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Cultural Enhancement of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly Building and Grounds

April 2003

Outcrop
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MAR 30 2004
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

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Key Recommendations

In addition to providing good governance, the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories has the opportunity to continue to create a capital environment that connects all NWT residents to our diverse past and our common future. The Legislative Assembly building is a place where the visions of our Elders are being realized and the dreams of our youth can be fulfilled.

The building and grounds have the potential to contribute to pride in our diverse NWT cultures, inspire our legislators, enrich the lives of our citizens and educate our visitors. Cultural enhancement of the Legislative Assembly building and grounds can play an important role in the ongoing development of a place that symbolizes the lives and aspirations of all our people.

Recommendation #1

Designate and develop specific cultural enhancement spaces within the Legislative Assembly building that are themed. For example, a Leadership and Service Gallery, a Traditional Arts Gallery, a Community Exhibits Gallery and an Interpretive Centre Gallery. Invest in creating these spaces utilizing existing art and adding traditional arts and interpretive enhancements where required.

Recommendation #2

Outside the Legislative Assembly building, add cultural enhancements to reinforce the connection between the surrounding space and the natural environment. Add a Wildlands Boardwalk in the bog area directly in front of the Assembly, create a more welcoming and inspiring entranceway, add a new ceremonial installation close to the front entrance.

Recommendation #3

Make the addition of enhancements that build a stronger connection between the Assembly and the NWT's 33 communities a priority.

Recommendation #4

Expand the Legislative Precinct boundaries within the Capital Area to include all lands directly in front of the Assembly building.

Recommendation #5

Create a Legislative Precinct Commission, separate from the Capital Commission, to advise the Speaker and the Legislative Assembly on ongoing cultural enhancement programs, cultural enhancement commissions and purchases.

Recommendation #6

Allocate an average of \$100,000 per year over ten years to the NWT Legislative Assembly Cultural Enhancement Program.

Executive Summary

In January 2003 Outcrop Communications initiated a review of cultural enhancement opportunities associated with the NWT Legislative Assembly building and grounds. The project team consisted of two Outcrop staff and two staff from the engineering and architectural firm, Ferguson Simek Clark. The skills represented within the team include an architect, an architect/interior designer, a graphic designer/display designer and a project manager/researcher/facilitator.

The team completed a number of information and idea gathering tasks prior to beginning to develop a vision and a 10-year cultural enhancement plan for the NWT Legislative Assembly building and grounds. Among the research work undertaken by the team was a cultural enhancement audit of the Legislative Assembly building and grounds and a review of all art in the Legislative Assembly collection. The research included gathering data from members of the Legislative Assembly, public servants, artists, art collectors, art marketers, cultural organizations, museum staff and others. This involved a combination of structured, individual interviews and focus groups.

Information on cultural enhancement practices in other jurisdictions was gathered from other Canadian Legislative Assemblies and the Parliament of Canada. This research demonstrated that the NWT's exploration of cultural enhancement opportunities is very forward thinking. To some degree, the NWT is breaking new ground.

Only the Parliamentary Precinct in Ottawa has anything like a cultural enhancement program. The other Canadian territorial and provincial jurisdictions do not have comprehensive policies and programs to address this issue. However, many have useful concepts and individual practices that have been borrowed and incorporated within this report. The most useful concept that this report borrows is the designation of a "Precinct." We have included a recommendation that the NWT create a Legislative Precinct within the Capital Region.

Some of the other ideas that were borrowed from other Assemblies, and have been included in our recommendations, are:

- The preference for original art only within the permanent Legislative Assembly collection;
- The designation of "galleries" within the Legislative Assembly building to showcase art that addresses a common theme;
- The development of a gallery within the Legislative Assembly that would feature community exhibits that would change annually;
- The designation of an annual theme for exhibits and programs associated with the Legislative Assembly; and

- The creation of opportunities for temporary exhibitions of art that feature NWT artists.

The interview and focus group research phases uncovered a wealth of ideas about how the NWT Legislative Assembly could provide a richer, more culturally enhanced experience for visitors to the Assembly building and grounds.

The research presented some common themes. These included the following:

- The Legislative Assembly building needs to be made friendlier and more welcoming, in a northern way;
- The design fundamentals of the existing building should be maintained;
- The current collection within the Legislative Assembly building is seen as unplanned and not truly a balanced representation of the cultures of the current Northwest Territories;
- People don't want the Legislative Assembly to become a museum;
- People do want the Legislative Assembly to showcase the traditional arts;
- The outdoor areas should only be developed in ways that are complementary to the current urban wildlands setting;
- The people of the NWT should have a say through a committee, or some other process, about the art that goes into the Legislative Assembly building;
- The building should contribute to a sense of the history of government in the NWT;
- More public events should be held in the building to keep ordinary people involved in the life of the building;
- Cultural enhancement additions should be paid for primarily from public funds; and
- Approximately \$1 million over ten years would be a reasonable sum to invest in Legislative Assembly cultural enhancement programs and acquisitions.

Starting from this point our team developed a vision statement proposing that the cultural enhancements *"contribute to pride in the richness of our diverse NWT cultures, inspire our legislators, enrich the lives of our citizens, educate our visitors and welcome all to experience our consensus decision-making for future generations."*

The programs and installations over the next ten years should follow a number of guiding principles:

- All art and cultural enhancement installations should meet a very high quality standard;
- Precedence should be given to original art by NWT artists;
- Installations should be allowed to age naturally;

- The diversity of NWT cultural expressions should be represented within a philosophy of cultural balance;
- Specific areas should be designated for enhancements;
- Some areas should be free of enhancements;
- Special events should be included in the planning for cultural enhancement;
- An annual theme should be chosen to focus temporary or seasonal programs; and
- Outdoor installations and programs should be ongoing.

The NWT Legislative Precinct should be enlarged and precisely defined. A Legislative Precinct Commission should be created to advise the Speaker on cultural enhancement additions, commissions and annual cultural programs.

A number of areas inside and outside the Legislative Assembly building should be considered for a variety of cultural enhancement initiatives. Specific recommendations are advanced in this report for the development of 15 areas within the Legislative Assembly building and four areas outside.

The principal additions being recommended inside the building are a redesigned Welcoming Area, a Traditional Arts Gallery, a Legislative Assembly Interpretive Centre and a Community Exhibits Gallery. Outside, additions should include a Wildlands Boardwalk, a Grand Entranceway and a new Ceremonial Installation.

The estimated budget for the implementation of the program recommended in this report is \$1 million over ten years. This is a capital budget only. Operating costs associated with more extensive programming could add modestly to costs.

It should be noted that additional parking will be needed soon. Costs associated with the construction and operation of additional parking facilities are not included in this plan.

Project Terms of Reference

In its call for proposals, the Legislative Assembly set out the goal for this project.

"The goal of the cultural enhancement program is to create a vision and 10-year strategic plan to culturally enhance the interior and exterior surrounding area of the Legislative Assembly building, taking into consideration the architecture, interior design principles, an uncertain annual budget and the purpose of the building itself. The plan should also indicate what or who should be involved in the decision-making process when considering and selecting appropriate enhancements for the building."

This report addresses the considerations set out in the "Project Goal."

In order to ensure that readers of this report have a common appreciation of the term "cultural enhancement" we offer the following definition:

Cultural Enhancement: *"(1) use or display of objects of cultural expression which heighten or intensify the observer's experience of cultural or ethnic groups; (2) use of language that expresses the experience of cultural or ethnic groups; (3) use of music, theatre, art production, storytelling, and community events to provide the observer with an experience of cultural or ethnic groups."*

Data Gathering Process

Outcrop identified a number of relevant information sources that could be used to help develop a cultural enhancement vision and ten-year plan.

The three that were selected were:

- Parliamentary and legislative jurisdictions across Canada,
- Individuals with knowledge of the arts, the role of the Legislative Assembly in the culture of the NWT or expressions of NWT culture, and
- Individuals with knowledge of the variety of GNWT programs that contribute to cultural enhancement within the NWT.

Research into the programs and policies of other Canadian legislatures was conducted by telephone. No other jurisdiction has established specific cultural enhancement policies. Many have programs that contribute to cultural enhancement but are not focused within a single program or policy initiative.

Detailed notes on information provided by other jurisdictions are included in the section of this report titled "Review of Other Legislative Jurisdictions."

In order to tap into the resources of individuals with knowledge of the arts, the role of the Legislative Assembly and the appreciation of GNWT programs with a similar focus, Outcrop selected approximately 20 persons for individual interviews of 30-45 minutes in length. Of those selected, 15 were finally interviewed. None of those interviewed individually were paid for participating in the process.

We also selected approximately 40 individuals to be interviewed in one of four focus groups. Twenty-four of those selected were finally scheduled and three focus groups were conducted. Focus group participants were paid an honorarium of \$50 for their participation. Such honorariums are standard in focus group research.

Review of Other Legislative Jurisdictions

Outcrop contacted provincial and territorial jurisdictions to obtain information on cultural enhancement programs associated with other Canadian Legislative Assembly buildings and grounds. We also contacted the National Capital Commission and the office responsible for visitor services within the federal Parliament Buildings.

Telephone interviews were conducted with key personnel whenever possible. In some related cases printed information materials were received. The notes below provide an overview of how similar issues are handled in other Canadian jurisdictions.

Government of Canada

Cultural enhancement issues at the federal level are of interest to those responsible for the Parliamentary Precinct and the National Capital Commission.

The Parliamentary Precinct is defined as those buildings and grounds from the Rideau Canal to Confederation Building (including the Centre Block, East and West Blocks) north of Wellington Street to the Ottawa River. The National Capital Commission lands are much more extensive extending over a vast area in the Ottawa/Hull area.

Our report focuses only on what is done within the Parliamentary Precinct, an area similar in function to our Legislative Assembly building and grounds.

It is particularly noteworthy that the Parliamentary Precinct is the only Canadian jurisdiction to have developed a clear vision and plan for its facilities and grounds. This plan, which is called "A Legacy for Future Generations" is a detailed blueprint for renovations and new construction over the next 25 years to accommodate the needs of the Senate, the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament.

The vision is elaborated on in a document called "A Parliament for the New Millennium." In this document it says:

"Every great nation deserves a vision and a clear concept of where to go and how to get there. Creating a seat of government worthy of a vigorous, accomplished nation is clearly an important part of such a vision.

During the last year of the 20th century, visitors to Canada's Capital were invited to share their visions for the future of the Parliamentary Precinct. The survey prompted an emotional outpouring. Visitors to the Precinct said they see it first,

as a symbol of Canada's history and traditions. Almost equally important is its significance as a symbol of democracy and freedom, our systems of government, Canadian unity and of the common pride Canadians feel in their accomplishments.

Far from being thought of as a remote place reserved for politicians, Parliament Hill is regarded by many Canadians as a place they have helped to create and in which they have an important stake. On the grounds of the precinct, Canadians from every region and every ethnic background feel they are part of a great nation.

The Parliamentary Precinct, the centre of our national political life, must grow as we grow – while preserving its rich legacy.”

That vision underlies a major program of restoration, upgrading and new buildings within the Parliamentary Precinct which will cost an average of \$60 million per year for the next 25 years – a total of about \$1.6 billion.

At the same time, increased attention is being paid to the existing art, architecture and heritage treasures of the Parliamentary Precinct. Watching over these treasures is the Office of the Curator, House of Commons. The Office of the Curator, created in 1989, has as its primary role the research and documentation of the architecture, decoration, furniture, works of art and artifacts of the buildings of the Parliamentary Precinct.

Public access to the treasures within the buildings of the Parliamentary Precinct is largely by tours. The grounds of the Parliamentary Precinct are open to be explored by the public.

There is no program to add paintings or cultural heritage items other than to continue to commission paintings of Speakers, Prime Ministers and Governors General as necessary.

The ongoing stone carving program within the Centre Block continues to add to the heritage treasures that are part of the building.

Contacts: Marie Boulet, (Manager Interpretation Program)
National Capital Commission
Public Works Canada
Diane Brydon (Manager Parliamentary Tours)

British Columbia

The Legislative Assembly of British Columbia refers to its principal buildings as the Parliament Buildings. The B.C. Government defines the Legislative Precinct as not only the Parliament Buildings but also the nearby provincial government lands and buildings. There is no policy or program governing the display of art and cultural heritage items. Tradition and historical practice appear to have the most influence. Additions may be made at the request of the Speaker, the Premier, individual government departments or at the request of groups. No policy sets out how additions are to be reviewed.

Within the Parliament Buildings, which were constructed over 100 years ago, there are paintings on walls and the inside of the dome of the building. There are also framed portraits of Premiers, Speakers, Lieutenant Governors and Royal Persons. The building includes an extensive series of stained glass windows and a number of plaques that honour various contributions and celebrate important events.

The main building is focused on the central rotunda. The main dome is directly over it and the grand staircase under the main archway leads to it. The upper rotunda serves as the antechamber to the Legislative Chamber.

Outside there are numerous attractions on the grounds. The lawn of the Parliament Buildings is an important gathering place in the province for political and social demonstrations. The lawn is also used for celebrations and special events such as royal visits, symphony concerts and special festivals.

On the grounds are statues, an obelisk, a cenotaph, fountains, a 51-metre Douglas Fir flagpole, a carved totem pole and ceremonially planted trees and gardens.

The Parliament Buildings have a successful visitor program which attracts approximately 300,000 visitors per year. Tourists make up the largest number. There are also significant numbers of school visitors.

The B.C. Legislative Assembly has one of the most interesting and useful public information resources of any jurisdiction in Canada. It was produced in 2002 as a CD-ROM and is titled "Discover Your Legislature." It gives a virtual tour of the building and selected rooms, with 360-degree photo images. It also gives extensive information on the Parliament Building and the role of the Legislative Assembly.

Contacts: Karen Aitken (Coordinator, Public Education & Outreach)
Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

Alberta

The Legislative Precinct of the Government of Alberta covers approximately eight city blocks. The distance from the north end to the south end of Legislative Assembly grounds is approximately 1.5 kilometres. There are almost 30 outdoor attractions. These include many monuments, statues, reflecting pool and fountain, a bandshell, an amphitheatre, a lawn bowling green, skating rink and an interpretive centre.

There is no one policy or program governing the display or addition of art or cultural heritage items in the Legislative Assembly Building and grounds. Additions are made by the government of the day, at the request of the Premier, the Speaker or the Legislature. The collection of art in the building is described by staff as fairly static. Principal art includes paintings of former Premiers, Speakers, Lieutenant Governors, Kings and Queens. An exception to this is the collection of paintings of the "Famous Five" who were instrumental in women securing the right to vote in Canada.

Inside there is limited statuary that includes a bronze of Chief Crowfoot. Memorial plaques and Regimental Colours are displayed to honour members of the civil service who fought in wars. There are some photos displayed of other legislatures.

The building itself and the permanent art collection in public areas are managed by the Department of Infrastructure. Art in offices or meeting rooms may be from the collection of the Alberta Art Foundation, which is managed by the Department of Community Development.

The art features of the building itself, and particularly the Legislative Assembly Chamber, are pointed out to visitors. The stained glass ceiling of the Legislative Assembly Chamber is an important art feature of the building.

It is worth noting that tours of the Legislature start from a separate building about a city block away from the main doors of the main building. The Interpretive Centre features photographic displays and artifacts. A replica legislative chamber captures the history of Alberta politics and the building of the Legislature. A gift shop includes film, clothing, jewellery, art and handcrafted souvenirs. Tours are managed by the Office of Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services. Public programs on the Legislative Building grounds are also managed by Visitor Services. Opportunities are provided for the display of items related to annual themes set by the Office of Visitor Services. These may include art or artifacts. However, the displays cannot be politically partisan or used for fund raising.

Contacts: Jackie Edwards (Head, Visitor Services)
Jay Smith (Facilities Manager – Legislative Assembly Building)

Saskatchewan

The Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan building and grounds are within the Wascana Park area. Wascana is a central oasis of trees, a small lake, parkland, art galleries, museums and educational and government facilities in the centre of Regina.

Again, there is no single policy or program governing the display or addition of art and cultural heritage items. The Premier's Office has a lead responsibility for what is in the Assembly building. Responsibility for art in the building is described by staff as "piecemealed" out to a number of persons associated with different programs or offices.

The Legislative Assembly building was opened in 1912 after five years of construction. In 1998 an Emergency Restoration Project was initiated and was completed in 2001. In the course of this work some heritage items associated with the building phase were uncovered and are now on display.

The Legislative Assembly building has considerable provision for the display of various art collections. There are six galleries for art within the building – three on the main level and three on the lower level. The galleries house portraits of former Premiers, Speakers and Lieutenant Governors. They also house a native heritage collection that honours historical Aboriginal leaders. Saskatchewan Order of Merit recipients are honoured in a separate gallery.

There are some art pieces outside the galleries, mostly paintings on walls, bronze busts and wall plaques.

In 2001 a new Prince of Wales entrance was constructed as part of the restoration and at the same time the Cumberland Gallery was created. This gallery space, which had previously been used to house the Aboriginal heritage collection, is now available for art shows of limited duration (a few weeks to a few months).

Tours are available through the Office of the Clerk. The same office publishes and distributes pamphlets on various aspects of the Assembly, parliamentary educational video productions, and seminars.

Contact: Lorraine deMontigny (Director of Visitor Services)

Manitoba

The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba is housed within a large, formal H-shaped building. The art within the building is limited primarily to murals, paintings of former Premiers and Speakers, and large bronzes like the two bison which guard the base of the steps of the Grand Staircase.

