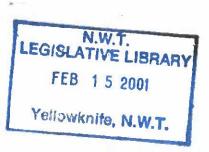


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No.

1-14(3)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by the Honourable Mr. Vince Steen on June 20, 2003

Response by the Honourable Anthony (Tony) Whitford, Speaker or the Legislative Assembly

Retention of Inuvialuktun/Inuinaqtun Translators for the Legislative Assembly Sessions

The Speaker's Office is pleased to respond to the petition presented by the Member for Nunakput. The provision for providing interpretation in the Official Languages is covered by the Board of Management Policy 1.11. A copy of the current policy is attached. The petition that you presented expresses the concern of residents in your electoral district that there is not interpretation in the Inuvialuktun or Inuinaqtun languages.

The policy does provide for public access to proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and states:

11.03. Public Access to Proceedings

The Office of the Clerk will endeavor to provide public broadcast coverage of House proceedings in as many official languages as practicable. The broadcast coverage will be provided on a rotational basis and will attempt to achieve equality of status and equal right and privileges for all official languages. Public access to proceedings will be made available in any Official Language upon reasonable request.

The petitioners do have a concern and at the time of the petition we were not rebroadcasting a portion of the sittings in the Inuvialuktun or Inuinaqtun language. You will note from the policy that the Legislative Assembly will endeavor to provide this service on a rotational basis and will attempt to achieve equality of status and equal rights and privileges for all official languages. The broadcasting of any of the official languages for public access is for an hour and a half, one day a week. The Legislative Assembly, keeping the cost implications in mind has been trying for sometime to find a solution to the concern raised by the petitioners so that the language access can be expanded. Our advice is that there is no qualified interpreter based in Yellowknife that could provide the once a week service. We had contemplated bringing in an interpreter but this could be cost prohibitive. I am pleased to advise that the Legislative Assembly is currently in discussions with the Inuvialuit Communications Society for them to provide Inunvialutun interpreters to enable the public re-broadcasting in that language. The technical details are being worked out and we hope to be in a position to test this during the session in February and March.

If it all works out, your constituents should be hearing the broadcasting of the sitting of the Assembly in Inuvialuktun.



# 1.11

# Official Languages Services

Authority: Section 42(1)(b) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act

### Context:

- Section 9 of the Official Languages Act guarantees the right to use any Official Language in the debates and other proceedings of the Legislative Assembly. Under section 4, the Official Languages of the Northwest Territories are Chipewyan, Cree, Dogrib, English, French, Gwich'in, Inuktitut (including Inuvialuktun and Inuinnaqtun) and Slavey (including North Slavey and South Slavey).
- Section 10 of the Official Languages Act provides that copies of the sound recordings of the public debates of the Legislative Assembly, in their original and interpreted versions, shall be provided to any person on reasonable request.

# 11.01 Classification for Official Languages Services

At the outset of each Legislature, the Office of the Clerk will consult with each Member to determine Official Language proficiencies and service level requirements.

#### Classification Levels

#### Essential

An Official Language will be designated as "essential" if:

- a. A Member indicates that he/she has limited or no ability in English and requires the use of another Official Language; or
- b. A Member indicates that he/she has some fluency in English but prefers to use another Official Language where possible.

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If a language is deemed to be essential, simultaneous interpretation services will be made available for all sittings of the House and all Committee meetings which the Member is scheduled to attend.

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### Provisional (As and When)

An Official Language will be designated as "provisional" if a Member indicates that he/she is fluent in English but desires to use another Official Language at times during Assembly proceedings.

In such instances, interpretation services will be provided when reasonable advance notice is given to the Office of the Clerk that such language services are desired. The contact for such requests is the Deputy Clerk and in his/her absence the Clerk of Committees. Members should endeavour to provide at least four hours notice if they wish to have provisional interpretation services available during a House or Committee proceeding. Every effort will be made to find a qualified interpreter.

#### Non-Essential

A given Official Language will be designated as "nonessential" if no Member indicates the ability to use the language during Assembly proceedings.

In such instances, interpretation services in this language will not be made available as a matter of routine procedure.

### 11.02 Translation of Documents

Written translation services, where reasonable and practicable, will be provided for designated documents in all of the "essential" languages, as well as upon reasonable request for documents in any of the "non-essential" languages. Designated documents include but are not limited to the Orders of the Day, bills or bill summaries, amendments to bills, motions and Committee reports.

# 11.03 Public Access to Proceedings

The Office of the Clerk will endeavour to provide public broadcast coverage of House proceedings in as many official languages as practicable. The broadcast coverage will be

provided on a rotational basis and will attempt to achieve equality of status and equal right and privileges for all official languages. Public access to proceedings will be made available in any Official Language upon reasonable request.

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No.

