

THE COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

---

TENTH SESSION

---

Ottawa, January 16-23, 1956

---

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

---

3 o'clock P.M.

The First Session of the Council for the year 1956, being the Tenth Session of the Council of the Northwest Territories, was convened at Ottawa at 3 o'clock P.M. on Monday, January 16th, 1956.

All members were present.

PRAYERS.

The Commissioner addressed the Council. His address is set forth in Sessional Paper No. 1.

Mr. Nicholson, seconded by Mr. Goodall, moved that the Council express to the Commissioner its appreciation for his opening address.

During the debate on the motion, the following subjects were discussed:

- (1) ~~the~~ brief presented to the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects by the Commissioner, and the benefits which the Territories may expect to derive therefrom;
- (2) the geographic and racial distribution of population in the Territories, and the effect thereon of the Distant Early Warning Line;
- (3) the desirability of the administration of the Territories being carried on from a centre located within the Territories, and the suggestion that the questions of transportation facilities, economic and social growth, and administration from a northern capital, are inter-related;
- (4) the progress which has been made in past years in the integration of the native population into the white man's mode of life;
- (5) the depressed economy in the fur industry and the fact that the present generation must not be overlooked as is sometimes the tendency when plans for the future are being discussed;
- (6) a prediction that the economic growth in the next five years would be greater than in any period since the Northwest Territories became a part of Canada. It was suggested that to ensure this development, transportation facilities must be provided in order that companies might be able to market their products. It was further suggested that the most urgent transportation need is a railroad to the south shore of Great Slave Lake, and it was contended that the corporation taxes which the federal government would receive as a result of the lead and zinc property of The Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Ltd. coming into production at Pine Point would completely repay the cost of such a railroad within fifty years. The miscellaneous other taxes received by the federal government as a result of the operation would lessen the repayment period;

- (7) the increased tonnage being carried by water transportation companies and the desirability of a further rate reduction;
- (8) the incidence of tuberculosis amongst territorial residents and steps which might be taken to reduce its prevalence;
- (9) the new education and vocational training program in the North and the desirability of giving high priority to the teaching of English to adults in order that they may more readily find employment;
- (10) improved economic conditions in the constituency of Mackenzie North due, principally, to greater activity in prospecting, and the distant early warning line operation;
- (11) the need for a road construction program within the North, not to compete with a railway but rather to commence from the south shore of Great Slave Lake where it is expected a railway would stop;
- (12) the suggestion that although the Council consists of both elected and appointed members its deliberations have been carried on in harmony and the Council as a whole is functioning well;
- ~~(13)~~ radio broadcasting facilities at Hay River;
- ~~(14)~~ hospital and medical facilities at Hay River;
- (15) migratory birds open season in the Territories;
- (16) the need for encouraging trappers to go into more remote areas; and
- (17) the desirability of limiting the debate on the Commissioner's opening address to matters coming within the jurisdiction of the Council.

On motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Council went into committee to consider further the motion on the Commissioner's opening address, Mr. Parker in the chair. Many of the subjects mentioned in the formal debate were discussed in greater detail and, in addition, consideration was given to the following matters:

- (1) the development of the new townsite of Aklavik;
- (2) the desirability of on-the-job training for equipment operators rather than sending them to points outside of the Territories for training.

Mr. Parker reported progress on the Committee's consideration of the motion on the Commissioner's opening address.

The Council adjourned at 6 o'clock P.M.

---

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1956

10 o'clock A.M.

On motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Nicholson, the Rules of the Council were suspended and the Council went into committee of the whole to discuss matters pertaining to the use of the Mace to be presented by His Excellency the Governor General, Mr. Audette in the chair.

Mr. Audette presented the report of the Committee. The Committee reported that it had considered certain amendments to the Rules of the Council, that it had considered the text of an address to be made to His Excellency the Governor General by the Commissioner on the occasion of the Mace presentation ceremony, and that it had approved a procedure for the use of the Mace by the Council. The procedure for the use of the Mace by the Council is set forth in Sessional Paper No. 2.

The Council accepted the Committee's report.

Mr. Drury, seconded by Mr. Porritt, moved that the Rules of the Council be amended, effective January 18, 1956, by the addition of the following:

"PART X - The Mace

"35. The Mace shall be present at all meetings of the Council and without it no business may be conducted other than business having to do with the Mace. When the Council is in formal session, it shall lie on the table, and, when the Council is in committee, it shall lie below the level of the table.

"36. The Secretary is responsible for the safekeeping of the Mace."

The question being put on the motion, it was carried.