There is no current pressure to change anything about the building interior or the use of art. The building is maintained by Public Works.

Portraits of many of Manitoba's former Speakers can be seen in the Speaker's Gallery of Portraits. Portraits of former Premiers hang on the walls of two of the Committee Rooms. In the large and elegantly decorated Manitoba Room, which is reserved for official functions, large oil portraits of King George V and Queen Mary grace the walls as do more current portraits of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Two large bronze bison, each weighting 2.5 tons, are prominent features within the building. There are also commemorative plaques and Regimental Colours with the building.

The Legislative Assembly chamber is unique in Canada as it is the only one in which Members' desks are grouped in a horseshoe shape. The walls and ceiling have artwork.

Tours of the building are offered to visitors. Much of the tour focuses attention on the architecture, the various marbles and stones used, the reproductions of art and architectural elements from ancient Greece and Rome, the carving detail in the stonework and similar features.

Emphasis is also given to the Golden Boy who is mounted on top of the dome of the building. Looking North to the resources and natural wealth of the province, he is symbol of youthful vitality and vision. The Golden Boy is now lit at night.

Contact: Mark Clark (Manager of Visitor Services)

Ontario

The Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario has an impressive location at the head of University Avenue. Bordered on all sides by the University of Toronto campus, Queen's Park is separated from the commercial and business districts. Museums, art galleries and hospitals are close by, as well as the U of T campus. The Legislative Assembly building at Queen's Park was built between 1886 and 1892. Prior to the construction of Queen's Park, an art collection was initiated in the 1840s. Copies of master works from Europe were commissioned. They were part of the first significant public art collection in Ontario. Many of these paintings were loaned out to Normal Schools (teachers' colleges) in the province. By the 1860s, art was added that focused on the work of Ontario artists.

When the building at Queen's Park was finished an attempt was made to reassemble the art collection. Much was brought to Queen's Park including about 30 pieces of the original collection. The collection continued to grow until around the time of the First World War (1914-1918). At that point the Ontario Art Collection was one of the most impressive in all of Canada. Much of that collection is still available to be seen in the Legislative Building.

The only paintings that have been added since that period are portraits of former Premiers, former Speakers and former Lieutenant Governors.

Indoor tours allow visitors to see much of the building including the Lieutenant Governor's suite. Twice a year an intensive and longer Art and Architecture Tour Program allows visitors to learn more about the heritage resources at Queen's Park.

On the grounds around the building there is statuary. There are statues of Sir John A. MacDonald and William Lyon McKenzie as well as a statue to officers who fell during the Northwest Rebellion. Outdoor tours in the summer focus on the architecture and monuments.

Recent initiatives allow for a broader experience for those visiting the Legislative Assembly at Queen's Park. These initiatives include legislative and community exhibits and an artists program sponsored by the Lieutenant Governor. The community exhibits are shown in first floor display cases and are changed every four months. An annual theme allows community groups to propose exhibits each year. The Lieutenant Governor's art program provides for a new group of artists to be showcased every six months in the Lieutenant Governor's suite.

Contact: Jennifer McQuestion (Inter-Parliamentary and
Public Relations Services)
Gillian Reddy-Hoss (Curator of the Government Art Collection)

Quebec

The Quebec Parliament Buildings, which house the National Assembly, were built between 1877 and 1886 just outside the old walled city of Quebec. Designed by architect Eugene-Etienne Tache, the buildings are unique. The maintenance of the buildings, services, security and public access programs are the responsibility of the President of the Assembly (Speaker).

Inspired by the Louvre, the main building is built in a square with an open courtyard in the centre. Set into the courtyard and connected by a stunning corridor decorated with stained glass is the Parliamentary Restaurant which is a feast for the eyes.

The decor within the building is very ornate. Intricately cared wood panels and carved wood trim are everywhere. In some areas, extensive use is made of stained glass. The original designer is said to have designed much of the building as a pantheon to honour the heroes of Quebec's history. To do this Tache made use of statuary, painting and coats of arms.

The National Assembly Chamber contains some very large paintings and ornate and intricate woodwork. Two paintings of great importance in the life of the people of Quebec dominate. One is a huge painting hung high on the wall above the President's Chair. It is called "The Debate on Language." The other is on the ceiling of the National Assembly. In it is inscribed with what has become the motto of Quebec - "Je me souviens."

There is limited use of contemporary art in individual offices and suites.

The most symbolic statement of the building is the flag that flies from the highest tower of the Parliament Buildings. In 1948 the Union Jack which flew on the highest pole at other Parliaments was replaced by the blue and white "Fleur de lis Flag" of Quebec.

Outside space includes statuary and a large area in front of the National Assembly that is used when people want to rally or protest.

Tours are offered by the Information Division in French and English (and by special arrangement in other languages)

Contact: Information Division

New Brunswick

The Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick is one of the oldest in Canada. It traces its beginnings to the first session of the Assembly, which was held in 1786. The present Legislative Assembly building in Fredericton was opened in 1882. The building is a provincial historic site and the intention is to preserve rather than add or enhance.

The building is maintained by the Heritage Branch of the Culture and Sport Secretariat.

The building is a three-story sandstone structure. Its central octagonal domed tower rises 41 metres above the main roof.

The main entrance opens into a vestibule containing a number of commemorative plaques, through which the visitor passes into an octagonal hallway with portraits of former Lieutenant Governors. Beyond this, to the rear, is a large spiral self-supporting staircase.

The Legislative Assembly Chamber seems very high because of the relative smallness of the floor space. The ceiling is 13 metres above the floor. The look is Victorian. There is elaborate plasterwork, use of heavy draperies, custom wallpaper and oriental-style carpets. Desk tops are tooled leather.

Most art is of earlier eras. The two largest paintings in the building are in the legislative chamber on either side of the Speaker's Chair. Both are replica paintings of work by Sir Joshua Reynolds of King George III and his consort, Queen Charlotte. The Speakers' Chair and the Clerk's desk were rescued from the 1880 fire that destroyed the old Legislative Building known as Province Hall. Some contemporary art by New Brunswick artists is displayed in the building and in individual offices on loan from the New Brunswick Arts Bank. The purpose appears to be to support and recognize New Brunswick artists.

Tours are available in English and French.

Contact: Diane Mercier-Allain (Clerk's Office)

Nova Scotia

The House of Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia is the oldest Legislative Assembly building in Canada. Opened in 1819, the building contains the ornate Red Chamber (once home to the Legislative Council – the provincial equivalent of a Senate), the Legislative Library, (once the site of the Supreme Court) and the Legislative Assembly Chamber (home of the current Assembly).

Known as Province House, the Assembly Building has been designated as a National Historic Site.

The interior of Province House is known for the fine quality of the interior detailing. Ornamental plasterwork is used throughout the building. Plasterwork of this quality, scale and period is rare in Canada. The largely 19th century style of décor reflects the phases in development and the emergence of Victorian influences. Inside there are large formal paintings and plaques. The paintings are largely of royal personages and statesmen. Paintings of former Lieutenant Governors are also displayed. Occasionally a commissioned item may be accepted. The portrait of Sir John Thompson was commissioned by a group of patrons.

In the case of a gift being offered the House Assembly, staff would discuss the appropriateness of the gift with a group of heritage advisors. On rare occasions gifts are accepted. The most recent was very old "long-case" clock. There is no interest in acquiring contemporary art or cultural heritage items.

Outside, on the grounds of Province House, there is some statuary, including monuments to Joseph Howe and a memorial to Nova Scotians who served in the Boer War.

Contact: Michael Laffin (Coordinator of Operations)

Prince Edward Island

The Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island is contained within Province House in Charlottetown. Built in 1847 as the island's Colonial Building, it was the site in 1864 of the first of three conferences that led to the creation of Canada. Province House remains to this day as the seat of the island's provincial Legislative Assembly.

Several rooms, including the Confederation Chamber where the 1864 conference was held, the library and two offices, have been restored. The building is controlled and maintained by Parks Canada.

The building also includes glass cases with historical artifacts.

The Legislative Assembly Chamber is virtually unchanged (except for restoration work) from how it looked in 1847. The desks and chairs used by members today are the same ones in use in the middle of the 19th century. Portraits on the walls in the Legislative Assembly Chamber are pre-Confederation and were painted by Robert Harris.

The building is a Canadian national shrine and offers a pre-Confederation experience.

Contact: Sharon Laiter (Parks Canada)

Newfoundland and Labrador

The Provincial Legislature of Newfoundland and Labrador has been housed in the Confederation Building since 1960 when the House of Assembly moved to the 9th and 10th floors of Confederation Building. The Chamber itself is on the main floor of the building. The focus is on the work of the Assembly which is surrounded by the offices of government.

The earlier home of the Assembly, the Colonial Building, is now the home of the Newfoundland Provincial Archives. Much of the art associated with earlier times is part of that collection and in other historic buildings such as Government House (residence of the Lieutenant Governor).

The Confederation Building was designed to house both the Assembly and the departments, boards and commissions of the provincial government. Upon completion in 1959, it had 675 rooms accommodating 1,200 employees. An extension was added in 1982 that added space for 2,000 more employees.

On the mezzanine level is a mural intended to be an allegorical representation of Newfoundland through the years before and after confederation.

The new House of Assembly, within the Confederation Building, was not fully completed until 1991. The chamber has a vaulted ceiling containing the Newfoundland and Labrador Coat of Arms in stained glass. The chamber is ringed by portraits of former Speakers of the Assembly.

Tours are available.

Contact: Office of the Speaker of the Assembly

Nunavut

The Legislative Assembly building (nicknamed the Blue Mouse during construction because of its shape and blue tinted glass) was opened in 1999.

The interior of the building is intended to reflect Inuit culture with features such as sealskin upholstery on benches and a main entrance that is reminiscent of a qamutik. Visitors enter a main lobby that separates the Assembly Chamber and the office parts of the building.

Art is distributed throughout the building and major pieces of art are displayed in the lobby area. A great deal of the art came from the collection of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories at the time of division.

An "Arts and Crafts Management Plan" has been developed and is being adapted to day-to-day needs. The Great Hall of the building is intended to be a showcase for art and exhibitions that are brought in every five or six months.

Since the building is so new, many practices are not yet established. Art collections are being acquired through purchases. Some are purchases and others commissions. For example, woven and appliqué tapestry collections have been purchased. Three large carvings to honour official symbols have been commissioned and are on display (flower, animal and bird).

A large exterior sign, with 21 faces carved into it, has been placed near the front of the building.

Contact: Tony Rose (Public Affairs Officer)

Yukon

The Legislative Assembly of the Yukon is housed in the Government Administration Building in Whitehorse. The building was constructed in 1976 and the design of both the Legislative Chamber and the building do not reflect local input.

A large tapestry, on permanent display in the Chamber, is by a West Coast artist and does not reflect the art of the Yukon.

The Government of the Yukon has its own art collection which is displayed in government offices and meeting rooms which are separate from the Legislative Assembly. The Yukon Government Arts Branch, a section of the Department of Tourism and Culture, manages this art. Art in executive offices of the government is from the Arts Branch collection and can be rotated in and out of offices from time to time. The "Members Lounge" has five large tapestries created by approximately 3,000 Yukoners.

The Foyer of the Government Administration Building does have a large painting by prominent Yukon artist Ted Harrison.

There is no program of cultural enhancement specific to the Legislative Assembly.

Contact: Patrick Michael (Clerk of the Assembly)
Ruth McCullough (Arts Branch – Art Curator)

Interview and Focus Group Highlights

The range and diversity of individual responses within the interview process makes analysis challenging. Most viewpoints had several defenders. All are worthy of consideration.

With the caution that too many general conclusions are risky, some general observations can still be made. These would include the following:

- The Legislative Assembly building needs to be made friendlier and more welcoming.
- Most people expect there will be a variety of art in the Legislative Assembly building.
- The need for balance, quality and diversity are the most common observations about items for display in or around the Legislative Assembly building.
- Most people expect to see more than sculpting and paintings in the building. They also welcome artifacts that showcase the traditional arts.
- The current collection is seen as unplanned and more a matter of hanging available art on empty walls or filling up available spaces.
- People don't want the Legislative Assembly to become a museum.
- There is the feeling there is still too much eastern Arctic art. At the same time there is a desire to feature Inuvialuit art contributions.
- The building should create a sense of history, and the history of northern government, in the visitor.
- Activities and special events that celebrate the North and its culture should be increased.
- Outdoor programs and installations that are compatible with the urban wildlands environment should be developed.
- There should be provision for a wider range of NWT citizen involvement in programs, acquisitions and development of the Legislative Assembly building and grounds.
- The Legislative Assembly should be a building for all of the North – truly a Place of the People.
- An adequate amount of public funds should support ongoing cultural enhancement programs of the legislative Assembly – the most common suggestion was that an average of \$100,000 per year should be budgeted for these purposes.
- Generally programs and acquisitions should be paid for out of public funds. Some interviewees saw a complementary role for donations and borrowings.

Individual Interviews

In order to probe the views of some stakeholders in greater depth, Outcrop interviewed a number of individuals at some length.

Those interviewed included elected officials, public servants, art professionals and architects. A structured interview process was used. The results of the interviews are summarized in relation to the individual questions used. No comments are attributed to specific individuals.

Those interviewed included the following:

John Argue, Chair, NWT Legislative Assembly Building Society
Charles Arnold, Director, PWNHC
Boris Atamanenko, Manager Community Programs, PWNHC
Dianne Boudreau, Landscape and Visual Artist
Bill Braden, MLA Great Slave, Legislative Assembly
Dan Daniels, Assistant Deputy Minister, ECE
Charles Dent, MLA Frame Lake, Legislative Assembly
Doug Doan, Assistant Deputy Minister, RWED
David Hamilton, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Karen Legresley-Hamre, Landscape Architect
Bob McLeod, Deputy Minister, RWED
Gino Pin, Architect
Gary Singer, Film Commissioner, RWED
Vince Steen, Minister of Public Works and MACA
Cheryl Voytilla, Coordinator Administrative Services, Legislative Assembly

An offer to individually interview all members of the Legislative Assembly was made through the Speaker's office. Three members offered to be interviewed.

Question #1

How would you describe the current arts and cultural heritage collections of the NWT Legislative Assembly and what would you say about them?

- Right now there is still a lot of eastern Arctic art left over from the division.
- We need to incorporate more western Arctic art into the collection.
- The quality of the art is very good and there is quite a wide range of art in the Legislative Assembly building. One of the better art collections in the North.
- The question is “how do we reflect our history” with our art? The old Speaker’s Chair, which was never used in the present building, is part of the history.
- I’m not sure there is any overwhelming impression that is created in terms of the artistic things that you see in the building.
- I’m not sure we do a very good job explaining what is the NWT cultural heritage or the Canadian cultural heritage.
- I’m sure everyone is taken by the Graham Shaws on the caucus wall and the millions of dollars worth of A.Y. Jacksons. But I don’t think we do a good job of explaining what we’ve got in the building and why it is there.
- From an artistic perspective, you walk into the Great Hall and apart from the Mace, a couple of sculptures and a few cases, all the artwork is in the back rooms.
- It strives to be representational. But in the public parts it tends to be pretty sparse.
- It strikes me that the building was done as its own art and was not to be cluttered up with additions.
- The pieces are good quality. But, it doesn’t give one the impression that it has been put together with any overall theme or vision. Off course establishing an overall vision is very difficult to do.
- In many collections in the NWT carvings tend to dominate.
- The Ledge has the makings of a very good collection.
- The place where the Speaker sits, some of the fittings, the etched glasswork. These things, that are part of the original building, are memorable.
- Nothing much of the art stood out for me.
- Eclectic.
- There’s a wide range of different types of art, but it doesn’t seem to have been planned to reflect the space it is in.
- In one room we have works by a famous Group of Seven artist but it means that in that room there is nothing that reflects the balance of our cultural make-up.
- In fairness you either do something reflective of everybody, or you don’t do anything – just have Queen’s pictures.

- A lot of what we have is very high quality but there is probably an equal amount that is just prints and just regular run of the mill stuff.
- I don't think we display things as well as we could. The location of pieces of art hasn't been very well planned.
- There should be a long-term plan as to what you are trying to achieve in certain spaces.
- I recently went on the tour and a lot of things that were pointed out were gifts from other jurisdictions.
- There is some display of diamonds, but there is probably more that can be told in that area.
- There are paintings of past Speakers and pictures of sessions. But in terms of the art, it's whatever is there, is by default. It just kind of happened. Some of the stuff has been there from Stuart Hodgson days and was there, so people just left it there.
- There have been some suggestions that the Legislative Assembly should be more representative of Dene culture. But that's hard to do because it is in the shape of an igloo.
- From what I've seen of it is very good quality.
- I think its too heavily Dene. It's not really representative of all the people in the territories. At one point (before division) there was a balance between the Dene cultural artifacts and pictures and Inuit stuff. But the Inuit stuff disappeared and it all went to Nunavut.
- They offset the whole balance because it is (now) heavily Dene.
- There was a special event (in the Great Hall) just after division that was supposed to represent the cultures of the North. There was a big tipi and Metis stuff. But there wasn't even a rusty ulu from the Inuvialuit. Nothing. Absolutely nothing. They seem to forget that this territory is made up of a large portion of Inuit and Inuvialuit.
- It's as close to a wilderness setting as you could have in an urban environment. That's the setting of the building.
- Inside is gray.
- I notice the hangings and the sculptures and the mace when I go into the building.
- To me it's a very northern building with the way it's set into the landscape. You have to go through the trees to get to the building. It's not a big open lawn to get to it. And its right near the lake.
- Landscape art is missing. We have to integrate some pieces of art that can be ephemeral or durable. They have to reflect what is happening here as an artistic point of view. Both the traditional and the non-traditional.
- There needs to be room for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal art.
- When you see the plastic plants in the Legislative Assembly chamber, there's something wrong here.

