford it, you may wish to hire people to circulate the petition door-to-door in the community. Also we don't want to take a chance on the petition becoming lost or delayed in the mail. Therefore, we strongly suggest that, upon completion, each petition be hand-delivered to Coppermine via NWT Air's counter-to-counter courier service. Costs incurred for the courier service can be charged directly to the Kitikmeot Board of Education via the NWT Air agent in Coppermine.

In order to ensure that all six petitions are delivered to our MLAs in time for the next session of the legislative assembly on October 12th, it is essential that we receive the petitions at Regional Office no later than October 7th. Letters have also been sent to each Hamlet Council to advise them of the petition and to elicit their support.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours truly,

Dennis Lyall
Chairperson

cc. School Prials, Kitikmeot Region
Tom Stewart
Edna Elias

-enclosure