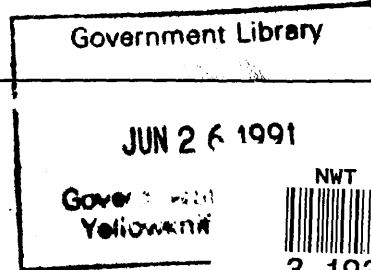


EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



Petitions tabled by Mr. Arlooktoo on February 18 & 19, 1991.

Response by the Honourable Gordon Wray  
Minister of Economic Development & Tourism

**ARTS AND CRAFTS FUNDING PRIORITIES**

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism fully recognizes the damaging impact of the current recession on the sales of NWT arts and crafts work. The Department is fully supportive of the recommendation to direct funds toward aggressive marketing activities with the goal of sustaining current market share and developing new markets for NWT arts and crafts and other cultural products both national and international. The Department is undertaking a number of initiatives which will open new markets for craft projects. These initiatives include Expo '92, commercial exhibits in Japan and the opening of a craft kiosk at the Ottawa Airport. These projects are designed to address the effect of the recession as well as ensuring long term sustainable growth within the industry. These initiatives will complement programming which may be forthcoming to the arts and crafts sector under the new Economic Development Agreement.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by Mr. Crow on February 25, 1991.

Response by the Honourable Gordon Wray  
Minister of Economic Development & Tourism

## ARTS AND CRAFTS FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism fully recognizes the damaging impact of the current recession on the sales of NWT arts and crafts work. The Department is fully supportive of the recommendation to direct funds toward aggressive marketing activities with the goal of sustaining current market share and developing new markets for NWT arts and crafts and other cultural products both national and international. The Department is undertaking a number of initiatives which will open new markets for craft projects. These initiatives include Expo '92, commercial exhibits in Japan and the opening of a craft kiosk at the Ottawa Airport. These projects are designed to address the effect of the recession as well as ensuring long term sustainable growth within the industry. These initiatives will complement programming which may be forthcoming to the arts and crafts sector under the new Economic Development Agreement.

Petition tabled by Clerk of the House on February 25, 1991

Response by the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi  
Minister of Education

**GUIDE TRAINING PROGRAM: FORT MCPHERSON**

The Department of Education recognizes the need for skilled workers in the tourism industry and has been working closely with the N.W.T. Tourism Industry Association to address training needs in the N.W.T.

The N.W.T. Tourism Training Group includes members of the Tourism Industry Association and was formed as a result of a tourism needs assessment commissioned by the Department of Education and completed in June, 1990. All training related to the tourism industry, including guide training, and access to funding for training is co-ordinated through this group.

Negotiations between the Tourism Training Group and CEIC have been completed for five level one guide training programs during 1991. These will be held in Fort Smith, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit. In addition, negotiations are currently underway for five level two guide training programs, including one program for the Western Arctic/Arctic Coast zone of which Fort McPherson is located.

These negotiations will be completed by the end of April, 1991 after which an announcement will be made indicating which communities will receive the five level two guide training programs.

Future requests for guide training programs can be directed to the N.W.T. Tourism Training Group through its co-ordinator, Colleen Proctor at 873-8061.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by Mr. Sibbeston on March 15, 1991

Response by the Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne  
Minister of Justice

## SENTENCING - CHILD ABUSE

This is in response to a petition filed on behalf of residents of Fort Simpson who denounced light sentencing in cases of child sexual abuse.

Child sexual abuse is a serious crime. It is especially serious because children are helpless victims.

The authority for sentencing rests with the independent judiciary. The Criminal Code, for which the federal government has authority under the Constitution of Canada, sets out maximum penalties for sexual assault. It does not provide further guidance for what specific sentences should be imposed. One reason for this is that there are so many factors which should be considered when a sentence is being imposed.

Some of the circumstances which judges take into account relate to the facts in the case. What is called a sexual assault can range from unacceptable touching to forced intercourse. Conduct is not considered excusable when it involves less forced contact, but it can be said to warrant a less severe punishment than that which involves a greater degree of forced physical contact.

Another factor which is often taken into account is the previous record of the offender. If there are previous sexual offences on the record of the offender then this may give a court reason to impose a more severe sentence.

If the offender uses threats, or violence apart from the act itself, then this again can lead to a more severe sentence.

Judges have the difficult task of determining what a sentence should be, given all the circumstances of the matter.

In the Northwest Territories the crown attorneys of Justice Canada prosecute offences. They have authority for the decision whether a matter should be appealed.

What I will continue to do is to express to the Government of Canada the concern of the people of the Northwest Territories with the crime of child sexual abuse.

Petition tabled by the Honourable Dennis Patterson on April 15, 1991

Response by the Honourable Michael A. Ballantyne  
Minister of Justice

DECISION IN RCMP DRUG DOG CASE

This is in response to a petition filed on behalf of residents of Iqaluit who felt that the decision of a judge, in a case dealing with the use of RCMP drug dogs, should be appealed.

I have been informed by the regional office of the Department of Justice Canada that the matter in question is being appealed. Pending that appeal I am not at liberty to make further comments on the matter.

Petition tabled by Mr. Kakfwi on April 16, 1991

Response by the Honourable Nellie J. Cournoyea  
Minister of Health

## Health Services in Yellowknife for Fort Good Hope Residents

The NWT health system has been designed, and is operated to meet the health care needs of all residents. All services cannot be made available in all communities because of the size of the NWT and its small, scattered population. Medical travel benefits are provided to transport residents to the nearest centre at which necessary and appropriate services are available.