Question #2

Would you say that the Legislative Assembly has a responsibility to collect and display art and cultural artifacts that reflect the NWT? What is its role?

- The Ledge is not there to be a museum.
- Art could be collected by the Government for all the buildings. But it would be nice if the Legislative Assembly could continue to have its own personal collection.
- I don't think personally that the Legislative Assembly has a responsibility to build an art collection. However the Legislative Assembly can be a place where things get displayed --- especially if they are associated with the legislature.
- I would expect that the Ledge would have something to offer that would make it friendlier to citizens. Art would play a part in that.
- I don't know if it is the responsibility of the Legislative Assembly to collect all these things. I would hope we could work with the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre to make sure that we getting a broad range of things and that we are looking at appropriate ways to display them.
- The Ledge should be able to work with the Heritage Centre so that different things could be recycled through the Leg.
- Keeping in mind that the Prince of Wales is about a three-minute walk from the Assembly and does a good job, I'm not sure that it's the job of the Ledge. But there is a need for something in the Legislative Assembly to reflect the North to visitors—so it's matter of finding the balance. You could also set up an arrangement where the Prince of Wales could put displays in the Legislative Assembly and change them from time to time.
- I think art in the Legislative Assembly should be part of a larger program – possibly involving the museum, some of the producers and some of the Aboriginal representatives.
- We are not the museum. You want to look at a museum – you go to the Prince of Wales. In the Ledge it should be on a smaller scale.
- There needs to be some policies so that personal influences are not how decisions are made.
- The Legislative Assembly should be just that. It can be made more comfortable for the visitors and the users. But, it has to be done with discretion and understanding and it shouldn't become a gathering of other people's junk.
- If there is a need for an Art Gallery – we should consider building a gallery. If the museum is too small, we should be looking at adding to the museum. The museum is part of the site and a territorial art gallery should also be part of the site.

Question #3

If the Legislative Assembly decides to continue to build a collection, what should be the priorities in adding to the current collection of art and cultural heritage items.

- There should be artifacts rather than just art. Clothing could be displayed – for example the different types of mukluks, drums, snowshoes, baby straps and parkas.
- Show how traditional items like slippers are made. This could also be illustrated by touch screen computer with pictures and video.
- Adding a professional art curator would add important insights and perspectives on how a collection could be put together. Art curators are very good at identifying themes.
- It would be better to keep the Ledge collection distinct from other collections (like the PWNHC).
- Items that require considerable care and conservation should not be in the collection.
- Typical NWT items like birchbark baskets or quillwork, moose hair and caribou tuftings (should be here). There aren't a lot of NWT crafts on display. We have some really high quality work by northern artisans that is not being shown.
- The art shouldn't be just prints. There should be more room for (original) art. Maybe (there should be) a bit of a budget to collect originals.
- The more recent history of mining or diamonds could be brought in.
- One of the central pieces of our culture has to do with fur and I don't recall anything of that jumping out.
- You're trying to give visiting dignitaries a little taste of the North.
- You would want to capture some sense of the past but also what's happened in the 20th century. You might want a little more on mining, with diamonds in there.
- You could talk about communities and have information on communities.
- There should be more Dene art and artifacts. But unless the government tours or commissions Dene artists they're not going to get any of this stuff.
- The Legislative Assembly building should be used to showcase fashion shows and exhibitions.
- There's a lot of Dene artists. But there aren't many paintings in the Ledge made by Dene artists.
- There are lots of arts and crafts that are dying out because nobody is doing them anymore. So there should be a program to interpret these arts to visitors.
- If you talk to a member of the public, they'll probably say that the buildings should reflect northern culture.
- They might want to work out some kind of a partnership with the Prince of Wales where they display some materials from the museum on a

temporary basis and then transfer it over to the museum for the longer-term preservation.

- There's probably a need for an art gallery. But I don't see the need for a separate gallery attached to the Legislative building.
- There could be outdoor "installation art" – just for the summer. The site here is appropriate to landscape art. You can pile material -- like rocks.
- There is a need for both traditional art and non-traditional art.
- The addition of "stuff" that highlights the nature of the territories is going to occur. But that should be controlled on the basis of the need to control the integrity of the space without filling it up like you would an art gallery or a museum.
- The common areas could have displays of various natures and there should be some approach to presenting this. For example, the displays of the icons of the territory. So that was integrated into the glass wall structure.
- The covered glass wall display panels with the territorial crest are intended for the posting of notice and public information.

Question #4

Who should make the decisions about additions to the Legislative Assembly's collections of art and cultural heritage items?

- There should be representatives of whomever uses the building – both elected and non-elected.
- There needs to be some independent public validation of what goes into the building.
- There needs to be some type of expertise on the committee that can bring perspectives of architecture and design.
- There needs to be representation from the various Aboriginal cultures.
- There needs to be continuity and an overlap of terms on the committee – perhaps people could be on for three years and one-third could be replaced each year.
- In the end the Speaker should decide, but a lot of other people should have their input including different settlement regions.
- Because it is “the people’s building”, there should be a Board or an art selection committee. All cultures should be represented.
- The PWNHC should make the decisions in conjunction with the Board of Management .
- There are some things like the portraits of Speakers that should be the prerogative of the Assembly but on a broader basis the Prince of Wales could be involved.
- There needs to be some sort of public input.
- There should be appointments -- something like the Arts Advisory Panel.
- There could be merit in having a representative from the NWT Arts Council.
- The Ledge is very public and so therefore there should be greater public representation.
- Artists may have difficulty separating their role on a committee from their role as an artist. This could be a perception/reality problem as well.
- A committee should be created that would include people from outside the capital, perhaps representation regionally. Also represent some of the artistic disciplines. Such a group could define the vision and take the work forward.
- It would be great for the grass roots to bring a message in some way as to what we wanted to see.
- The committee should be given a title that gives it some distinction like Legislative Assembly Ceremonies, Celebration and Grounds.
- There should be a group with representation from the arts bodies, like the NWT Arts Council, as well as someone from the building. There should also be someone from the Prince of Wales. You just need to make sure there is a good cross section. You might also want to involve somebody who is tied into the architectural company that designed the building.

- I think cultural enhancement is right in the mandate of the Prince of Wales. I can't think of anyone better. They should do it.
- I think it's a good idea to have some sort of representative group involved. Maybe you could have a group that makes recommendations to a group of MLAs or to the Speaker.
- That's a real difficult process. Whoever does it, they could probably use some of the expertise from the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.
- Probably the MLAs will want to have some influence so that people from their regions are represented in the various forms.
- The story of the mixing of peoples through marriage to form unique northern peoples is missing.
- There is a constant pressure by organizations to display "stuff" in the building itself. Mining people want displays. Aboriginal groups want displays. This study should address how this is received by the building operators and then presented.
- I can see developing a system within the Great Hall to actually display stuff on a rotational basis more appropriately.
- Because of the light pouring into the build whatever is displayed on the walls has to be allowed to deteriorate. You can't effectively cut natural light out.
- There should be someone who is in control who knows something about art.

Question #5

What should be the vision of cultural enhancement that guides the decision makers? What would be the priorities?

- The history of development of the Assembly should be a cornerstone.
- The building needs to be visited.
- The building needs to be functional.
- The vision needs to represent the whole territory.
- There should be more history on the art that is in the building and the artists whose work is displayed.
- Reflect the culture and heritage of the Northwest Territories and important events that have happened in the Legislature over time.
- Some sort of representation of the various cultures of the NWT.
- Feature objects that contribute to a sense of celebration of the people of the NWT and of creativity.
- There should be both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal northern art.
- One needs to step back and answer some basic questions. What is the purpose of the collection? Is this being acquired as a collection of great art or to show the cultural diversity and expression of art in the NWT?
- It would need to identify the modes of cultural expression as they are translated into artwork and arts and crafts that are suited to display.
- The collection should be primarily cultural rather than artistic.
- It might be too limiting to have a theme that focused only on government – but the Ledge is about bringing people together – interactions.
- The architects who originally designed the building may also be good ones to make recommendations on what would exhibit well.
- The collection should reflect the changing nature of social development in the territory – related perhaps to the history of governance.
- Should reflect the uniqueness of the type of government we have up here.
- Should reflect, how the NWT has come to be, what it is and how it is governed.
- This is a building for all of the North. So anyone, if they come from Tuk or Fort Smith or Yellowknife, they should see themselves reflected in it. It should be a building that reflects the public. It should reflect the whole Northwest Territories back to the people of the Northwest Territories.
- There could be one sort of theme in an area. There needs to be a plan for what you are trying to achieve in a certain space. Someone needs to look at the building and determine what is going to be appropriate in certain areas.
- Diversification is a theme. Diversity. A blend of new and old. Valuing the past but welcoming the future. Nurturing the resources. Attachment to the land.
- They need to identify very clearly whom they are directing this to. That might help to steer things.

- The Legislative Assembly should be used as a venue to promote current and past artists and craftsmen. Arts and crafts reflect the culture of the people.
- Hanging pictures on the wall is not going to save the whole arts and crafts industry but it can play a part in promoting arts and crafts and culture in the Northwest Territories.
- You need to look at some traditional pieces of work that are out there. But also look at new and emerging types of art. And maybe even some of the revival types of things that are going on.
- Vision should be representative and traditional for the most part.
- It has to reflect the modern world, but also respect a lot of the traditional land-based activities.
- There's also the performing arts and they should be accommodated as well.
- Do we have anything to reflect the diamond industry and the oil and gas industry?
- History is important. If you were to tour the assemblies down South you would find that there's history and pictures in those assemblies.
- What we spend on art should represent the proportion of people in the North. Its not just Dene. We're forgetting the people that make up the other half of the territory. And Yellowknife is now 90% non-Aboriginal and there's no representation of that.
- If the building is seen as remote, there need to have performances that bring more people to the building.
- Artists' work and art competitions could be displayed in the Great Hall.
- We need a cultural centre. If we have an Art Gallery, it should be connected to a cultural centre. It needs to be something that generates money. There must be a solution.
- The building needs to continue to provide public space and have programming that invites the public to come into the building. The public should feel that the space belongs to them.
- The building should also continue to encourage the public to feel that the space where public decisions were being made was open to them. That's why the chambers are open to the public area.

Question #6

Over the next ten years how much should the Legislative Assembly spend each year to commission or purchase work that culturally enhances the Legislative Assembly building and grounds? Should donations be a part of that?

- The work should be purchased with public money and approximately \$100,000 per year should be budgeted.
- There should be perhaps a 60/40 split -- purchases/donations.
- You're looking at \$5,000, at least, per painting.
- Perhaps a million a year if you included outside structures.
- Somewhere between \$100,000 and a million a year – it's not a cheap project – you pay for what you get.
- I would say the majority (of additions to the collection) should be purchases. The Leg should not take money away from what is being donated to the non-profits.
- We shouldn't be out soliciting donations.
- You can't do much for less than \$100,000 a year – so a million for ten years. That would just be maintenance and routine additions. It wouldn't provide for any capital for construction of a facility like a gallery.
- Donations are hit and miss and may take a lot of negotiating time.
- Something on the order of \$100,000 a year over ten years would build a comprehensive collection.
- Commissioning has its challenges since you're not always sure what you will get.
- I think it is important to seek donations and give credit for original work to originators.
- Direct purchases are also appropriate.
- A small percentage of one of the budgetary envelopes should be considered.
- Do we have anything to reflect the diamond industry and the oil and gas industry?
- Donations may not reflect the nature of the North. Down by the cafeteria there is this great big bison head. It's incongruous the way it sits there.
- The budget can't be a big one. At the very top, not more than \$5,000 dedicated to it annually.
- I don't know if donations would be the best route.
- This isn't an independent project. It should be taken in a larger context. Money should be connected to the Prince of Wales.
- I think there should be a combination of three things – donations, borrowing and purchases.
- If we coordinate with the Development Corporation and the Museum it would be better.
- They'd probably have to spend at least \$100,000 per year.

- Its not only the acquisition of the art. There would need to be a budget for administrative support and for a committee if there was one.
- Probably a \$50,000 budget might help them.
- Personally, I think that it's public and it should be paid for with public funds.
- Sometimes things get donated that you don't want. What do you do then?
- There needs to be an acquisition and a "de-acquisition" policy.

Other Individual Interview Comments

- This building is the "place of the people" – a place where the public, the staff and elected officials come to do business on behalf of the Northwest Territories.
- It is important to note how the site represents the various areas of the NWT and not just Yellowknife. This is almost a site "outside the capital" but in the capital – whereby it is viewed not as Yellowknife but as the seat of government of the whole NWT.
- The current Capital Site Planning Committee may be replaced with a permanent commission set down in NWT Legislation. It has been suggested that the commission have representation, not only from Yellowknife, but from the whole NWT we need to have some way of recording information about the building and what's in it so that information is not just stored in people's heads but is set down and preserved.
- There's a lot that could be done outdoors. Better park facilities or a small park that could be used for special purposes.
- It's a great idea to have art outside. But in the end there is still the risk of vandalism.
- There are some great outside locations.
- A few years ago there was proposal for some tipi structures to be located on the hill near the Legislative Assembly – but nothing came of it.
- The nature of the relationship to the land and people's philosophy of life could be celebrated in the Ledge. A lot of what is important here is spiritually linked in relationships with the land.
- The Assembly should welcome the use of its grounds by recognized groups for their activities that would enhance the vision that was developed.
- The wood doesn't invite you to put a lot of things on it. When the building was open. It was clean, almost ascetic and members (of the Legislative Assembly) looked around and said, "How does this building reflect, in particular, the Aboriginal heritage of the Northwest Territories?" A number of people have said since then that "we need to do something to make sure the building does reflect the North."
- Maybe you could put a tipi outside the Legislative Assembly.
- Maybe they could fill in that whole area in front of the Legislative Assembly.
- Preservation is an issue. But if an artist wants to see their work displayed in the Legislative Assembly then that's where it should go.
- We should consider the overall goal of the artist. If they want it preserved it should go into the Museum and, if not, then it could go into the Legislative Assembly.
- I would like to see the area around the Legislative Assembly left as a pristine environment. Leaving the plants and trees and providing habitat

for the animals that frequent the area reflects a lot of the values of the people of the North.

- Possibly have the Art Gallery of the North on the site as a separate building.
- You could show when the explorers first came. But then you should be able to show some representation of that – pictures. There should also be something of the bush pilot era. There should be something of when the territorial assembly was first established, so that you could follow the development of the territory simply by walking through the building. But you shouldn't try to do what the museum does because we don't have enough space.
- There should be a representation of Inuit homes. They were half tipi and half sod house. Perhaps outside. There's lots of pictures of that.
- There's nothing that reflects the whaling. Nothing. There is something missing there.
- If you were to try to develop that area in front of the Assembly there would be complaints from a lot of people. That's a berry patch for people. They pick cloudberry there.
- Before somebody designs this (referring to the outside space in front of the Assembly) into a parking lot, do something with it.
- You've got to fill those swamps – those mosquito breeding grounds over there near the museum. There's a couple of ducks in there every summer but mostly they just breed bugs.
- The main thing for me is about the site. What is the site? Does it start at the parking lot and go to the front door of the building or does it go to the back door of City Hall? Or does it start at the back door of City Hall and go all around Frame Lake? I think of it as starting at the back door of City Hall and the ceremonial circle and having the flags there from the different Aboriginal organizations and then the community flagpoles. So that site is a little piece of each community within the Northwest Territories.
- Culturally, there could be more things outside the museum – not just inside – that relate to northern culture – particularly northern plants.
- The signs around Frame Lake need to be updated. Some are falling apart and some are very outdated in terms of the politics and the tone.
- If you fill the area outside up with sculpture, it completely loses the point of the building which is sitting in a natural setting. I wouldn't be putting a lot in the area between the Prince of Wales and the building because that controls the setting.
- There may be opportunities on the rock outcrop above the building. Perhaps viewpoints or a sculpture up there.
- To me this isn't a land of huge brass sculptures. A lot of the stuff has historically been ephemeral. That's where performance installation art makes more sense. You can have things that disappear with the snow. That change over time. That are a walk in the woods.
- If there's going to be an Art Gallery, that needs to be laid out as part of a master plan for the whole site.