Mr. Carmichael, seconded by Mr. Goodall, moved that the Commissioner make the following address to His Excellency the Governor General on the occasion of the Mace presentation ceremony:

"TO His Excellency the Right Honourable Vincent Massey,  
Member of the Order of the Companions of Honour,  
Governor General and Commander in Chief of Canada.

SIR:

We, the Commissioner and Members of the Council of the Northwest Territories in session assembled express to You, both on our own behalf and in the name of the people of the Northwest Territories of Canada, our deep appreciation for Your Excellency's gracious gesture in presenting to the Council of the Northwest Territories a Mace to be the symbol of the powers vested in it.

The people of the Territories have been deeply moved by Your Excellency's generous act and particularly by the appropriate materials selected for inclusion in the Mace. The narwhal tusk, the whale bone and the musk-ox horns are symbolic of the wildlife of sea and land upon which many of our people have always depended and will continue to depend for their livelihood. The gold and copper are suitable symbols of the minerals that are the basis of so much of the future wealth of our territory. The incised oak,

left by explorers of days long past, is a reminder of the courage of the men who first opened our northern lands to the world outside and of the age-long search for new frontiers -- a search continuing today in those parts of Canada which lie within the Territories. Surmounting all, the Crown of Edward is the Royal symbol of our great heritage from ancient traditions.

We appreciate especially the thoughtful consideration which led You to have the Mace prepared in the Northwest Territories by our own people. The Eskimo and Indian craftsmen whose skill and imagination are embodied in this splendid symbol are worthy representatives of the original inhabitants of the country for whom it is our privilege to speak.

The Council of the Territories is aware of the responsibilities which it bears in maintaining and developing for the Territories the traditions, forms and substance of responsible democracy appropriate under the system of constitutional monarchy we have the privilege to share with our fellow citizens in other parts of Canada and with the peoples of the Commonwealth. The Mace will be preserved by this Council in honour and held in esteem by the people of the Northwest Territories.

The present Council of the Northwest Territories and all Councils of the future, as well as the people of our territory, now and in the years ahead, will at all times feel most deeply grateful to Your Excellency for what you have done to-day for our territory and for our government in this gracious act.

In testimony whereof the Council of the Northwest Territories has caused this message of gratitude to be engrossed for presentation to Your Excellency.

Done by the Council  
of the Northwest Territories  
in session at Ottawa this  
seventeenth day of January  
in the year of Our Lord One  
Thousand Nine Hundred and  
Fifty-Six.

R. G. Robertson  
Commissioner of the Northwest  
Territories.

L. C. Audette  
J. Boucher  
F. Carmichael  
F. J. G. Cunningham  
C. M. Drury  
J. W. Goodall  
L. H. Nicholson  
J. Parker  
R. Porritt

Members of the Council of the  
Northwest Territories."

The question being put on the motion, it was carried.

The Council went into committee of the whole to resume its consideration of the motion on the Commissioner's opening address, Mr. Parker in the chair.

The Committee considered the scale of relief rations being issued to Eskimos, Indians and white persons in the Aklavik area.

The Committee adjourned at 1 o'clock P.M.

---

3 o'clock P.M.

The Committee continued its consideration of the motion on the Commissioner's opening address, Mr. Parker in the chair.

The Committee considered a number of matters relating to the sale and consumption of liquor in the Aklavik area.

Mr. Parker reported progress on the Committee's consideration of the motion on the Commissioner's opening address.

The Council adjourned at 4:30 o'clock P.M.

---

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1956

---

10 o'clock A.M.

The Council continued in committee of the whole to consider the motion on the Commissioner's opening address, Mr. Parker in the chair.

The Committee resumed its discussion on matters relating to liquor in the Aklavik area and agreed, that because of limited storage facilities, sales in the part-time liquor store at that point should be limited to one bottle per person on each day the store is open, and, further, that should the stocks in the store be depleted before the opening of navigation the Administration should arrange to ship in an additional supply by air.

The Committee also considered the question of hearing oral representations from private individuals or organizations relating to matters coming within the jurisdiction of the Council. It was agreed that under normal circumstances the Council should not hear oral representations but that the Council was free to hear such representations if it wished to do so. It was further agreed that should representations on any particular subject be made to the Commissioner, either orally or in writing, the Administration should study such representations and report its views and recommendations to the Council, after which the Council would decide what action it wishes to take.

The Committee adjourned at 1 o'clock P.M.

---

3 o'clock P.M.

The Committee continued its consideration of the motion on the Commissioner's opening address.

The following matters were discussed:

1. the educational program in the Territories,
2. hospital and medical facilities for the residents of Hay River,
3. the propriety of subjects being discussed in Council which do not come within the jurisdiction of the Council.