2-14(2)

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL** 

Petition tabled by Mr. David Krutko on November 14, 2000

Response by the Honourable Roger T. Allen Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs

### Water Service Rates in Fort McPherson

The residents of Fort McPherson have been concerned with the quality of their drinking water supply for several years. This year, Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) has invested nearly \$3 million to develop a new water source for the community. In the interim, the community relies on its existing water system.

The Hamlet Council raised water rates significantly to cover the high costs of maintaining the existing system and treating and testing the water.

MACA reviewed these costs and concluded that the residents could not afford the higher costs.

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, I met with the Mayor of Fort McPherson, His Worship William Koe, in Inuvik. Based on this meeting, MACA officials developed a plan to provide financial assistance to the community. MACA will arrange for extraordinary funding to cover the increased maintenance and treatment costs.

This plan will eliminate the deficit in the Hamlet's water account and allow the rates for private customers to drop back to previous levels.





no. 3-14(3)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by Mr. Krutko on November 14, 2000

Response by the Honourable Vince R. Steen Minister of Transportation

### EXTENSIONS OF THE DEMPSTER AND MACKENZIE HIGHWAYS

On Tuesday, November 14, 2000, Mr. David Krutko, the Member for Mackenzie Delta, tabled in the Legislative Assembly a petition with the signatures of 170 people from Fort McPherson directing the Government of the Northwest Territories to solicit the Government of Canada to finance the extension of the Mackenzie Highway to the Beaufort Sea and to consider an extension of the Dempster Highway to Aklavik.

Completing the Mackenzie Highway from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk on the Beaufort Sea is one of the principal elements of the Department of Transportation's Highway Strategy. It will also figure prominently as a large component in the Northwest Territories' Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy. The purpose of these initiatives is to present a compelling case to the Government of Canada that federal investment in a surface transportation link connecting the rich oil and gas deposits of the Mackenzie Valley and the Beaufort Sea with the transportation network of southern Canada is very much in the national interest and much more than a strictly regional economic development project.

The Department of Transportation has considered an all-weather road link south from Aklavik to the Dempster Highway and Fort McPherson. Technically, the low-lying lands of the Mackenzie Delta and its silty soils make for extraordinarily expensive road building. Due to its technical difficulty and great expense, the Department of Transportation has given the proposed road a low priority relative to other proposals for the development of new roads in the Northwest Territories.

The Government of the Northwest Territories appreciates the petitioners' support for the completion of the Mackenzie Highway to Canada's northern coast. Unfortunately, for the short to medium term, the construction of an all-weather road to Aklavik must defer until the Northwest Territories is in a much stronger economic and financial position.





No.

4-14(3)

#### **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Petition tabled by Mr. Leon Lafferty on November 16, 2000

Response by the Honourable Vince R. Steen Minister of Transportation

### Setting the Maximum Speed Limit on Highway #3

Under the authority of the Public Highways Act, the Minister of Transportation has the responsibility for setting the maximum speed limits on the territorial highway system. The Minister's determination of the maximum speed limit for a given section of highway is more a technical rather than a popular decision.

Over the spring and summer of 2000, several Members of the Legislative Assembly as well as people from the general public complained that driving on the unreconstructed section of Highway #3 between the Stagg River and Yellowknife had become unsafe and even dangerous. People who travel on a public highway such as Highway #3 at the posted maximum speed should do so in confidence that they travel safely and not in fear that they are thereby exposed to an undue risk.

The unreconstructed portion of Highway #3 is almost forty years old. It is well past due for reconstruction. Only rebuilding the road will strengthen its base, widen the travelling surface and straighten the curves. The project is underway but building a new road through muskeg and granite is expensive and will take several more years to finish.

Without the \$63 million necessary to advance the reconstruction program, the only other way to restore the public's confidence in the safety of Highway #3 was to slow the traffic down. Regardless of a road's physical condition, the risk of highway accidents causing injuries or fatalities drops dramatically with vehicle speed. Thus, as the Minister responsible for highway safety, I decided to lower the speed limit from 90 to 80 kilometres an hour. It was not the ideal remedy but it was the only one available to me.

I knew at the time that not everyone would agree with my decision. It may have added a few minutes to the travelling time between the Stagg River and Yellowknife but I hope that the public has gained a greater sense of confidence that they travel Highway #3 in safety.





No.

5-14(2)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by Mr. David Krutko on November 16, 2000.

Response by the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi Premier

### National Aboriginal Day

National Aboriginal Day provides an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of Aboriginal cultures to the Northwest Territories and to all of Canada.

The declaration of National Aboriginal Day as a statutory holiday in the Northwest Territories would provide an opportunity for all residents to participate in National Aboriginal Day celebrations and demonstrates the importance of the day in the NWT. For these reasons, Cabinet supports the establishment of National Aboriginal Day as a statutory holiday.

I am hopeful that a Bill to establish June  $21^{st}$  – National Aboriginal Day – as a statutory holiday in the Northwest Territories can be introduced to the Legislative Assembly in the near future.