Many of the services required by Fort Good Hope residents are already available within the community from the Health Centre staff and from visiting consultants. When hospital or other care is required the resident is referred to the Inuvik Regional Hospital. If the Inuvik Regional Hospital is unable to provide the needed hospital services the resident is then referred to another location where the necessary and appropriate specialized care can be provided.

Historically, the arrangement of health services in the NWT has been based upon delegation of the planning and management of services to the people who will be served. This has been accomplished through the designation of Regional Health Boards. Fort Good Hope is served through the Inuvik Regional Health Board, and like all other communities in the region, is represented on the board of management.

If the residents of Fort Good Hope are concerned about the services they are receiving from the Inuvik Regional Hospital they should be encouraged to address them directly through their representative on the Board of Management. The Board represents all the communities in the area and is anxious to meet the needs of the people it serves.

Petition Tabled by Mr. Whitford on April 17, 1991.

Response by the Honourable Tom Butters  
Minister of Government Services

### DEPOSIT/REFUND PROGRAM ON LIQUOR CONTAINERS

The deposit/refund program for liquor containers was designed to encourage the proper disposal of liquor containers so that bottles and cans would not be littering the Northern landscape. Tenders were issued and contracts were awarded on this basis. These contracts were awarded for a five-year period. It is inappropriate for the government to cancel a contract without reasonable cause.

However, it would be possible for the government to renegotiate with current contractors to include the requirement that returned materials be recycled. This requirement would likely necessitate the payment of a higher commission to the depot operators. Regrettably, research initiated by myself and my officials continues to indicate that there is no current market for recycled glass, therefore, it is unlikely that any realistic renegotiation action could be pursued until a market for recycled glass is identified. The government continues to seek any means to ensure that crushed glass liquor bottles can be recycled or reused.

Petition tabled by Mr. Kakfwi on April 17, 1991

Response by the Honourable Nellie J. Cournoyea  
Minister of Health

## **Health Services in Yellowknife for Norman Wells Residents**

The NWT health system has been designed, and is operated to meet the health care needs of all residents. All services cannot be made available in all communities because of the size of the NWT and its small, scattered population. Medical travel benefits are provided to transport residents to the nearest centre at which necessary and appropriate services are available.

Many of the services required by Norman Wells residents are already available within the community from the Health Centre staff and from visiting consultants. When hospital or other care is required the resident is referred to the Inuvik Regional Hospital. If the Inuvik Regional Hospital is unable to provide the needed hospital services the resident is then referred to another location where the necessary and appropriate specialized care can be provided.

Historically, the arrangement of health services in the NWT has been based upon delegation of the planning and management of services to the people who will be served. This has been accomplished through the designation of Regional Health Boards. Norman Wells is served through the Inuvik Regional Health Board, and like all other communities in the region, is represented on the board of management.

If the residents of Norman Wells are concerned about the services they are receiving from the Inuvik Regional Hospital they should be encouraged to address them directly through their representative on the Board of Management. The Board represents all the communities in the area and is anxious to meet the needs of the people it serves.



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

---

Petition tabled by Mr. Patterson on April 18, 1991.

Response by the Honourable Tom Butters  
Minister of Government Services

## REOPENING OF THE IQALUIT LIQUOR STORE

The Liquor Act states in Section 75(1) that "the Minister may establish liquor stores for the purpose of selling...." It does not provide any particular mechanism for petitioning and holding a plebiscite. However, since the Iqaluit liquor store was closed in 1976 in response to a petition of 500 residents, a similar path might be pursued.

I have asked Government Services staff to determine the background of the action taken fifteen years ago and its legal basis, to study the current situation in Iqaluit, and to request research by the Department of Justice into the legal ramifications and requirements of opening liquor stores in response to a petition.

# RESPONSE TO PETITION

No.

18-91(1)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

---

Petition tabled by Mr. Peter Ernerk on April 18, 1991.

Response by the Honourable Tom Butters  
Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs

**CHESTERFIELD INLET'S EMPLOYEES REQUEST FOR  
EXTRAORDINARY DEFICIT RECOVERY CONTRIBUTION**

The Honourable Tom Butters, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs has considered the Hamlet employees' petition request. Mr. Butters met with Council and Mr. Peter Ernerk on April 23, 1991 at a duly constituted Council meeting in Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Butters responded to the request for extraordinary funding by stating that upon receipt and analysis of the Hamlet's March 31, 1991 year-end financial statement and a 1991/92 fiscal year deficit recovery plan, he will consider an extraordinary contribution should the financial circumstances warrant such action.

Petition Tabled by Mr. Whitford on April 18, 1991.

Response by the Honourable Tom Butters  
Minister of Government Services

## DEPOSIT/REFUND PROGRAM ON LIQUOR CONTAINERS

The deposit/refund program for liquor containers was designed to encourage the proper disposal of liquor containers so that bottles and cans would not be littering the Northern landscape. Tenders were issued and contracts were awarded on this basis. These contracts were awarded for a five-year period. It is inappropriate for the government to cancel a contract without reasonable cause.

However, it would be possible for the government to renegotiate with current contractors to include the requirement that returned materials be recycled. This requirement would likely necessitate the payment of a higher commission to the depot operators. Regrettably, research initiated by myself and my officials continues to indicate that there is no current market for recycled glass, therefore, it is unlikely that any realistic renegotiation action could be pursued until a market for recycled glass is identified. The government continues to seek any means to ensure that crushed glass liquor bottles can be recycled or reused.