- There could be a broader Capital Site Committee, broader than the one there is now. That committee should determine what goes on outside the buildings on the site and in the case of the Assembly, the Speaker would determine what goes on inside the building.
- The original design of the building was based in part on the input from the members of the Legislative Assembly and that was to emphasize respect for people, respect for nature, the climate, all of these things were important. The Legislative Assembly was also intended to reflect not just Yellowknife, but also the smaller communities.
- We developed a building that was an extension of nature and a building that was very open and receptive of its natural environment.
- The extensive use of glass was for the people that were to visit the building from the communities, the people that were working in there and also of course the MLAs. The idea was the members were very much visible to the public and to each other as part of this sharing and interrelationship.
- The seasons, and the need for the building to reflect the seasons, was very much a part of it.
- The site has to be maintained as part of our natural pristine environment so to speak. The development of the site and the development of the building over the years have to be sensitive to this concept. It is important that things be done for purpose on that site and not from personal reasons.
- The site and the building should be beyond assault.
- The building was not designed as an art gallery or museum.
- There's going to be pressure to add buildings to the site and add buildings to the site. The potential college we're looking at. The Court House we're looking at. There's always this pressure.
- Security will remain a problem, with the politicians' needs to protect themselves. The creation of an Art Gallery allows for people to wander around. That is not possible within that building. Even in the public space, the security people are keeping an eye on you.
- The building was designed to be added on to – not easily – but a building could be added behind on the service road that goes to the back of the building. But the intention was not to add public space – more administrative.
- An Art Gallery doesn't have to be part of a Legislative Assembly building. It has to be on the site. But it can be separate rather than an extension of the Legislative Assembly building.

Group Interviews

The cultural enhancement expectations of focus groups with respect to the Legislative Assembly buildings and grounds addressed a wide range of possibilities. Some suggestions are inconsistent with others. No attempt was made to encourage groups to develop a consensus of agreement. Diversity of suggestions was encouraged and all ideas were welcomed.

Expectations

General expectations. Group members thought that the following expectations should be met:

- People should feel welcomed at the Legislative Assembly.
- Visitors should experience the Legislative Assembly as a warm, friendly place
- Art in the building and grounds should reflect the North.
- Should be primarily a northern Aboriginal experience.
- Should provide an opportunity to learn about Aboriginal cultures.
- The experience should be representative of all of the people of the NWT.
- The experience offered by the Legislative Assembly should not be limited to the visual arts but should include special events, more activities.
- Should reflect the history, art, languages, music and food of the NWT.
- Should tap into the local art community more.
- Should make it more of an attraction for tourists.

Inside Expectations. Group members suggested that the inside of the building should include:

- More use of the Great Hall for community events.
- Art should be more accessible – much is only available on tours.
- Cafeteria atmosphere needs to be enriched – made more northern.
- Short-term exhibits should be staged in the Great Hall.
- All activities should be non-commercial.
- Building is beautiful but needs to be more developed for people.

Outside Expectations. There was a difference of opinion on how the area outside the Legislative Assembly should be used:

- Wilderness feeling should be preserved.
- Maintaining the natural environment is essential.

- Interpretive trails should be added in the bog area in front the Leg.
- Create a more impressive entrance area to the Legislative Assembly with a major sign or art object at the entrance from the highway.
- Increase the prominence of outdoor signage in the area of the Leg.
- Picnic space should be added near the lake.
- Add an "arbour" for outdoor events.
- Add outdoor sculptures.
- Add more outdoor events in summer.
- Add lighting around Frame Lake on the trail – ensure that the lighting is shaded to project downwards, reducing night sky light pollution.

Additional expectations were identified as the focus groups addressed other questions.

Cultural Balance Issues

The groups did not see the offerings within the Legislative Assembly as achieving cultural balance.

Some of the observations that address this are indicated below:

- Still a very strong Nunavut influence.
- Dene not adequately represented.
- Non-northern artists (e.g. A.Y. Jackson) should not be represented.
- Not all the "arts" are included – what about clothing, dance, etc.
- Photographers' work not displayed.
- Non-Aboriginal artists are not adequately displayed.
- People living in the communities outside Yellowknife should be sought and carefully considered.

Criticisms of the Building and its Current Cultural Enhancements

In the course of the discussion of almost all focus group questions, criticisms would spontaneously be offered. While we did not seek this feedback, the fact that it was provided is important:

- The building is intimidating.
- Aboriginal people can find little in the Great Hall and the public areas that makes them feel at home.
- Public spaces are cold and imposing.
- Not enough about day-to-day life in the NWT – we're more than polar bears.
- Art is not well displayed.

- Light is a problem for the display of art.
- Much of the building is off limits to the public.
- Security guards are too prominent.
- The metal wall behind the Speaker makes people look bad.
- The balcony is too steep for many people to feel safe.
- Pages uniforms are drab and need to be made to look more northern.
- No obvious plan for artwork.
- Something needs to be done with inappropriate artwork.
- It is a ghostly place – needs to be made into a people magnet

Who Should be Responsible?

The focus groups addressed the question of who should be responsible for the “cultural enhancement” acquisitions and programs within the Legislative building and grounds.

- A committee should be created to make these decisions.
- Any such committee should be representative of all of the regions of the NWT.
- It should also be representative of the major cultural groups in the NWT.
- The committee should have clout as well as a vision.
- The “government” should appoint the committee and have a final veto on decisions if necessary.
- The committee should have guidelines given to them.
- A curator should be hired to make acquisitions and manage the collection.
- A public servant should coordinate the collection and add using guidelines.
- Have a Public Events Coordinator for all the cultural and visitor programs.

Wish List of Cultural Enhancement Additions

The focus groups developed long lists of cultural enhancements. Most suggestions focused on a more extensive events program. Suggestions about art additions were most often based on the idea of temporary and rotational display of art, rather than additions to a permanent collection with permanently designated display space.

- Artists in “temporary residence” at the Legislative Assembly – either individually or in teams (e.g. a team of carvers).
- Murals on the exterior walls
- Displays of traditional clothing
- A “Speaker’s Corner” outside.
- An outdoor amphitheatre or Arbour in a circle.

- An interpretive trail explaining traditional uses of different plants and trees.
- Add a boardwalk alongside the boggy area.
- Create a native plants garden.
- A fire pit near the Ledge. Or a fireplace in the Great Hall.
- A large tapestry that illustrates Dene, Inuvialuit and European cultures and tells the story of how they came together in the NWT.
- Children's art from across the NWT.
- Plan for the addition of an NWT Art Gallery within the Capital region – possibly near the Museum. Rotate all major art in the collection out of the Art Gallery and only keep a very few pieces of art on permanent display in the Ledge.
- Art programs to tour the communities outside Yellowknife.
- Keep things rotating.
- Allow artists to propose that their work be exhibited.
- Add film to the cultural enhancements that the Ledge features – focus on films made in the NWT.
- Consider a new video.
- Add space for presentation of non-traditional film and video.
- Time tours to coincide with other seasonal activities – like a daily “parade” to the Ledge.

Wish List of Enhancements to be “Retired”

- Plains Indian style tepees – should not be used.
- Pages' uniforms are drab.

Suggestions for Periodic or Rotational Use of Cultural Enhancements

- Work with the seasons of the North to plan events, displays and rotation of art into public areas.
- Develop thematic displays or events based on important dates in the calendar (e.g. National Aboriginal Day)
- Identify annual themes and focus all displays during a single year on that one theme.
- Borrow collections from the PWNHC and combine with Legislative Assembly art to form a temporary display.
- Develop a policy to divide the Ledge's cultural enhancements into permanent, temporary (one season only) and rotational (periodic annual display).
- Use freestanding temporary dividers to create display areas within the Great hall.

Suggestions for Special Events On-Site (Inside or Outside)

- Periodic performances of Dene or Inuit drummers.
- Public signing ceremonies.
- Musical events (Lila Gilday CD launch mentioned).
- Ice sculptures (like the Ottawa snow carving festival).
- Initiate an "Artwalk" during good weather than includes the Legislative Assembly, the PWNHC, downtown commercial galleries and the City of Yellowknife (City Hall).
- Joint programs with the PWNHC.
- Develop a tourism program with other stakeholders. Provide more incentives for tourists to visit – a daily ceremony for example.
- Advertise that the cafeteria is open to the public and put tables outside for use in the summer.

Suggested Policy on Donations

- Restrict or eliminate unsolicited donations that are intended for display in the Legislative Assembly.
- Refrain from accepting donations, as it is a way to avoid the issues of rejecting on the basis of quality.
- Funnel donation proposals through the committee responsible for acquisitions
- Use public funds to purchase or commission all significant additions to the collections at the Ledge.

Annual Cultural Enhancement Budget

- 1% of the Legislative Assembly's operating budget was suggested as a target.
- \$1 million per year.
- Amount of money spent by the Ledge each year on cultural enhancements should be limited to the amount of money allocated to the NWT Arts Council.
- Be simple and cost-effective
- Not comfortable with a number – unaware on public spending on such items.

NWT Legislative Assembly Visitor Experience

The NWT Legislative Assembly is a significant attraction for visitors. Over the course of 2002-2003 approximately 5,000 visitors signed in at the Legislative Assembly building. This number does not include persons who attended public events at the Legislative Assembly building where sign-in was not required.

It is estimated that another 8,000 – 10,000 visits were made during the year by persons attending those special events. Many of these were the same persons attending several events over the course of the year. Seventy-six special events were held in the Great Hall in the last 12 months, including 19 weddings, 28 award ceremonies and 29 miscellaneous events including funerals, musical concerts, symposia, town hall forums, CD launches, memorials and other activities.

After local people attending special events or coming to the Legislative Assembly building on business, the next largest category of visitors was tourists. Approximately 2,300 persons signed the tourist visitor book over the past year.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the overwhelming majority of the tourists were from outside the NWT. Visits by NWT residents from the communities outside Yellowknife appear to be primarily associated with visits to MLAs.

Comments by visitors, mostly from outside the NWT, were universally positive. Comments were often made about "such a beautiful building; I like the open space in the building; it was great to see what my province gave as a gift."

Visitors also commented positively on the web site noting "its excellence."

A Vision for an Enhanced Legislative Precinct

Vision Statement

Working together with representatives from across the Northwest Territories, the Legislative Assembly intends to continue cultural enhancement of its building and grounds over the next decade.

Enhancements will contribute to pride in the richness of our diverse NWT cultures, inspire our legislators, enrich the lives of our citizens, educate our visitors, and welcome all to experience our consensus decision-making for the benefit of future generations.

It will contribute to the ongoing creation of a place where the visions and dreams of our people can come alive.

The first step in the creation of the NWT Legislative Precinct was undertaken with the design and construction of the Legislative Assembly building which was opened in 1993.

During construction great importance was placed on maintaining the natural landscape surrounding the building – trees, the rock outcrops, the peat bog foreground and the lakeshore. The site is representative of a variety of northern ecosystems. In front of the Legislative Assembly building is an expansive peat bog, abundant with grasses, berry bushes and wildflowers in summer. Black spruce, tamarack and white birch surround the building, enclosing it within a typical northern forest setting. To the west and north, the outcroppings of Precambrian rock lead to edge of Frame Lake. Small mammals and birds inhabit the area. The natural setting of the building makes a powerful statement about our intention to live in a harmonious relationship with the land.

The shape of the Legislative Chamber and Caucus Room within the building speaks to the importance of working together and creating consensus. Built in a circle, these chambers honour the traditional ways of Aboriginal people and the application of circle ways in contemporary life.

Light streams into the build through the dome and from all sides. The Great Hall is available as a space for people to gather in celebration or reflection.

NWT artists played an important role in the design of the first enhancements that were incorporated into the building design. The zinc wall behind the Speaker's

chair and the glass frieze that diffuses light into the chamber both show the skills of NWT artists.

The opportunity is available to add to the building and grounds in ways that are compatible with the original design concepts and enrich the experience of those who frequent the building and grounds of the Legislative Precinct.

There is also the opportunity to ensure that the experience of being in the Legislative Assembly building is more truly reflective of the "new" NWT.

This new NWT is a "work in progress" as First Nations continue the process of devolution and the transition to self-government. Until that process is further advanced it may be difficult to fully represent that aspect of our distinctiveness within the Legislative Precinct.

Additional Parking Needed

Additional parking for Assembly visitors and those attending special events at the Legislative Assembly building is urgently needed. There are already too many occasions of which access to the Legislative Assembly is blocked by vehicles parking along the access roads. This results in vehicles being towed or ticketed and frustration for all concerned.

The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre parking lot is already inadequate at times and, particularly in winter, people are reluctant to walk to the building from the downtown.

Two options were reviewed. One is to widen the primary access road to the Assembly building and provide angled parking along the left hand side of the road. The other is to build a new parking lot on solid ground to the north of the building.

While the road widening option appears to be simple, the boggy nature of the land in that area suggests that annual maintenance and repair costs for this strategy could be very expensive – possibly in the range of \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually.

The other option would require construction of a new access road from the highway and the building of a lot that would connect to the service road at the north side of the building. This would be more costly initially but would have much lower maintenance costs annually. Our preliminary conclusion is to recommend a new separate parking lot. We have shown a suggested location on the "Legislative Assembly Precinct" map which follows the next section.

The Legislative Precinct – Purpose and Definition

The Legislative Precinct is intended to set the boundaries of the space that defines the visitor's experience of the Legislative Assembly building and grounds. This is much more than simply an experience of the building itself and the grounds within a few feet of the building.

Just as the federal Parliamentary Precinct includes much more than the immediate environs of the Parliament Buildings, the Legislative Precinct of the NWT should follow a similar practice. In Ottawa the Parliamentary Precinct includes all the lands from the Rideau Canal on the East to the far side of the Confederation Building on the West and from Wellington Street on the South to the Ottawa River on the North. This ensures that, no matter the direction of approach, the space that influences the visitor's experience of Canada's Parliament is controlled within the Parliamentary Precinct and not by the National Capital Commission alone.

Similarly, here in the NWT, we are recommending that an enlarged Legislative Precinct be set aside within the Capital Park Area.

We are proposing that the physical limits of the new NWT Legislative Precinct should extend from the Frame Lake shoreline on the southwest and north to the territorial highway on the northeast. The southeast the boundary should be the property line that connects to the DND, RCMP and City of Yellowknife properties. That would mean that the Northern Frontier Visitors Centre and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre would be included within the Legislative Precinct. This area is displayed on the map on the following page of this report within the map titled "NWT Legislative Precinct and Proposed Additions".

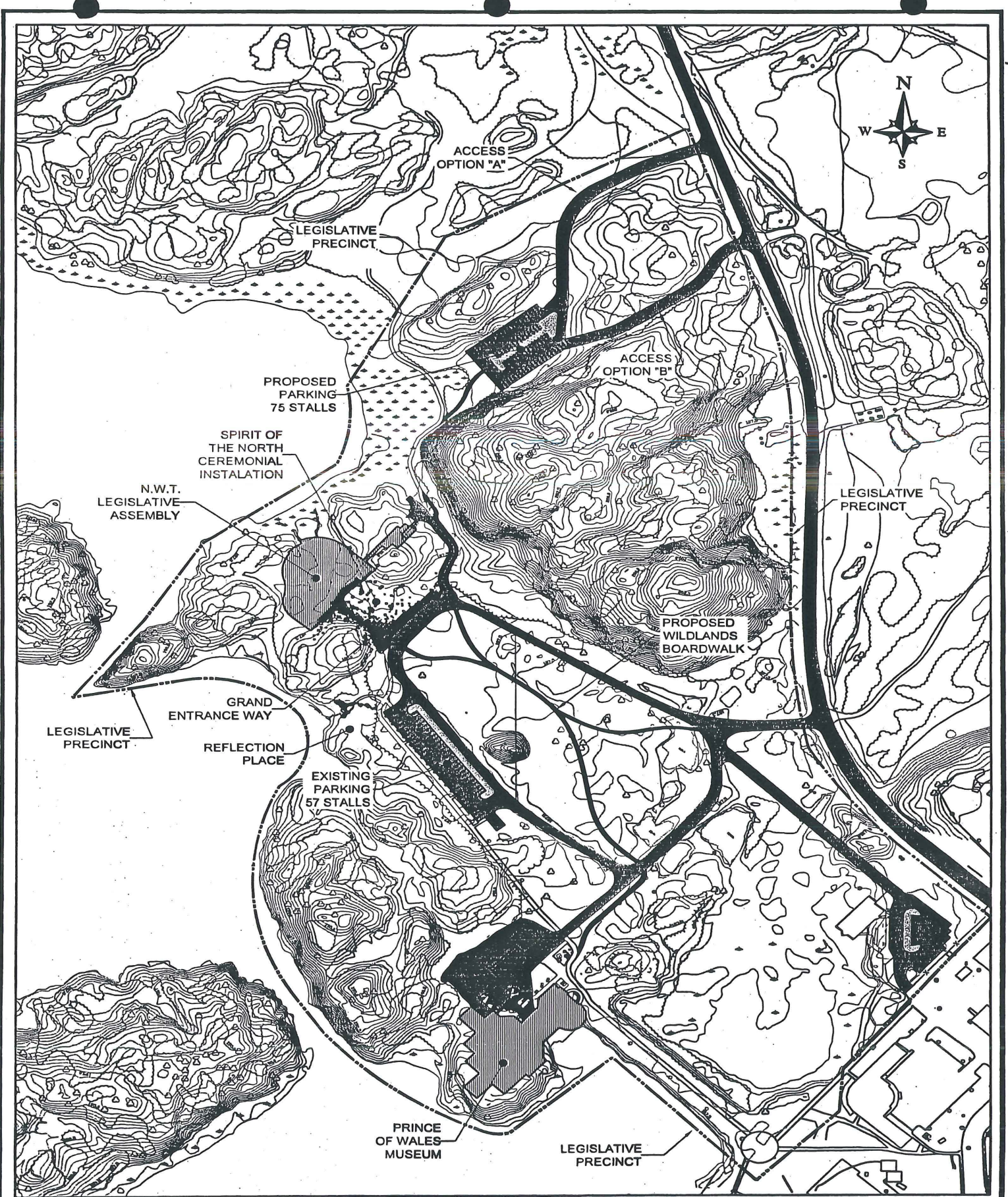
This enlarged area would include the entire bog area, which is an important part of the view that visitors have as they approach the Legislative Assembly Building. It would also include the Ceremonial Circle and the row of flags on the causeway that links the downtown to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. Some of the Frame Lake shoreline and the rock outcrops beside the Legislative Assembly building would also be added.

