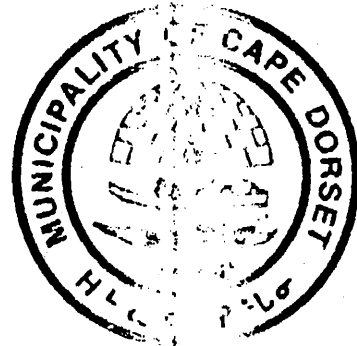
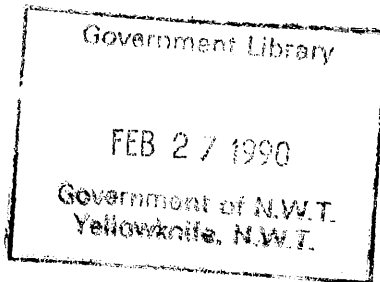


Municipality of Cape Dorset

H.L.C. P.L.O.

Cape Dorset, N.W.T. X0A 0C0
(819) 897-8973

File 444-111



FEBRUARY 22, 1990

HON. TOM BUTTERS
MINISTER,
MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
YELLOWKNIFE, N.T.

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 29 - 90 (1) TABLED ON FEB 23 1990

Dear Mr. Butters;

RE: CHANGES TO WATER/SEWER PROGRAM

During a workshop in Iqaluit this month, we learned of the proposed changes to the water/sewer cost accounting program. We were informed that these changes would take place on April 1, 1990. I was seriously upset by the method used to determine these changes with absolutely no input from the Municipalities.

When the original Cost Accounting Program was introduced, many Hamlets across the territories asked that time be taken to review the program before implementation, to assess the effects and properly prepare. At that time our recommendations were ignored and the program was implemented. The results are obvious. The program caused major problems for MACA, who were unable to calculate their budget requirements and therefore had to ask for supplementary funding. It appears that the same procedure is going to be followed on these changes as well.

The theory behind the Cost Accounting Program is sound. However, the proposed changes mean that it will no longer be a cost accounting program, but that our costs and therefore economic rates are going to be set for us. This is a complete reversal on years of G.N.W.T. attempts to reduce conditional funding and increase the authority of the local Councils.

The amounts that we are to be allowed to charge to the program for staff are dangerous and bear no relation to reality. I wonder if the people who proposed the changes have ever ridden in a service vehicle or been serviced by truck rather than piped or utilidor service? Asking our staff to have only one person in a water truck will directly decrease service to the residents of the community, who deserve not less, but increased service. It will also create unsafe working conditions for our employees. We understood that the Workers Compensation Board in one of its recent decisions stated that operating a service vehicle with one person is dangerous and unsafe.

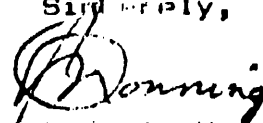
Another staff decrease is an allowance of .25 person years for the collection of sewage bags. In our community alone there are still 44 houses and 145 people who use sewage bags. Two hours a day for this work makes it impossible to handle this waste in an environmentally responsible manner.

If the Municipal Council acts responsibly and does not allow these changes to effect service or safety, it means that we will be driven into deficit situations by paying for w/s services from our normal budget. This was one of the reasons for implementing the program in the first place. It means we will have to reduce maintenance spending, staff development and training, road maintenance and land development. These are all stated priorities of the C.N.W.T. It seems as if the govt. wishes everyone to believe that these are priorities with them, but take measures to ensure another level of govt. takes responsibility for cuts to the programs.

If we had been consulted, perhaps our experience and knowledge of reality could have resulted in changes acceptable to all of us. For instance, we have felt that it may not be necessary to pay such a high subsidy for commercial and residential users. When the subsidy was put into place most of these users were paying much higher rates. Was this considered? It appears that those who drafted the changes were doing straight number crunching with absolutely no regard for the effects of the changes on the community. Of course, the changes will not effect them in Yellowknife and perhaps this makes it easier.

In summary, I wish to recommend that these changes not be implemented for a period of one year. During this time the effects can be properly appraised in a serious manner. The end result can only be a program that does what it was intended to do to the satisfaction of everyone. Perhaps then it will become a stable long term policy instead of a bandaid solution to problems which arose because of implementing the program without such review in the first place.

Sincerely,


Chadlie Manning
Mayor

cc. Mike Ferris, MACA, Iqaluit
Joe Arlooktoo, MLA, Baffin South
Ron Mongeau, Baffin Regional Council
Jim Pitt, N.W.T. Association of Municipalities
Baffin Hamlets