Mr. Parker presented the report of the Committee. The Committee recommended favourably on the motion on the Commissioner's opening address. The question being put on the motion, it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Cunningham tabled the following documents:

1. Orders and regulations issued by the Commissioner under various Ordinances since August 12, 1955. These Orders and Regulations are set forth in Sessional Paper No. 3.

Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Parker, moved that the following Resolution be adopted by the Council:

"WHEREAS section 4 of the Hospital Aid Ordinance requires this Council to fix rates at which public aid will be paid to hospitals in the Northwest Territories;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the rates at which public aid will be paid to hospitals under the authority of the Hospital Aid Ordinance shall be as follows:

1. Class A Hospitals - \$3.00 per patient day  
Class B Hospitals - \$1.00 per patient day  
Class C Hospitals - .50 per patient day
2. Public aid shall not be paid
  - (a) to company hospitals and nursing stations in respect of patients who are employees of the company; and
  - (b) in respect of indigents for whom the Federal Government, the Territorial Government or a municipal district pays full per diem rates."

On motion by Mr. Drury, seconded by Mr. Nicholson, the Council resolved into committee to consider the Resolution, Mr. Drury in the chair.

Mr. Drury presented the report of the Committee. The Committee recommended the adoption of the Resolution, with the following amendments:

1. Insertion of the word "company" immediately before the word "nursing", in paragraph (a) of section 2.
2. Substitute the word "persons" for the word "indigents", in paragraph (b) of section 2.

The Council accepted the Committee's report.

The Council adjourned at 6 o'clock P.M.

---

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1956

---

10 o'clock A.M.

On motion by Mr. Porritt, seconded by Mr. Nicholson, Bill 1, An Ordinance to Amend an Ordinance Respecting the Prevention of Fire, was read the first time.

On motion by Mr. Carmichael, seconded by Mr. Drury, Bill 2, An Ordinance to Amend an Ordinance to Regulate the Sale of Insurance Within the Territories, was read the first time.

On motion by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Goodall, Bill 3, An Ordinance Respecting the Revised Ordinances of the Northwest Territories 1956, was read the first time.

On motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Boucher, Bill 4, An Ordinance Respecting Expenditures for the Public Service of the Northwest Territories for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1957, was read the first time.

On motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Audette, Bill 5, An Ordinance to Amend the Game Ordinance, was read the first time.

On motion by Mr. Porritt, seconded by Mr. Carmichael, Bill 1, An Ordinance to Amend an Ordinance Respecting the Prevention of Fire, was read the second time.

On motion by Mr. Carmichael, seconded by Mr. Drury, Bill 2, An Ordinance to Amend an Ordinance to Regulate the Sale of Insurance Within the Territories, was read the second time.

On motion by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Drury, Bill 3, An Ordinance Respecting the Revised Ordinances of the Northwest Territories 1956, was read the second time.

The Council went into committee of the whole to consider Bills 1, 2 and 3, Mr. Nicholson in the chair.

Mr. Nicholson presented the report of the Committee. The Committee recommended Bills 1 and 2 without amendment and Bill 3, with amendment.

The Council accepted the Committee's report.

On motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Goodall, Bill 5, An Ordinance to Amend the Game Ordinance, was read the second time.

The Council went into committee of the whole to consider Bill 5, Mr. Goodall in the chair.

The Committee adjourned at 1 o'clock P.M.

---

3 o'clock P.M.

The Committee continued its consideration of Bill 5, Mr. Goodall in the chair.



During its deliberations the Committee discussed, amongst other matters, the question raised by Mr. Carmichael as to the desirability of placing a floor price under fur and also the question of permitting itinerant fur buying. In the course of these discussions Mr. Harford of the Fur Trade Department, Hudson's Bay Company, was questioned by members of the Committee. The discussions relating to floor prices on fur were inconclusive but there was general recognition by the Committee that the economic plight of the trapper, particularly in the lower Mackenzie, was so serious as to justify every possible inquiry and effort to ameliorate it. On the matter of itinerant fur buying, the Committee concluded it would not be desirable to authorize the practice.

Mr. Goodall reported progress on the Committee's consideration of Bill 5.

The Council adjourned at 6 o'clock P.M.

---

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1956

---

10 o'clock A.M.