It is important that people from across the NWT can experience the Legislative Precinct as a symbol of their northern identity, a symbol of the NWT's system of government and the common pride its citizens feel about the Northwest Territories. While honouring the enduring values of the Aboriginal First Nations and Inuvialuit people of the NWT, the Precinct should also honour the contributions of non-Aboriginal northerners.

Far from being an isolated space reserved for politicians, the Legislative Precinct should be a place in which NWT residents have an important stake. On the

grounds of the precinct, NWT residents from every region and every cultural background should know they are part of a great territory. They should also have an opportunity to enjoy the space around the building, walk on trails that reconnect them to the land, view ceremonial installations, and public expressions of our artistry.

The Legislative Assembly is the most significant feature of the Capital Area. But, it is not the only use. Thoughtful consideration need always be given to the lands that are shared with the City of Yellowknife, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the RCMP and DND buildings, the Northern Frontier Visitors Association and others who have a stake in the NWT Capital Area.



Guiding Principles for Cultural Enhancement

Guidelines will be needed to assist those making decisions about cultural enhancement within the Legislative Precinct. These guidelines should apply both inside and outside the Legislative Assembly building.

All art and cultural enhancement installations should meet a very high standard of quality.

It is important that permanent art and cultural heritage installations within the Legislative Precinct meet a high standard of excellence. Curatorial advice should be sought, as necessary, to evaluate works and maintain this standard.

Precedence should be given to original art by Northwest Territories artists.

The art that is part of the permanent collection of the Legislative Assembly should be primarily original work by NWT residents (or former NWT residents). Appropriate art by non-NWT artists would also be welcomed for temporary or rotational displays.

Cultural enhancement art and other cultural enhancement installations should be allowed to age naturally.

It is recommended that art or cultural enhancement items that require museum or art gallery conditions of humidity and lighting not be displayed in the Legislative Assembly. Cultural enhancement objects and items on display in the Legislative Assembly should be allowed to age naturally.

Cultural balance should be maintained.

It is recommended that a balance be maintained in art and cultural heritage items that reflect the different cultural groups within the Northwest Territories. This should not be determined on the basis of population only. The majority of enhancements should reflect Aboriginal traditions but non-Aboriginal contributions should also have a significant presence.

Within Aboriginal cultural groupings there should be adequate representation from different groups so that the cultural interests of each group are in clear evidence throughout the Legislative Precinct.

Specific areas should be designated for cultural enhancement.

Specific areas within the Legislative Assembly building and grounds should be designed for cultural enhancement. It is recommended that these areas be named so that their purpose is reflected in their names. Separate plans should be developed for each area and, as much as possible, all designated areas should be included on all guided tours provided by staff.

Some areas should be free of additional enhancements.

Certain areas should be designated as free from art or cultural enhancements. For example, some corridors that are used to access staff, members and minister's offices, and are not one of the designated cultural enhancement areas, should be free of art and posters.

Special events should be included in the planning for cultural enhancement.

Special events should be planned and scheduled by Legislative Assembly staff as part of the outreach programs of the Legislative Assembly. These would be in addition to the bookings by individuals and groups.

An annual theme should be chosen to focus temporary or seasonal cultural enhancement programs.

An annual theme could be identified for each of the ten years of the Cultural Enhancement Plan. The theme would bring a focus to many of the cultural enhancement additions, displays and special events in any specific year. This theme could be selected annually by the Legislative Precinct Commission (see section of this report dealing with its creation).

Examples of the types of themes could be:

- The North's Changing Landscape
- From Time Immemorial
- Northern Youth
- Respect for Elders
- They Also Serve
- Lifelong Learning
- Our Connection to the Land
- Many Different Traditions
- The Circle of Northern Life
- All Our Resources

Outdoor art installations should be part of the plan.

Some of these could be permanent like a grand entranceway or a ceremonial circle. Others could be temporary and varied by season. Ephemeral outdoor art exhibitions (ice sculpting in winter and floating, pond art in summer) could be authorized.

Establishment of a Legislative Precinct Commission

It will be important for the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to have ongoing input from a wider group of persons than simply the members of the Assembly, and Legislative Assembly staff, on the ongoing development of cultural enhancement programs.

Currently the Speaker is the final authority on all cultural enhancement initiatives both within the building and what is proposed to become the enlarged Legislative Precinct.

At first a new advisory body will have some jurisdictional challenges to address. There is currently a Capital Park Steering Committee that deals with broader issues of all of the lands around Frame Lake and Jackfish Lake.

What we are proposing is the creation of a Legislative Precinct Commission with a much smaller and somewhat different focus. To increase the connection between the Legislative Assembly and the communities, it should include representation from major regions of the NWT and major cultural groups. Members of this body should serve as volunteers and only the expenses of meetings or teleconferencing and an annual honorarium should be provided. The commission would likely meet annually in person for a one or two-day planning and decision-making session. Recommendations from the Legislative Precinct Commission would then go to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

The commission should include representation from both smaller communities and larger centres. If six persons were named from smaller communities and five from the larger centres of Inuvik, Hay River, Fort Smith and Yellowknife that would result in an 11-person commission. Individuals should be selected for their interest in, and knowledge of northern culture. Knowledge of both traditional and contemporary non-traditional art would also be an asset.

Appointment to the commission could be for periods of up to five years. To regularly bring in fresh ideas, approximately 25% of the members of the commission should be replaced each year.

The mandate of the commission would include the responsibility to:

- Conduct an annual audit of the cultural enhancement programs of the Legislative Assembly,
- Select an annual theme to focus programs and community exhibits,
- Review and recommend the selection of exhibits when there is a competition for space,
- Promote the connection of the Legislative Assembly to communities across the NWT, and
- Supervise the competition for additional enhancements to the Legislative Assembly and Precinct, upon appropriate authority being given.

Area Plans for Cultural Enhancement Implementation

Outcrop is recommending that specific areas be designated inside and outside the Legislative Assembly building for cultural enhancement over the next ten years.

A list of those areas is provided below followed by descriptions of the initiatives that should be considered in each area. Illustrations are provided in some cases to help the reader visualize the type of installation being suggested. These illustrations are conceptual only.

General Legislative Assembly Building Areas

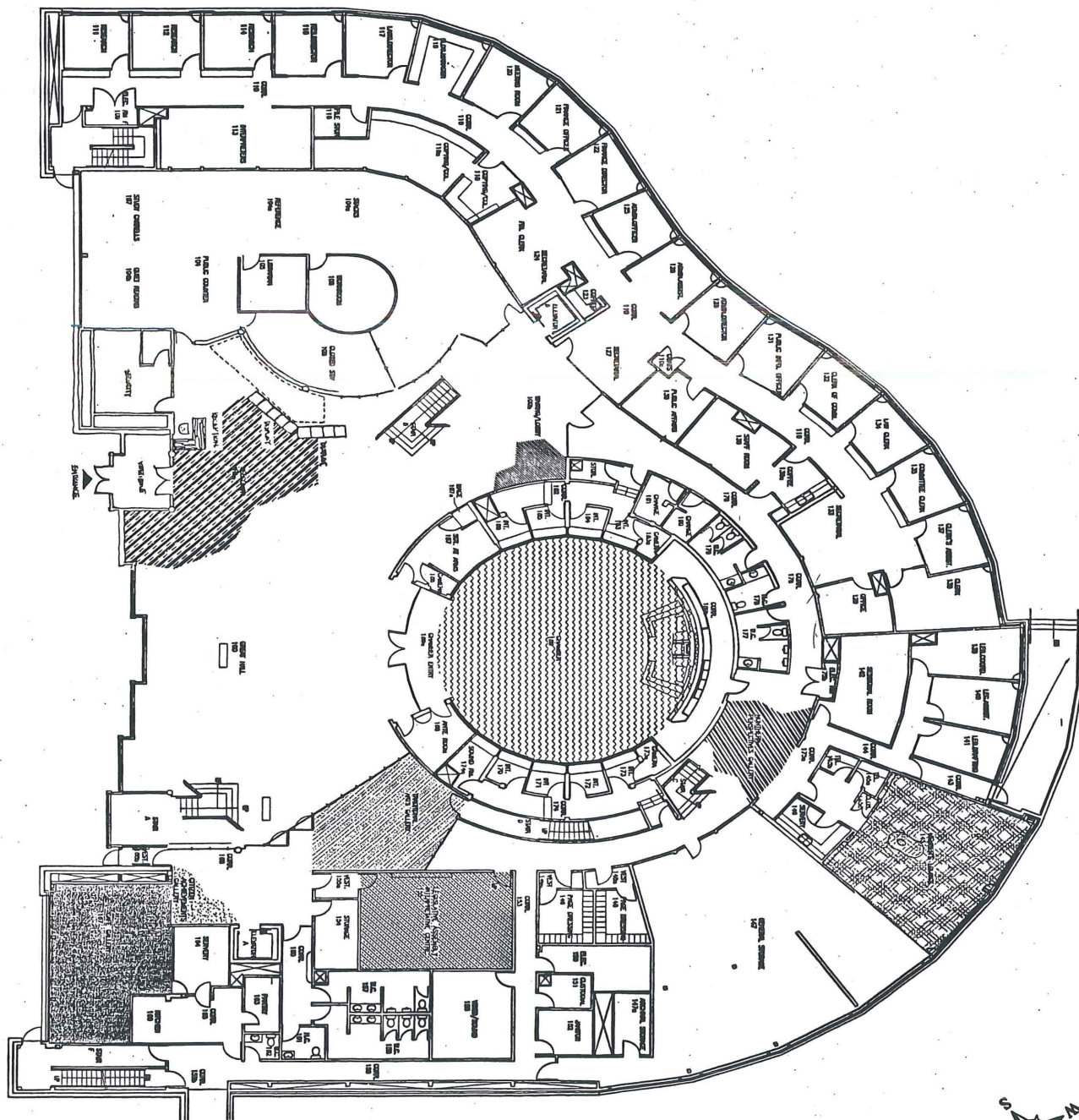
Welcoming Area
Waiting Area(s)
Traditional Arts Gallery
Legislative Assembly Interpretive Centre
Community Exhibits Gallery
Legislative Assembly Leadership and Service Gallery
Citizen Achievements Gallery
Northern Perspectives Gallery
Café Gallery

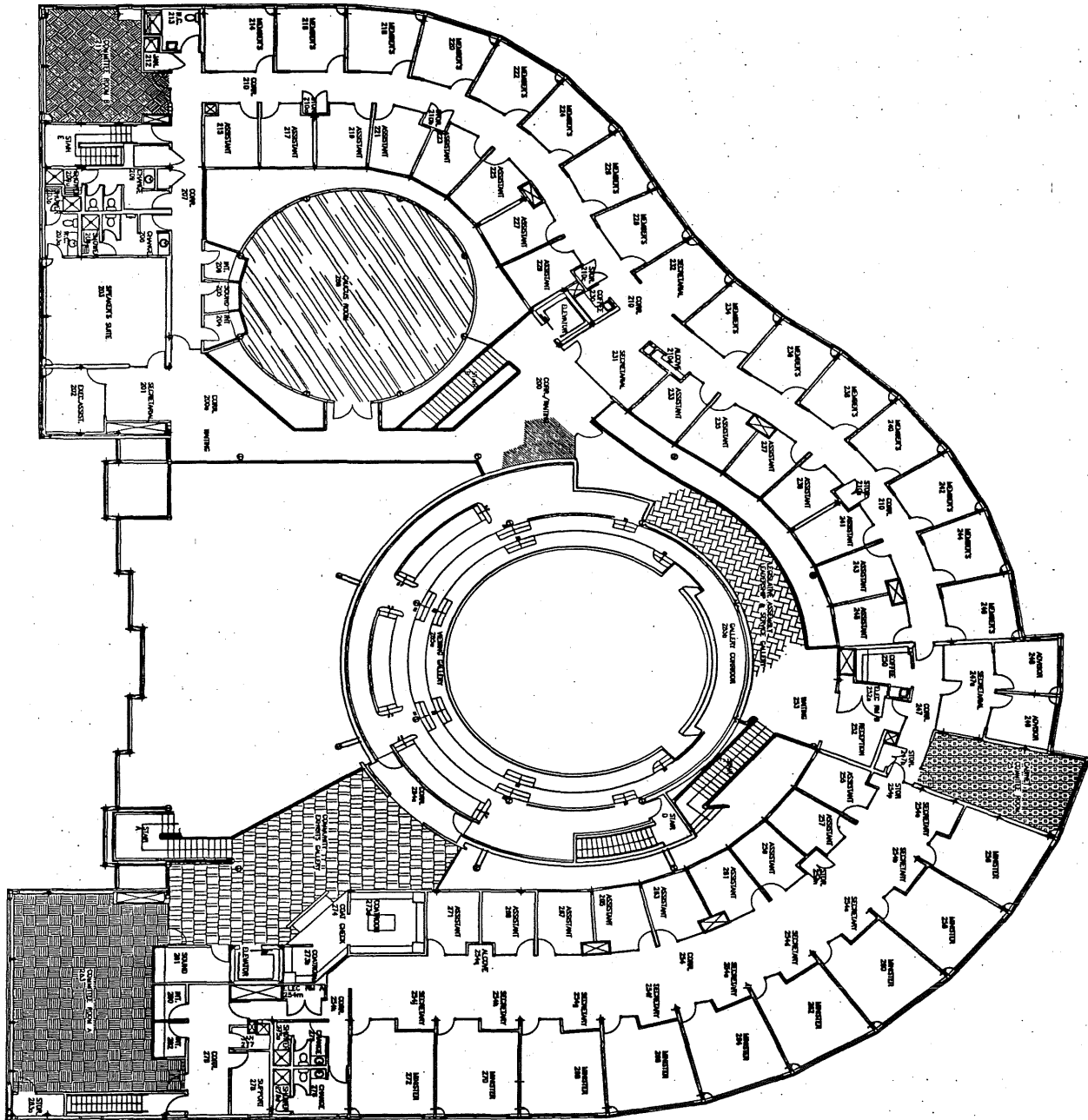
Legislative Assembly Functional Areas

The Great Hall
The Chamber
The Caucus Room
The Cabinet Committee Room
Committee Room A
Committee Room B
Members' Lounge

Outdoor Areas in the Legislative Precinct

Grand Entranceway
Wildlands Boardwalk
Spirit of the North Ceremonial Installation
Reflection Place





General Legislative Assembly Building Areas

Welcoming Area

This is the area immediately inside the main doors of the Legislative Assembly, looking towards the stairs that lead to the second level and the Speaker's and members' offices.

The first thing one sees currently is the large and imposing security desk set out from the glass wall that encloses the Legislative Library. To the right is the open space of the Great Hall that is usually empty except for the circular literature rack in the centre of the room. To make this area more welcoming we are recommending two changes.

The first would be to significantly reduce the size of the security desk and to move it immediately to the left of the door as one enters the building. This would allow the area at the base of the stairs and beside the library glass wall to present a different, more welcoming visual image.

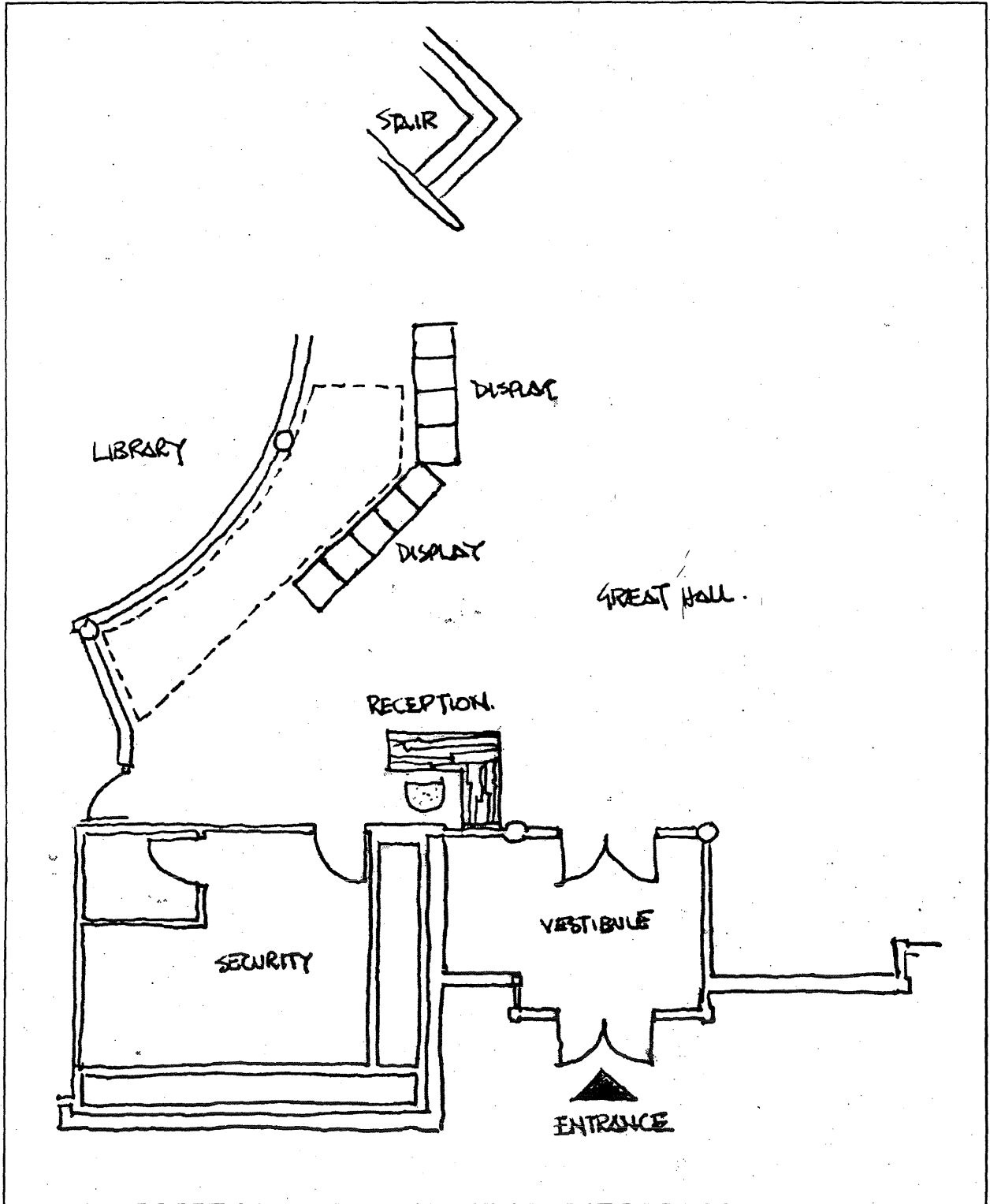
In this "welcoming area" we would propose a number of additions which would make a culturally interpretive statement to visitors. The area could include a number of floor-mounted exhibits in cases.

