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October 28, 1993

The Honourable Jeannie Marie-Jewell MLA for Thebacha Riding

Dear Honourable Member;

We wish to bring to your attention what we feel is an unfair practise by the Government of the Northwest Territories, in charging a fee for parking at our place of employment. A fee of \$300.00 per year is being charged for "energized" stalls - but there is no alternate choice to make as there are no "un-energized" parking stalls. In our particular case there are not even enough stalls to go around could we afford to pay.

We do not dispute the fact that electricity is expensive, and it is reasonable to be expected to pay \$25.00 per month during the coldest part of the winter, when the "plugs" would activate i.e. at about -18, but, why all year round?

The amount of \$300.00 per year may not seem like too much to pay if you are part of a family where both spouses are earning a fair income; but it is seen as a hardship for single people, in particular women and single parents. These people usually occupy the lower rungs of the earnings ladder, and are the hardest hit by this additional burden. Any private transportation they have is usually in use to ensure their children reach school, and are safely home, fed and supervised after school. Fort Smith does not have a bus service, car pool, or any form of public transportation (other than a private taxi company) what alternative then for people who have to get back and forth from work in time for very valid reasons — some mentioned above?

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Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Another point, what about all the volunteer firemen/women, ambulance drivers/attendants, etc, that serve Fort Smith? Most of them work, what if they cannot afford the fee, or have no parking spaces available to them? Does the Fort Smith volunteer fabric break down?

Madame Jeannie I am sure that in reading this letter, you too will have noticed the "lack of alternatives". This must be happening in all small communities where the parking rule applies - a parking rule obviously dreamed up by someone in a city (or town) with no lack of public transit, or at least, a convenient alternate mode of transportation.

By this same letter, we are requesting your assistance and intervention. Anything you can do to alleviate this additional burden to your constituents would be greatly appreciated.

We remain,

OLITA DI GAMIL LLU. APOLADEI

Yours truly,

HARY HENDEZSON)
LOUIS SUCION
CLANG CHOUX)
TOUR COURT

Ole. Pennyeok)

PHILIPPA HOLNSBY)

FAYMOND MENARD

My Laviolette

Gail Bruke

(Tour Duncan)