Arising out of the discussion initiated by Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Porritt, moved the following Resolution:

"RESOLVED THAT:

WHEREAS the real income derived from fur trapping in the Northwest Territories is less than one third of its pre-war level, and the number of people drawing on this income is substantially increased; and

WHEREAS it is not possible for a person to live and to provide for the minimum needs of his family at the present price of fur; and

WHEREAS there does not appear to be any immediate prospect of a substantial improvement in the price of fur; and

WHEREAS the present state of economic development in the Northwest Territories does not provide alternative means of employment for any substantial number of persons now dependant on trapping; and

WHEREAS in the absence of other employment, dependance on relief can be expected to increase; and

WHEREAS the payment of relief is not only costly but demoralizing to the character of the people;

THEREFORE, the Commissioner be requested to ask the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources to request the Government of Canada most strongly to give immediate consideration to the provision of assistance to the people of the Northwest Territories through the establishment of an appropriate measure of support for the price of fur; or alternatively to take all possible measures at the earliest date to stimulate the economic development of the Northwest Territories so that alternative means of employment and income can be provided for these people."

The question being put on the motion, it was carried unanimously.

The Council went into committee of the whole to continue its consideration of Bill 5, Mr. Goodall in the chair.

Mr. Goodall presented the report of the Committee. The Committee recommended Bill 5, with amendment.

On motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Nicholson, Bill 4, An Ordinance Respecting Expenditures for the Public Service of the Northwest Territories for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1957, was read the second time.

The Council went into committee of the whole to consider Bill 4, Mr. Audette in the chair.

The Committee adjourned at 1 o'clock P.M.

---

3 o'clock P.M.

The Committee continued its consideration of Bill 4, An Ordinance Respecting Expenditures for the Public Service of the Northwest Territories for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1957, Mr. Audette in the chair.

Mr. Audette reported progress on the Committee's consideration of Bill 4.

The Council adjourned at 6 o'clock P.M.

---

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1956

---

10 o'clock A.M.

The Council continued, in committee of the whole, to consider Bill 4, An Ordinance Respecting Expenditures for the Public Service of the Northwest Territories for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1957, Mr. Audette in the chair.

The Committee adjourned at 1 o'clock P.M.

---

3 o'clock P.M.

The Committee continued its consideration of Bill 4, An Ordinance Respecting Expenditures for the Public Service of the Northwest Territories for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1957, Mr. Audette in the chair.

Mr. Audette presented the report of the Committee. The Committee recommended Bill 4, with amendments.

The Council accepted the Committee's report.

At the request of the Commissioner, the Council went into committee of the whole, Mr. Porritt in the chair, to consider a reference for advice as to whether a means test should be applied to applicants for vocational training courses in schools outside the Territories.

Mr. Porritt presented the report of the Committee. The Committee recommended that no means test should be applied to applicants for vocational training courses in schools outside the Territories.

The Council accepted the report of the Committee.

On motion by Mr. Porritt, seconded by Mr. Drury, Bill 1, An Ordinance to Amend an Ordinance Respecting the Prevention of Fire, was read the third time and passed. Bill 1 is set forth in Sessional Paper No. 4.

On motion by Mr. Carmichael, seconded by Mr. Audette, Bill 2, An Ordinance to Amend an Ordinance to Regulate the Sale of Insurance Within the Territories, was read the third time and passed. Bill 2 is set forth in Sessional Paper No. 5.

On motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Porritt, Bill 4, An Ordinance Respecting Expenditures for the Public Service of the Northwest Territories for the Financial Year Ending the 31st Day of March, 1957, as reported by the Committee, was read the third time and passed. Bill 4 is set forth in Sessional Paper No. 6.

On motion by Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Goodall, Bill 5, An Ordinance to Amend the Game Ordinance, as reported by the Committee, was read the third time and passed. Bill 5 is set forth in Sessional Paper No. 7.

The Commissioner assented to Bills 1, 2, 4 and 5, as passed by the Council.

On motion by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Boucher, Bill 3, An Ordinance Respecting the Revised Ordinances of the Northwest Territories 1956, as reported by the Committee, was read the third time.

Mr. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Nicholson, moved the following amendment to Bill 3:

- "1. That Schedule A of Bill No. 3 as read the second time be amended to include the amendments made by Chapter 5 and Schedule B of said Bill No. 3 be amended by adding thereto a description of Chapter 5.
2. That section 38 of the Game Ordinance, on page 236 of Bill No. 3 be amended by deleting the words

"prior to the commencement of this Ordinance"

and substituting therefor the words

"prior to the 30th day of June, 1953".

The question being put on the motion, it was carried unanimously, and Bill 3 was passed as amended. Bill 3 is set forth in Sessional Paper No. 8.

The Commissioner assented to Bill 3 as passed by the Council.

At the request of the Commissioner, Council went into committee of the whole to consider a reference for advice as to the time and place of the next session, Mr. Boucher in the chair.

Mr. Boucher presented the report of the Committee. The Committee recommended that the next session be held at the new site of Aklavik (East 3) commencing Monday, August 27, 1956.

Council accepted the Committee's report.

PROROGATION.