We are recommending that the display cases include materials that develop the themes of the people, the land and the resources of the North.

In order to make visitors more comfortable with the building and its public areas a small welcoming brochure with a simplified floor plan should be provided. The names of the cultural enhancement areas and the principal Legislative Assembly functional rooms should be provided on the map and short description provided of each. The brochure need not be expensive and could be printed in black and blue ink, in a simple foldout format.

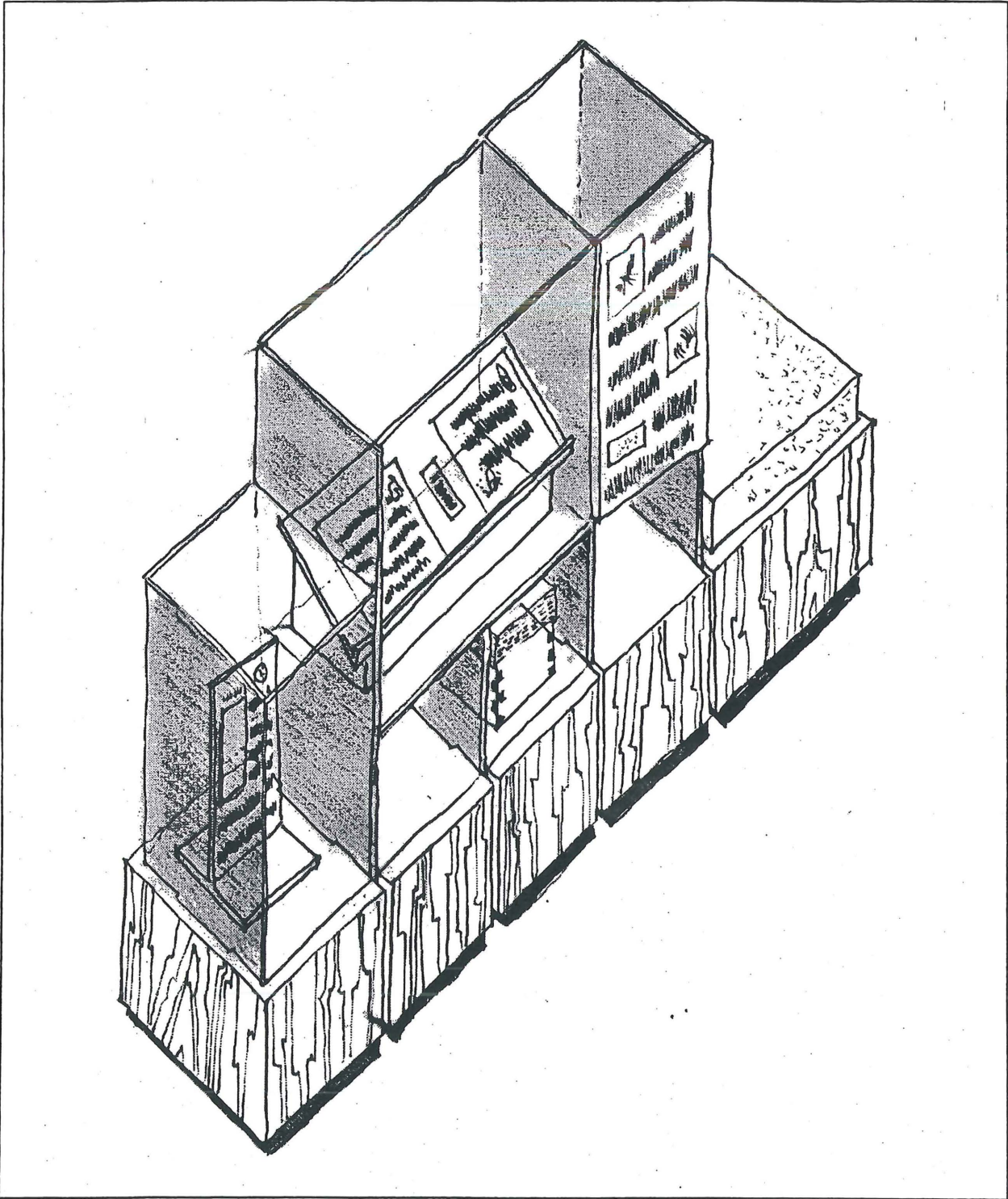
Consideration should be given to changing the uniforms of the security personnel to something less intimidating and friendlier. Something like a tan shirt and trousers, combined with a fabric vest that incorporates Dene beadwork, would look more friendly.

Welcome entrance



Display cases

Parts can be assembled to accommodate different shapes and sizes.



Waiting Areas

There are two waiting areas that this portion of the plan addresses. One is on the main level to the east of the stairs beside the wall that encloses the Assembly Chamber. The other is the area to the south of the doors to the Caucus Room and outside the Speaker's Office. This second waiting area is not accessible to the public unless accompanied by an escort or guide.

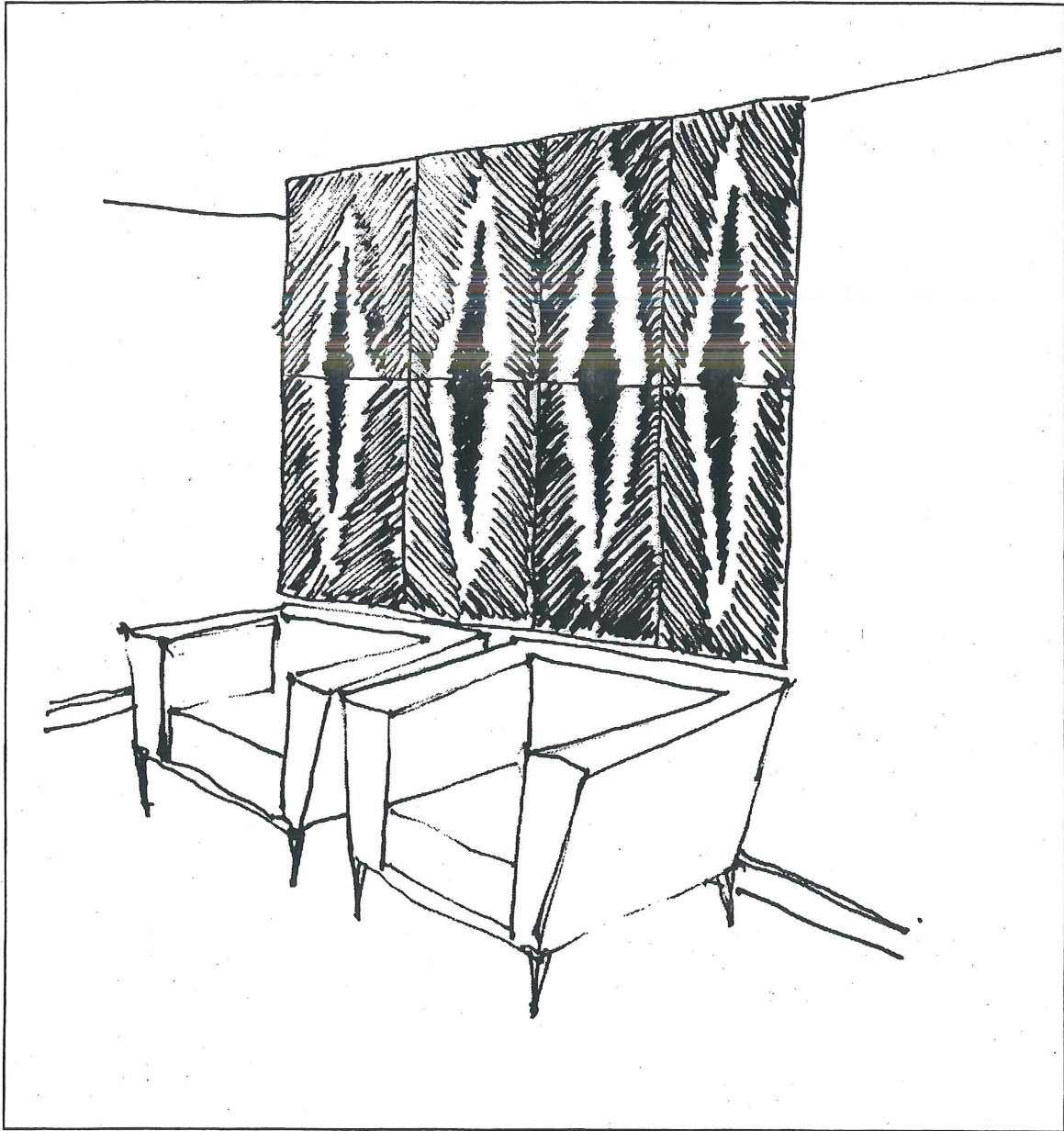
In both areas we are recommending that wall coverings made from hides enhance some wall sections. Tanned caribou or moose hide could alternate with narrower bands of fur. Patterns could be created in the fur. Animal glues would be used to mount the hides.

Chairs would be re-arranged to create a friendlier configuration. Lining them up along the wall is somewhat institutional and less hospitable.

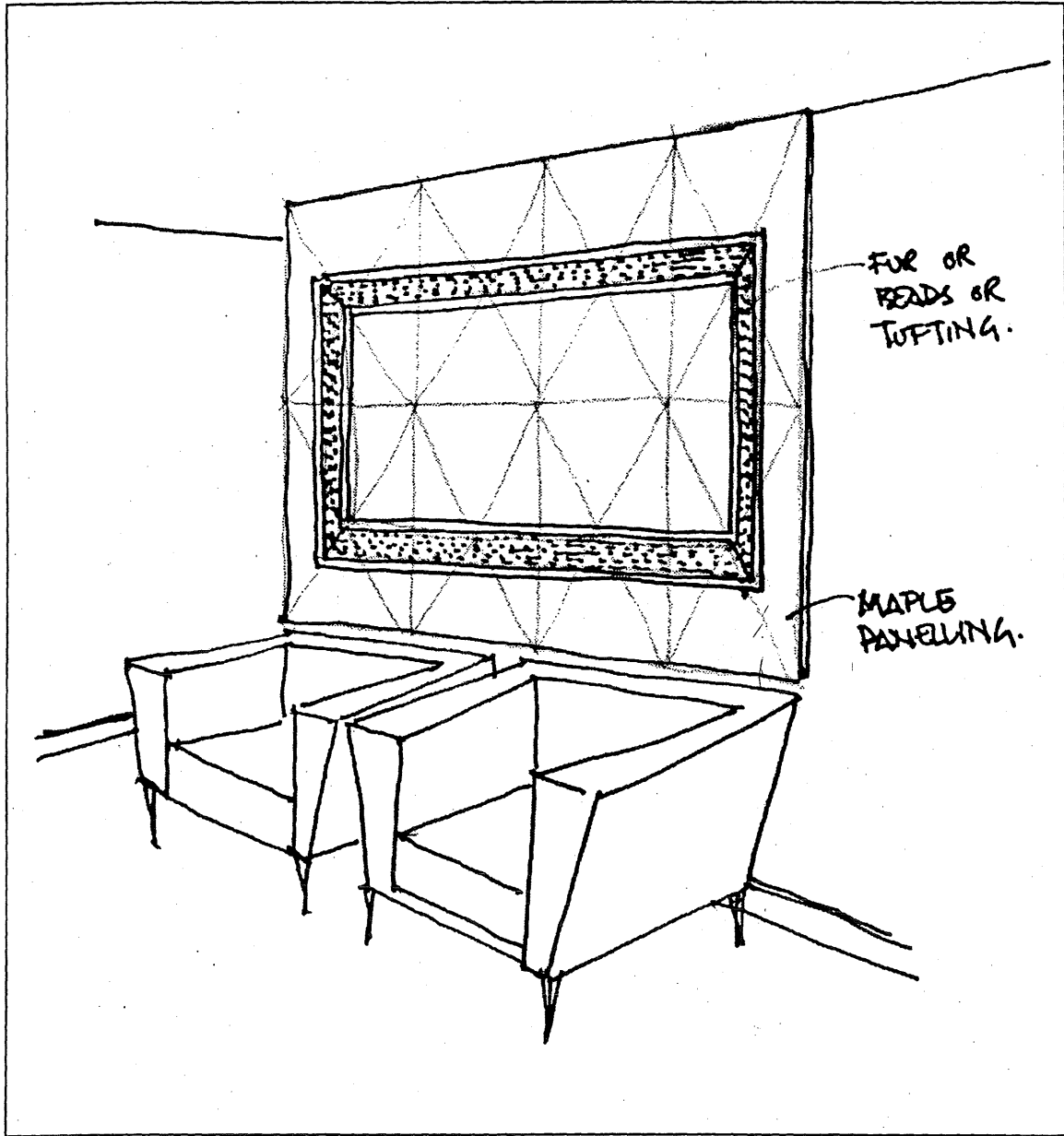
In the main floor waiting area, the art should be some of the highest quality that can be displayed in this environment. The visitor should feel that he/she is being shown some of the best of the NWT.

The theme for the Speaker's area could be the links the NWT Legislative Assembly has to other legislative bodies in Canada and in other parts of the world. Gifts to the Legislative Assembly could be displayed outside the Speaker's office. Because there are too many gifts to be displayed all at once, the Speaker could select those he or she wants displayed or alternatively staff could change the displays annually.

Wall treatment in waiting areas - option A



Wall treatment in waiting areas - option B



Traditional Arts Gallery

The glassed-in room to the east of the main doors of the Chamber could be used to showcase traditional arts.

Visitors to the Assembly building often comment on the beading, quillwork and moosehair tufting that is created in the NWT and used on clothing and in other applications. Delta braid and Inuvialuit clothing are also excellent examples of the traditional arts of the NWT. Carvings, traditional knives and scraping tools are also of great interest. While these are displayed in the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, it is also appropriate that a limited collection be displayed at the Legislative Assembly.

