

# The Diocese of The Arctic

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

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29th October '87

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Government of N.W.T.  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
Re. The Abuse of Alcohol

Dear Sir,

At the Synod of the Diocese of the Arctic which met in Iqaluit in August the problem of the abuse of alcohol which affects directly or indirectly all our people was discussed at length. We continue to encourage our people to seek local solutions to these problems and we find areas of great encouragement but we felt that there were two areas in which action by the Government would be most meaningful and appropriate, and we wish to bring these to your attention and call on you to act.

It has been the experience of many of our communities that the laws governing the sale of alcoholic beverages, namely:-

- the requirement to have a license to sell alcoholic beverages
- the observance of licensing hours
- the prohibition to sell to intoxicated persons

have not been strictly nor uniformly enforced, and when they have punishment for their infringement has been minimal and not effective as a deterrent. We would call on you to take such action as is necessary to see that this situation does not continue.

We are also very concerned about the existence of liquor warehouses in the Territories which allow alcoholic beverages to be sold in many of our communities at less than cost price, to the detriment of many peoples' health and social welfare. We strongly urge that these warehouses be closed and that Government effort be redirected to promoting systems of drug and alcohol education and rehabilitation.

I thank you for your concern in this matter and we look forward to see the actions which will be taken.

Yours truly,

Peter C. Bishop

Executive Archdeacon