

PRESS RELEASE

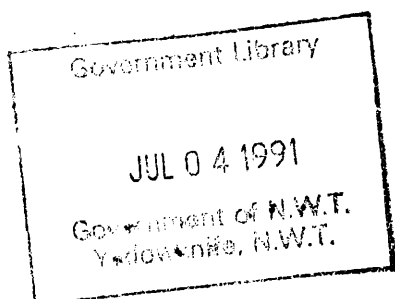
A massive devolution of territorial government programs in social services, education and economic development was among the major recommendations arising from a precedent-setting meeting of representatives from Kitikmeot municipalities, regional bodies, Inuit organizations and MLA's. Citing mounting social problems affecting a young and rapidly growing population, meeting participants called for programs and services most directly impacting communities to be placed in the hands of the level of government most familiar with community needs and resources.

"We can no longer afford to work through several layers of organization to convince bureaucrats unfamiliar with our communities about what is needed and what can be done", said Pat Lyall, Chairman of the Kitikmeot Regional Council and one of the key organizers of the meeting held at Bathurst Inlet on June 28th and 29th.

The meeting brought together Mayors of Kitikmeot municipalities, Inuit political and economic development organizations, regional bodies, and the three Kitikmeot MLA's, Nellie Cournoyea, John Ningark and Red Pederson. Costs of the meeting were borne by its participant organizations rather than through extraordinary government funding.

Among their four broad and 31 specific recommendations, participants identified the need for a greater co-ordination of programs and services at the community level, and for more resources to be made available for housing, recreation and economic development.

A full list of meeting participants and recommendations is attached. Further information can be obtained directly through meeting participants, or from Alan Maghagak, Executive Director of the Kitikmeot Regional Council at (403) 983-2574.





Education

4. That full management authority and resources for education program delivery within the Kitikmeot Region be transferred to the Regional Board of Education.
5. That a comprehensive review be undertaken of the education curriculum and programs being carried out within communities of the Kitikmeot Region to ensure that these programs meet the needs of individual communities.
6. That the grade system with higher standards for advancement be reintroduced in educational facilities within the Kitikmeot Region to ensure a greater challenge to students and maintain a high standard of educational excellence for successful students.
7. That existing education programs within the Kitikmeot Region be supplemented by introducing a focussed program specifically designed to:
  - meet the needs of students dropping out from the regular academic program
  - meet the needs of young adults seeking academic upgrading
8. That a policy be accepted within the Kitikmeot Region of moving toward the provision of higher grades in community schools, while preserving the option of residential schools outside of the community for those who prefer this alternative.
9. That municipalities and local organizations within the Kitikmeot Region exercise leadership by developing and introducing ongoing programs to bring about greater parent involvement in the school system in their community, and greater parent involvement in the educational progress of their children.

Social Services

10. That municipalities within the Kitikmeot Region prepare for the eventual devolution of social services by more actively co-ordinating the activities of community organizations and agencies providing social services within their community.
11. That municipalities within the Kitikmeot Region organize and support the formation of elders groups within their community as a key resource to local social service agencies and programs.

Recreation

19. That municipalities within the Kitikmeot Region encourage the development of a greater range of recreation programs and activities within their community, and that additional financial resources be made available to municipalities for this purpose.
20. That municipalities within the Kitikmeot Region develop a better awareness of the expertise, knowledge and resources available to them within their communities for the purpose of developing recreational activities and programs.
21. That municipalities within the Kitikmeot Region develop programs to encourage a greater community participation in recreational programs, and use of community recreational facilities.
22. That the Government of the Northwest Territories develop a more equitable formula for the funding of the capital and operations and maintenance costs of recreational facilities within communities of the Kitikmeot Region, taking into consideration the considerably higher costs of construction and facility operation faced by those communities.

Economic Development

23. That the focus of economic development activity and programs within the communities of the Kitikmeot Region should be a community economic development strategy, developed within each community and based upon their individual needs, skills, resources and opportunities.
24. That the function of Area Economic Development officers employed by the Government of the Northwest Territories, along with their direct and indirect funding, be transferred to municipalities of the Kitikmeot Region.
25. That the funding provided for approved economic development projects at the community level should be at a level sufficient to ensure the availability of an adequate standard of facilities, equipment and training.
26. That the Government of the Northwest Territories should increase its capital spending within the communities of the Kitikmeot Region to support the same level of regional facilities available to other regions of the Northwest Territories.

27. That the Government of the Northwest Territories urgently develop a program of providing funds to assist hunters and trappers in dealing with the effects of a collapsing fur industry, and that this program be similar in concept and resources to the assistance provided farmers and fishermen in southern Canada when facing similar situations.
28. That municipalities in the Kitikmeot Region, and the Government of the Northwest Territories, adopt a policy of providing a local contractor preference, in addition to the existing northern preference, for contracts within communities of the Region.
29. That municipalities of the Kitikmeot Region, and the Government of the Northwest Territories, ensure that all contracts contain strong and enforceable local hire provisions.
30. That community infrastructure such as airstrips and wharves be upgraded to support tourism and other economic development activities.

#### Financial Institutions

31. That municipalities and community and regional organizations within the Kitikmeot Region, as well as the Government of the Northwest Territories support and assist the creation of credit unions within communities of the Northwest Territories.

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PARTICIPATES

PAT LYALL - SPEAKER, KITIKMEOT REGIONAL COUNCIL  
JAMES EETOOLOOK - PRESIDENT, KITIKMEOT INUIT ASSOCIATION  
HELEN ADAMACHE - CHAIRPERSON, KITIKMEOT HEALTH BOARD  
DAN HARVEY - CHAIRMAN, KITIKMEOT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
JOE ALLEN EVYAGOTAILAK - KITIKMEOT HUNTERS & TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION  
ALEX RUBEN - VICE-CHAIRMAN, KITIKMEOT HOUSING FEDERATION  
CHARLIE EVALIK - PRESIDENT, ARCTIC COAST TOURISM ASSOCIATION  
CHARLIE LYALL - PRESIDENT, NANGIPAKVIK CORPORATION & MAYOR, SPENCE BAY  
URIASH PUQIQNAK - MAYOR, HAMLET OF GJOA HAVEN  
WILFRED WILCOX - MAYOR, HAMLET OF CAMBRIDGE BAY  
BILL ADAMACHE - MAYOR, HAMLET OF COPPERMINE  
MAKABE NARTOK - MAYOR, HAMLET OF PELLY BAY  
ISAAC ALEEKUK - MAYOR, HAMLET OF HOLMAN  
RED PEDERSEN - M.L.A., KITIKMEOT WEST  
JOHN NINGARK - M.L.A., NATSILIGMEOT  
NELLIE COURNOYEA - M.L.A., NUNAKPUT  
  
SALOME QITSUALIK - BOARD MEMBER, PAUKTUUTIT  
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JOE OTOKIAK - BOARD MEMBER, C.E.D.O.  
EWAN COTTERILL - FACILITATOR  
ALLEN MAGHAGAK - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KITIKMEOT REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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NICK AMAUTINUAR - INTERPRETER