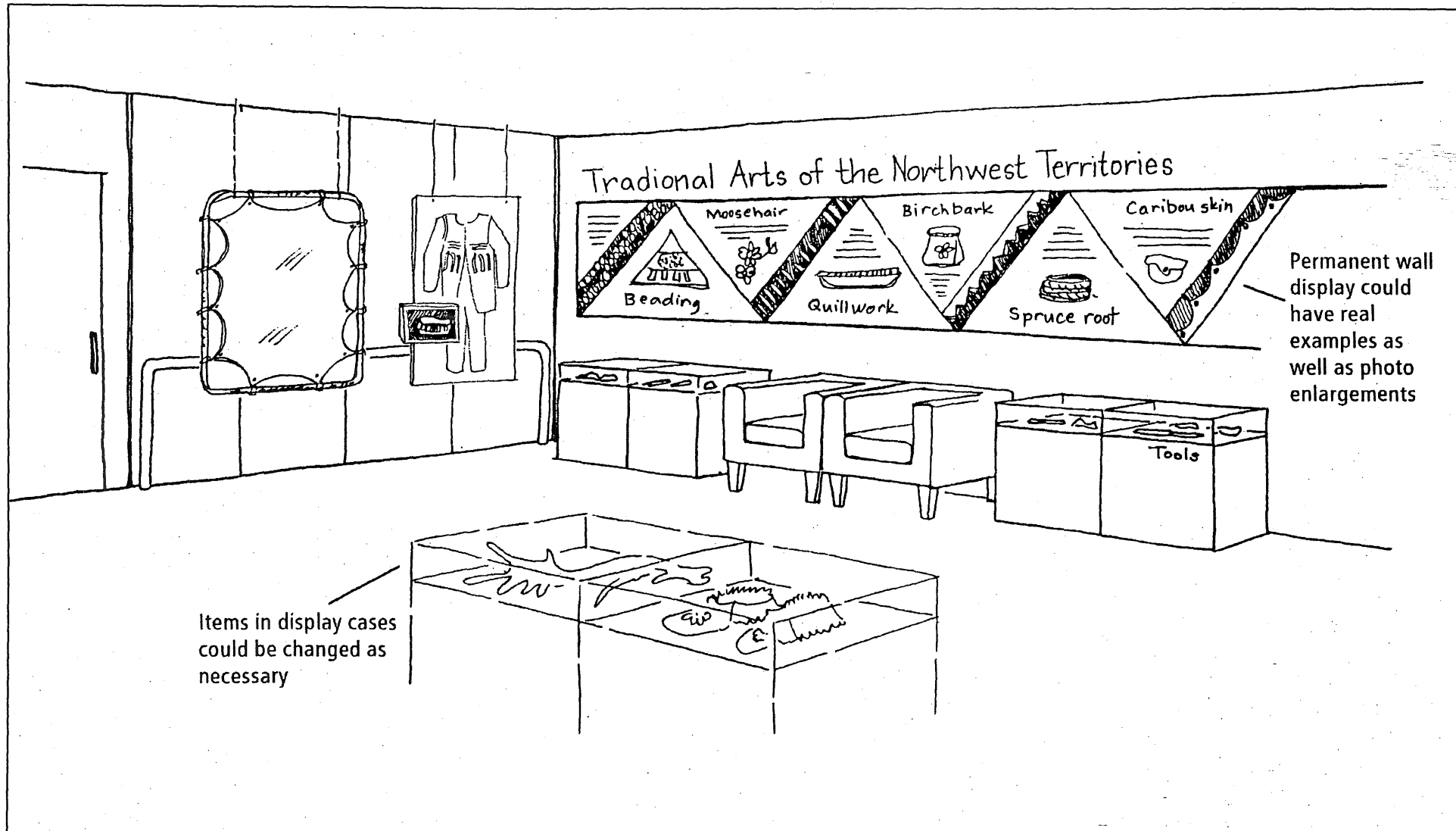
It is recommended that the "symbols" of the NWT that are in the glass cases on the wall be removed to a new Legislative Assembly Interpretive Centre (see next page). As they are currently displayed, they are dwarfed by the extent of the glass wall within which they are set. Controlled lighting that could be available in a new Interpretive Centre would give them better visibility and the opportunity to be grouped with other interpretive materials. The cases on the glass wall, once emptied, could be used for the display of traditional arts or removed.

The flags of the other Canadian provinces and territories should be removed and stored for use on special occasions.

The chair and robes should be moved to the Interpretive Centre and the robes put in large glass cases. The bronze busts should be returned to the Museum. Group photos of the members of the Legislative Assembly should be relocated to the Legislative Assembly Leadership and Service Gallery that is proposed in the second floor corridor where the Speakers' portraits are currently hung.

Installations in this space need to consider that this room is designated as "fire exit" from the interior of the building. Nothing can block the fire exit door or the passageway through the room.

Concept for the recommended Traditional Arts Gallery



Legislative Assembly Interpretive Centre

It is recommended that the Media Briefing Room be transformed into a new Legislative Assembly Interpretive Centre. This would become the starting point for tours and would be available to the public to visit when tours are not in operation. The solid wood doors should be replaced with glass to make the room appear more accessible. Video monitoring by the security staff should provide adequate surveillance during regular hours.

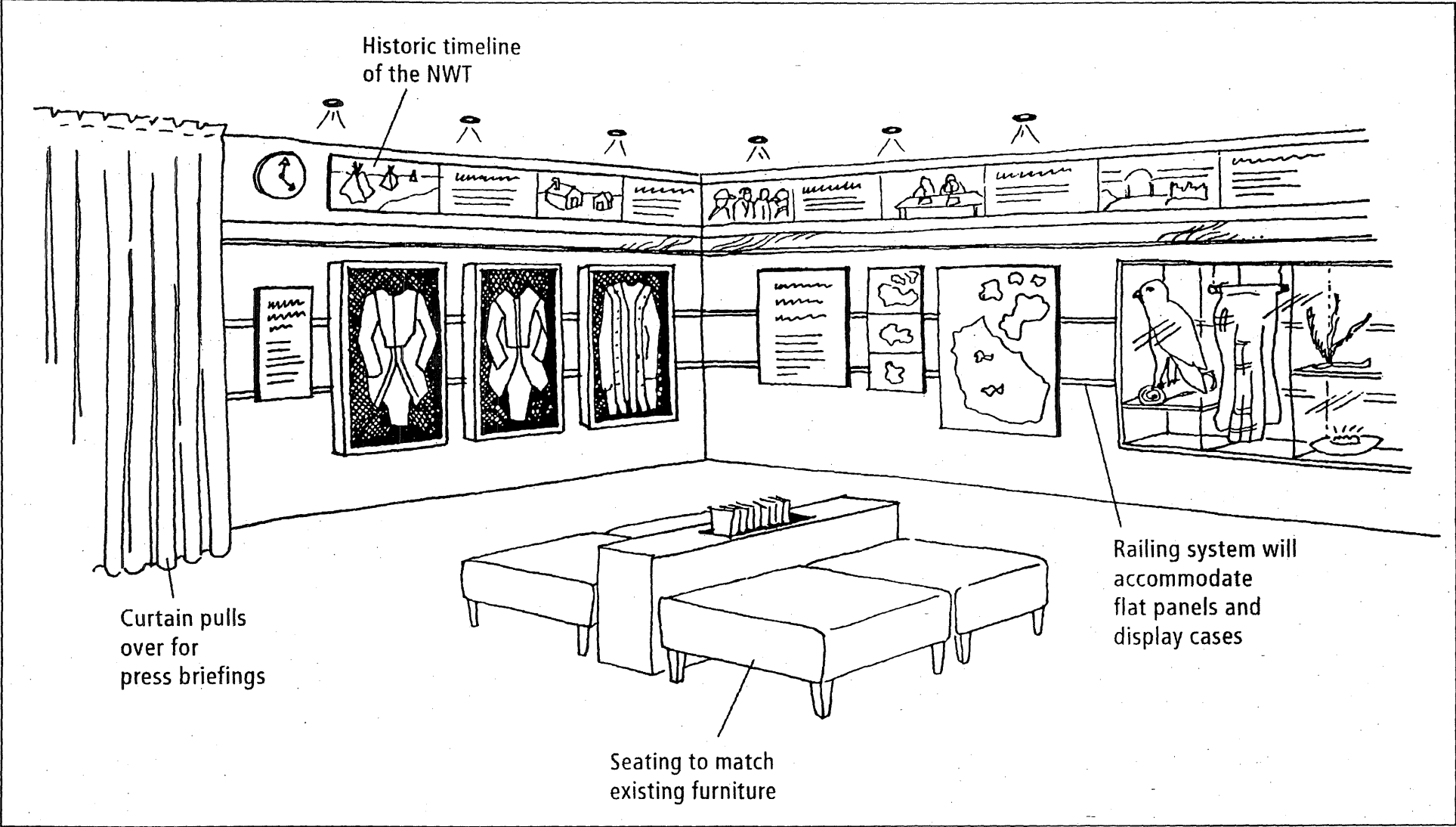
The room could be designed so that one wall could be draped with a background for the few occasions when it is actually used as a Media Briefing Room. A small portable briefing table on lockable wheels could be brought in. Alternatively media briefings could be offered in Committee Room A.

Exhibits in the Interpretive Centre would tell the story of the design and construction of the building, give visitors a look at the NWT's Legislative Assembly traditions and highlight our unique consensus government process. A "time-line" at the top of the wall, on two or three sides, would trace the history of the NWT from pre-contact to the present. Space would be provided to add to the timeline each decade for at least 30 years. A map of the Northwest Territories could also be placed in the Interpretive Centre so that the map on the easel in the Great Hall can be removed.

If the video for visitors is updated, it could also be shown in this room. The current video is not appropriate for ongoing use.

Media filing cubicles in the adjacent room would need to be maintained. Hooks could be placed on the open wall in this room to allow the space to also be used as a cloak room for school tours.

Concept for the recommended Legislative Assembly Interpretive Centre



Community Exhibits Gallery

It is recommended that area near the cloakroom on the mezzanine level between the Chamber gallery and Committee Room A be cleared of current exhibits and transformed into the Community Exhibits Gallery. Some of these gifts could be utilized in the waiting area outside the Speaker's office.

We are recommending that community groups, and communities themselves, be invited annually to propose displays to be showcased in the Community Exhibits Gallery. The Speaker's Office would announce an annual theme for exhibits and special events at the Legislative Assembly. The displays would interpret or relate to the annual theme.

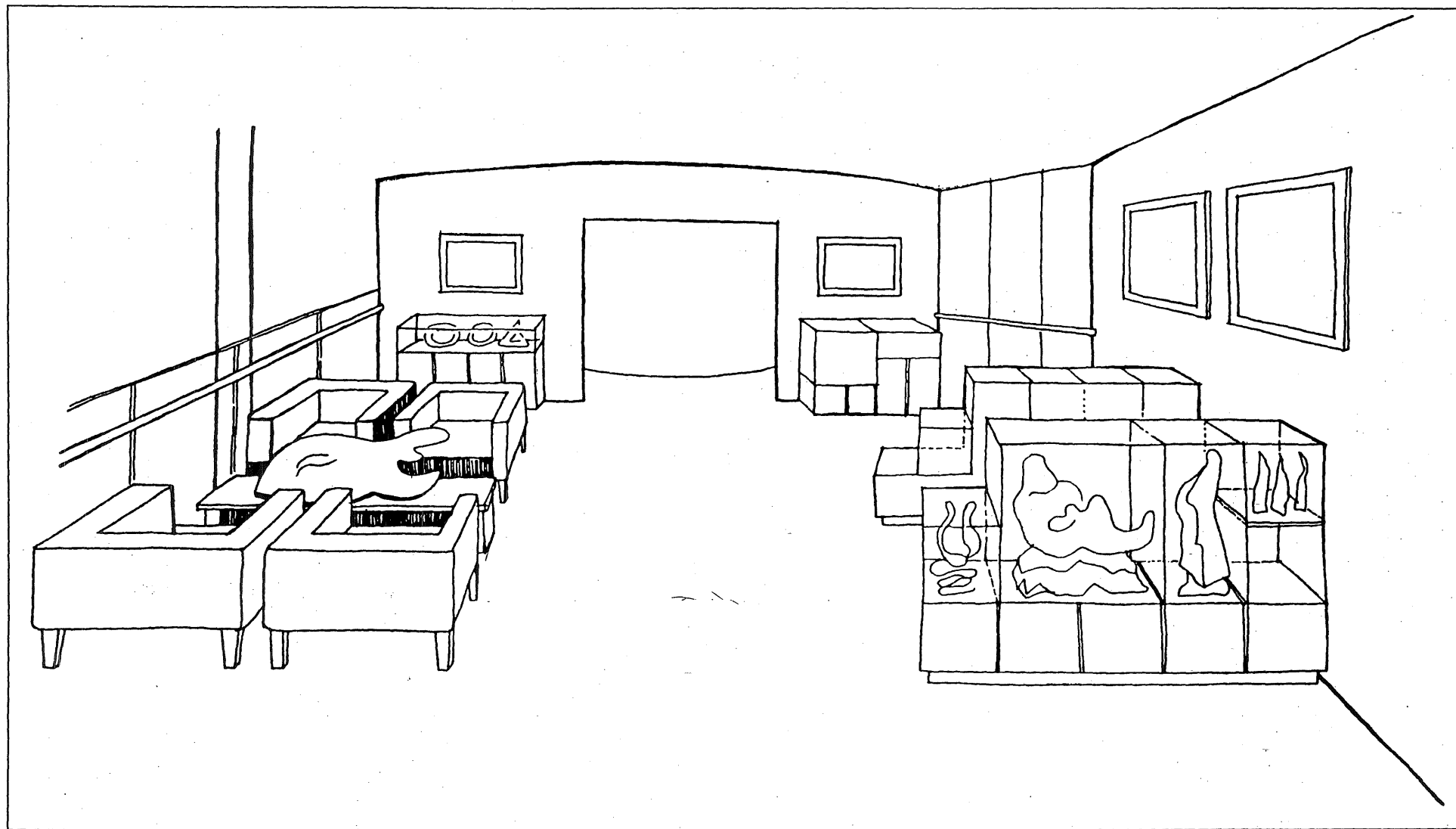
Examples of the types of themes could be:

- The North's Changing Landscape
- From Time Immemorial
- Northern Youth
- Respect for Elders
- They Also Serve
- Lifelong Learning
- Our Connection to the Land
- Many Different Traditions
- The Circle of Northern Life
- All Our Resources

Display cases would need to be created to house these exhibits that focus on the annual theme. The best proposals would be selected and displayed in the cases for the year. Size specifications would be made available to all who are submitting proposals to ensure that submissions would fit into the display cases. Every attempt should be made to showcase exhibits from different regions of the NWT.

Interspersed with the exhibit cases (approximately six) would be paintings that show various communities throughout the NWT. That would mean that the Yellowknife painting, currently displayed in this area, could probably remain in this gallery.

Concept for the Community Gallery



Legislative Assembly Leadership and Service Gallery

To honour those who have served in the Legislative Assembly, we would recommend that the second floor corridor that currently includes the Speakers' portraits be limited to recognition of Speakers, Premiers and Assemblies.

The photos of the earlier Assemblies should be re-hung in this corridor. Consideration should be given to adding a series of portraits or photos of Premiers.

Paintings and photos should be attractively displayed for current viewing. Provisions for future additions should not appear as large blank spaces on the wall. Every ten years, or so, the art and photos could be reconfigured to maintain a visually pleasing effect. Walls could easily be repainted at those times.

It is understood that the photos of former councils and assemblies could fade, even though protected by ultra violet glass. In order to ensure that important photos are not lost in their original quality, it is suggested that only copies of the originals be displayed in the Leadership and Service Gallery. The originals should be kept in secure, archival-quality storage. The same would apply to photos of former Premiers which should be gathered and added to the collection.

Citizen Achievements Gallery

Various recognition programs that name individual citizens of the NWT including award winners, veterans and others can be displayed in the area where they currently are presented outside the Media Briefing Room. Exhibits and art that are not part of this theme should be removed and relocated or added to an Art Bank that could be created within the GNWT to make surplus art available to government offices.

Some short-term recognition with photos could be given to individuals who are named in annual programs, like the volunteer programs.

A consistent, but not necessarily identical, style of information presentation would be desirable.

Northern Perspectives Gallery

The space in the stairwell in the centre of the building behind the Legislative Chamber and the space below the Leadership and Service Gallery should be devoted to different perspectives by NWT artists of the land, the people, the culture, the climate and the resources of the NWT. It could be called the Northern Perspectives Gallery.

To the greatest extent possible, all work in this area should be original art and not prints. The eastern Arctic art should be relocated.

Balance in representing various regions and cultures will be important. If there is inadequate representation from some region, an appropriate art addition should be made.

This gallery is not intended as a permanent collection. Additions and deletions could be made as worthwhile new art becomes available. Items that are no longer displayed should go to the proposed new Art Bank (see page 69).

Additions and deletions would be made by the Speaker's office on the advice of the Legislative Precinct Commission.

Café Gallery

A small collection of prints or photography could be showcased on a rotational basis (possibly seasonal) on the two walls of the Café that lend themselves to the display of art.

The Café should continue the feel of the public areas of the building.

Consideration should be given to creating an outdoor installation that is visible from the windows in the café. This could be a sculpture or some other appropriate installation.

Legislative Assembly Areas

The general principles of using authentic original northern art, and representing the various cultures and regions of the NWT, should be considered in enhancing the six principal spaces that the Legislative Assembly holds in common. Notes on each of these areas follow.

