

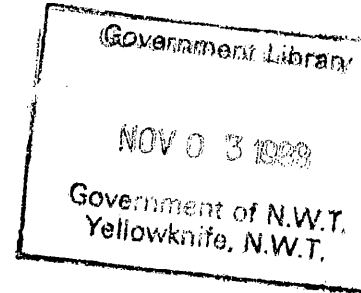


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Kitikmeot Board of Education
Coppermine, NWT

September 21, 1988

Mayors
Hamlet Councils
Kitikmeot Region



Improvement of Kitikmeot Transportation Services

Dear Mayor;

The Kitikmeot Board of Education (KBE) is seeking the support of your Hamlet Council on a very important matter. We are preparing a petition for circulation to all Kitikmeot communities and we would appreciate your consideration and support in this matter. The petition addresses the need for improved air transportation between Coppermine and the four eastern Kitikmeot communities of Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay and Pelly Bay. The petition will be distributed to all Community Education Councils (CEC's) in the region within the next two weeks and will be administered by the CEC's.

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:

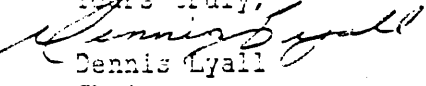
We have just over 1000 students in our region. Out of these 1000 students, just over 70% live in the four eastern communities of Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Spence Bay and Pelly Bay. In other words, because of the poor air service between Coppermine and the east, we face ever-increasing difficulty in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

This has been a summary of our concerns and, as mentioned before, any support and assistance that your Hamlet can provide to help improve the present transportation links will be greatly appreciated. That support can be shown through the passing of supportive motions, generating community publicity about the problem and/or directly assisting your CEC with the administration of the petition. If you wish to discuss the issue further, please contact either your Education Council Chairperson, the KBE Chairperson (Dennis Lyall, Spence Bay) or the KBE Director (Tom Stewart, Coppermine, 982-4402).

By copy of this letter to all Kitikmeot MLA's, we will be soliciting their support in this matter as well and asking them to provide whatever assistance possible to help us work towards a resolution of this serious problem.

Your consideration of this important matter is appreciated.

Yours truly,


Dennis Lyall
Chairperson

cc. Community Education Council Chairpersons, Kitikmeot Region
Frank Epakohak, KRC Chairperson

School Principals, Kitikmeot Region
Regional Director, Cambridge Bay
Regional Superintendents - Social Service/Renewable Resources
Bob Engels, NWT Air, Yellowknife
First Air
Air Canada
Aklak Air