The Great Hall

In order to maintain the open, awe-inspiring feeling on the Great Hall, we would not recommend any permanent, floor-level additions within this space. However we would like to make two recommendations for this area. One involves the stone sculpture by the window. The other proposes the creation of an art installation that would hang on the curved surface above the doors to the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

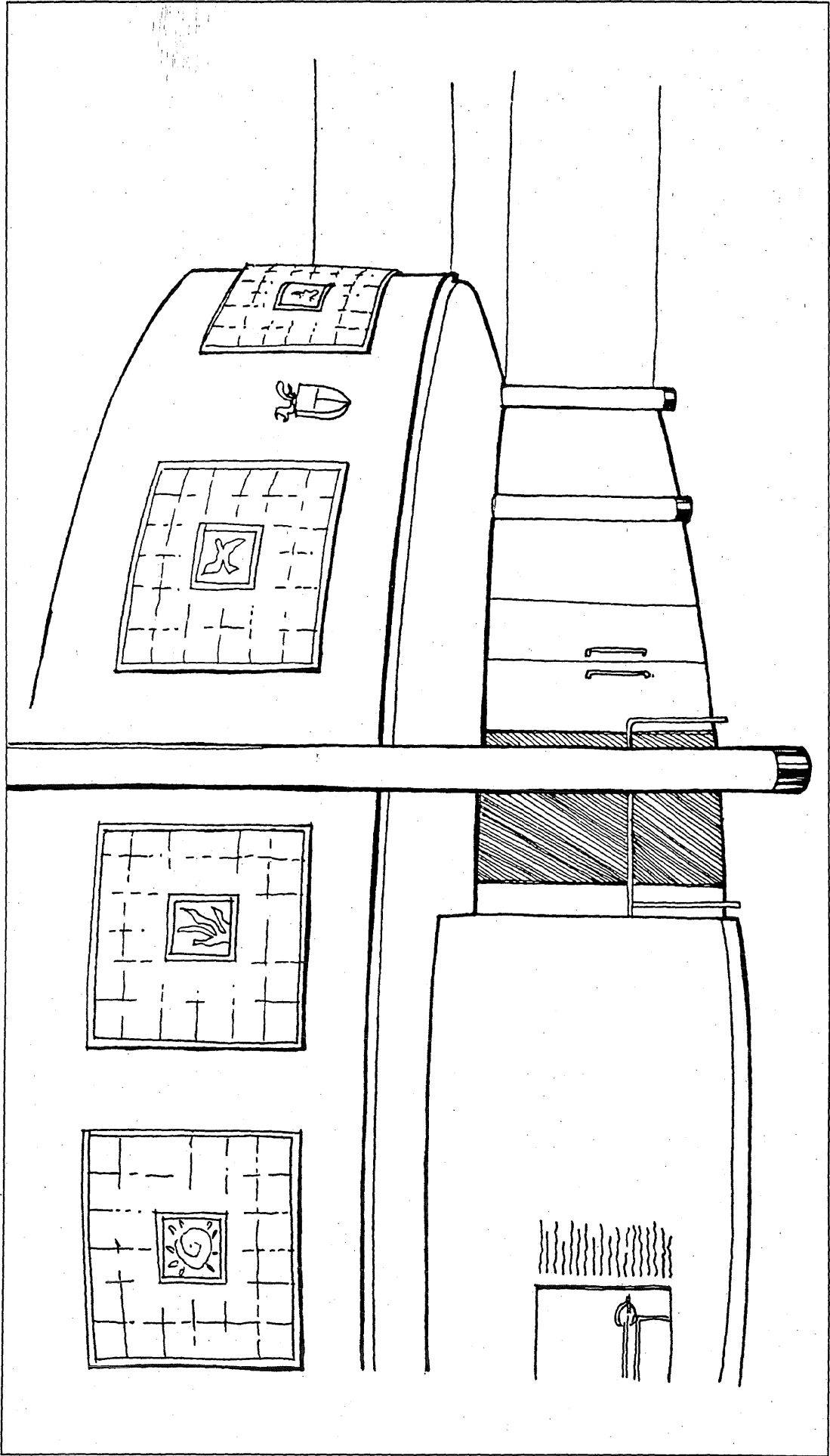
With respect to the sculpture, we would strongly recommend the construction of a new base. The base should be changed to a dark, rough-cut stone that is similar in colour and texture to the floor. The base shape should follow the lines of the sculpture and include a plaque. This would replace the two easels currently on either side. The easels give the area a high school display feeling and detract from the overall experience of the area.

The addition of an art installation above the Chamber doors has the potential to be a very exciting project that could involve people from all the communities across the NWT. Some possible themes for the installation could be the four seasons, the four directions or the four elements (earth, air, fire and water).

One possibility for executing the art installation would be the creation of four quilts. If this strategy was used a master quilter could head the project and work with a team of seamstresses from across the NWT. Each community could be assigned four squares to complete as they saw fit – staying within the theme selected. The finished quilts could be hung on either side of the carved NWT crest.

A project like this would provide a powerful connection between the communities and the Legislative Assembly, that builds on the earlier involvement in the construction of the Mace (with the stones within the mace representing all 33 communities).

Concept for community quilts in the Great Hall



The Chamber

We would not recommend the addition of any art in the public gallery of the Legislative Assembly. The focal point of the Chamber should remain the Speaker and the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Since the GNWT has agreed to keep the bear as its icon in print applications, in government signage and in promotion programs it is appropriate that the polar bear rug be retained.

The current art objects in the area of the Speaker's chair should be evaluated as to their appropriateness. The objects should have symbolic value in relation to the Assembly, as well as decorative value. Objects symbolic of speaking, communicating, debating, working together, and sharing have appropriateness.

Objects that speak to the purpose of making decisions for future generations would be appropriate. A transformation sculpture that demonstrates the process of bringing ideas and experience to life might be interesting commission. The Dene drums that used to be in the Assembly should be replaced. A Delta-style Inuvialuit drum should be added.

The display of the Gyr falcon, as territorial symbol, would continue to be appropriate.

The trees near the Speaker's chair, if they were live, could speak to the living nature of the work of the Assembly. Trees grow, little by little. Over time they mature from a seedling to a fully-grown tree. We would recommend that at the beginning of each new Assembly, two new trees (about half a metre high) be installed and cared for within the Assembly Chamber. At the conclusion of each Assembly's term, when the Members go to the electorate, the trees could be transplanted or cared for elsewhere until they can be transplanted within the Legislative Precinct. New trees would then be installed at the beginning of each Assembly. This could be an attractive, and meaningful, alternative to the current plastic fig trees.

The Caucus Room

The Caucus Room of the Legislative Assembly offers one of the few spaces where the A.Y. Jackson collection can be safely displayed. While this collection has historical value, it would be more appropriately part of a permanent NWT Art Gallery collection. The paintings are somewhat monotone and the feelings they elicit are more about bleakness and isolation. They are in stark contrast to the Graham Shaw groupings that are bright, bold and full of life.

The sculpture in the centre of the room seems inappropriate to the work of the caucus. Perhaps it could be replaced with some other object. A carving of a Delta drummer might be considered.

The Cabinet Committee Room

This room has a large mural style sectional painting that is appropriate. We would not recommend changes or additions.

Committee Room A

This room, which is used for many purposes is very functional but lacks a sense of artistically enhanced space. The room should convey a feeling that it is a northern room, where northern decisions are made. Instead it feels more like any corporate boardroom, with a couple of pictures hung to fill blank spaces of the wall. This could be a place for a sectional piece of art similar to the scene in the Cabinet Committee Room. To continue to speak to the diversity of the NWT primary images in a new group of paintings might come from Tuktoyaktuk or the Mackenzie Delta.

Committee Room B

This room has a small collection of art that could rotate with pieces of surplus art or the new Art Bank. The current collection is appropriate to the room and its purpose.

Members' Lounge

Currently most of the art in the Members' Lounge consists of the 13 limited edition prints that are part of the Jean-Paul Lemieux collection. These should be removed from this space and put on periodic display at the Prince of Wales or in some other venue. They could also be put on display during times when art exhibitions are mounted in the Great Hall for public viewing. It is a wonderful collection but is hardly appropriate to the Members' lounge.

Instead the Lounge should be decorated with art that reflects the cultural and geographic diversity of the NWT. Every member should be able to see some work of art with which he or she can connect.

Outdoor Areas in the Legislative Precinct

Grand Entranceway

As one approaches the main doors of the Legislative Assembly, nothing visual contributes to the feeling that one is about to enter a very special place. Instead the doors and the approach to them have a low-key institutional look. If it wasn't for the fact that a walkway leads to the doors, it might be easy to think there must be a main entrance somewhere else.

It would be desirable to add an enhancement to entranceway that is both welcoming and hints at the Legislative Assembly being a special place. This enhancement should be the subject of a competition. The focus might be entirely on the doors and their design and the materials used. Or the doors might be left more or less as they are and a gateway constructed on the path at an appropriate distance back from the doors. Or, there might be a series of sculptures that lead the visitor to the door.

The Legislative Assembly was constructed to be the "Place of the People." By making the entranceway more welcoming and celebratory, we can make sure the people are appropriately welcomed to their "Place."

Wildlands Boardwalk

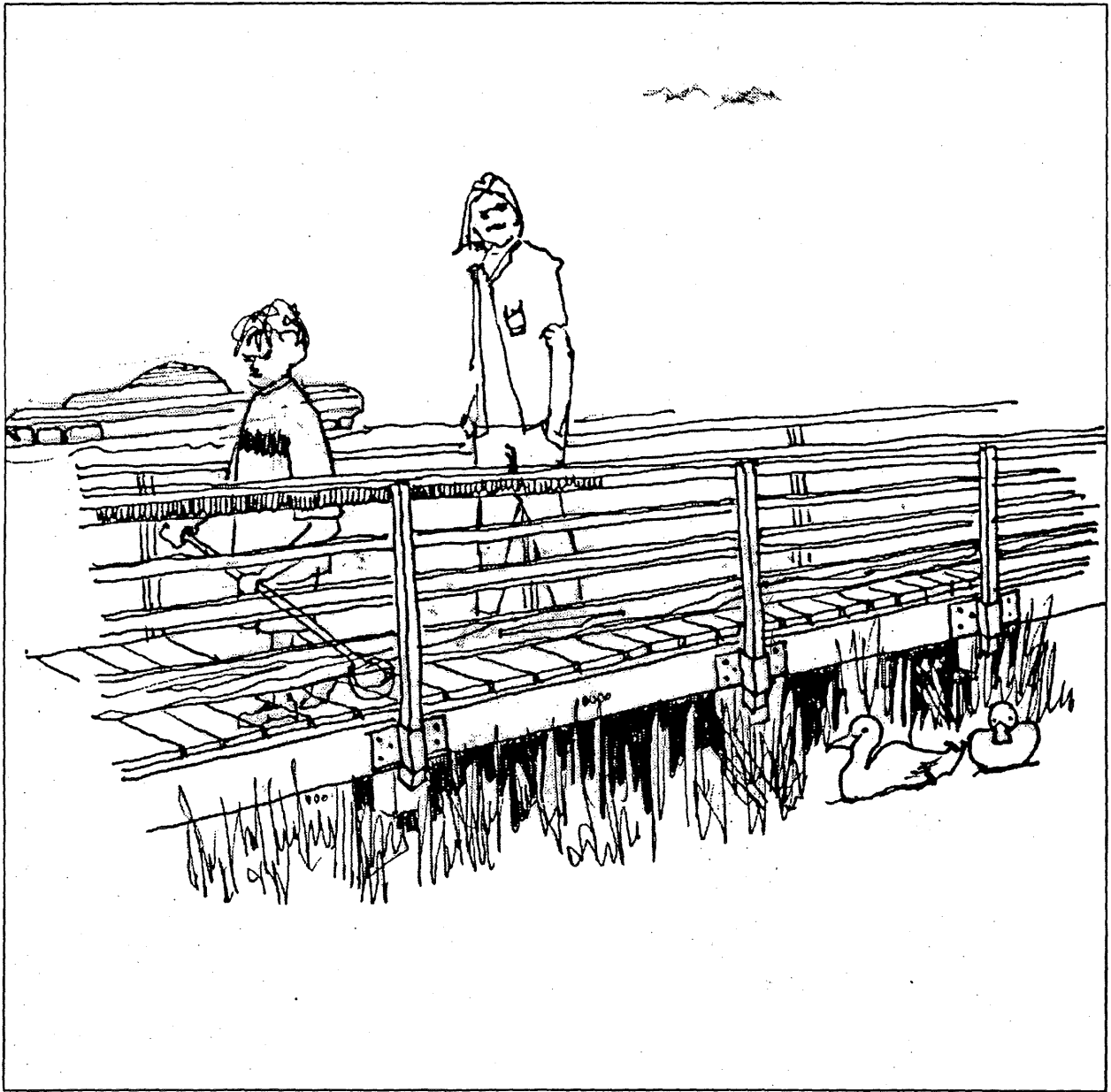
We are recommending the design and construction of a Wildlands Boardwalk in the area in front of the Legislative Assembly building. This will turn the bog area, which is often criticized as messy, into an enhanced feature of the Legislative Assembly Precinct. It will define the approach to the NWT Legislative Assembly building in the same way as the lawns and sweeping flowerbeds on Parliament Hill in Ottawa define the approach to the Parliament of Canada.

We would recommend the use of the word "wildlands" to describe the bog environment. It is more appropriate than wilderness or simply natural area.

The Boardwalk would need to be installed to provide greater access and to protect areas where foot traffic would damage the plants and bushes. Panels set low and alongside the trail could describe the features of the area and the plants. Plants and trees with special uses – medicinal and ceremonial - would also be noted. The trail would cross the bog area and could connect back to the tepee-like "Place of Reflection" beside Frame Lake.

The boardwalk would require special engineering to address challenges in the bog area. Large timbers would need to be sunk into the bog to support the

Wildlands Boardwalk



boardwalk above ground level. A strategy, similar to that used to attached decking to some marine pilings, would allow the boardwalk to be adjusted up or down to accommodate changes in the surface levels caused by permafrost heave or settling.

It is recommended that a summer student be hired to keep the area (and other outdoor areas in the Legislative Precinct) "groomed" and free of litter.

"Sprit of the North" Installation

It is no accident that people speak of the North and the Northwest Territories in the same breath.

Spirit of the North is a phrase with more than one meaning. At one level it is simply a description of the sense of being "northern." At another level it speaks to the traditional wisdom of Aboriginal peoples who believe that each of the four directions is the home of a powerful spirit that helps the people in all aspects of living. Whatever the meaning, a small ceremonial installation in the area near the flagpoles or on one of the rock outcrops near the entrance would create a sense of the power of the Spirit of the North. Again a competition could be called to design the installation. It could be appropriate to include the four elements of earth, air, fire and water.

This installation is not intended to compete with the large Ceremonial Circle near City Hall. Instead it would be more of an enhancement of the entrance area and a celebration of northern spirit.

Reflection Place

The tepee-like structure, sometimes called the gazebo, beside Frame Lake could be given a new name. One possible name would be Reflection Place. Perhaps an Aboriginal language name that has similar meaning would be even more appropriate. Currently a plaque at this site is inscribed with the words "The Place of the People", translated into 10 official languages. This phrase however applies to the entire area, including the Legislative Assembly Building. Additional landscaping could be added to the area. Signage explaining the purpose of the place and welcoming visitors could be placed at the juncture of the path to the structure and the main path to the Legislative Assembly building.

When the water is calm the landscape reflects in the water. It could also be a place for personal reflection by visitors, staff and members of the Assembly.

Cultural Enhancement Programs Additions

We are recommending that a number of ongoing program initiatives be added that support the overall goal of cultural enhancement.

Consideration should be given to include programs that increase the outreach of the Legislative Assembly to both Yellowknife residents and visitors as well as residents of other NWT communities.

Provide for NWT artists to mount short-term exhibitions in the Great Hall

Artists from across the NWT should be encouraged to apply to have their work included in an annual exhibition program that showcases arts that contributes to the understanding and appreciation of the culture of the Northwest Territories.

In the initial stages, one exhibition of art could be mounted about every three months. The four annual exhibitions could be one week in length. Corporate sponsors would be solicited to provide an artists' reception on the first night of the quarterly exhibitions. The Assembly would have to provide temporary display walls that could be set up on the floor of the Great Hall. This program could be continued until the NWT establishes its own Public Art Gallery – possibly within the Legislative Precinct.

Create a Cultural Enhancement exhibits program

Arts groups, cultural organizations, heritage groups, communities, schools and others could be invited to annually present proposals of what they would like to exhibit in a new Community Exhibits Gallery. This initiative, which would be modelled on a successful Ontario program, allows groups to create exhibits to be displayed within exhibit cases that would be owned and maintained by the Legislative Assembly. The Parliamentary Precinct Commission could undertake the selection of the exhibits that would be shown each year. A formal plaque

would be given to each organization selected, recognizing their contribution to the annual Legislative Assembly Cultural Enhancement Program.

Continue to Decorate the Metal and Glass Within the Building

Inside the building there are metal edges in the Great Hall that could be enhanced with etched decorative borders. These metal edges are the dividers in the large glass wall that looks out towards the city and also below the curved wood panels that are above the entrance to the Legislative Assembly Chamber. These could be commissioned as part of the ongoing cultural enhancement program in a manner similar to the ongoing stone carving work in the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

There are also areas where glass doors or glass panels could be enhanced with etchings that explore northern themes. This would turn the glass into permanent art additions to the Legislative Assembly.

Initiate the Creation of an NWT Art Bank With Surplus Art

In the process of bringing the art and cultural heritage collections in line with the guidelines in this report, some art owned by the Legislative Assembly will be designated as surplus. Many of these are excellent examples of NWT art but will not find space in the permanent art collection of the Legislative Assembly. It is recommended that a Legislative Assembly Art Bank be created that departments of the NWT government could access. This plan recommends offsite storage of the Art Bank collection.

Art and heritage collection items that are surplus to the needs of the Legislative Assembly could be made available to departments of government for display. The Art Bank could be managed by the Legislative Assembly, in cooperation with the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

Ten-Year Cultural Enhancement Priorities

We have based our planning on the assumption that \$1 million (in 2003 dollars) will be allocated to cultural enhancement programs within the Legislative Precinct over a period of ten years. In years when that amount is not provided, programs could be trimmed back and every effort made to provide funds in subsequent years to make up the difference.

Top priority should be given to completing a number of key improvements over the first three to four years. This will give a sense of momentum to the initiative and set the tone for the cultural enhancements that will follow. Some of these enhancements will take more than one year to complete and the budgets that follow show how funds can be allocated over a multi-year phase-in of these enhancements.

The priorities inside the Legislative Assembly building should be the following:

- Creation of a new Legislative Assembly Interpretive Centre
- Development and installation of a Traditional Arts Gallery
- Redesign and development of a new Welcoming Area inside the doors of the Legislative Assembly building.

Outside the building, the following priorities should apply:

- Creation of an enlarged Legislative Precinct and the appointment of a Legislative Precinct Commission.
- Development and installation of the Wildlands Boardwalk.

At the end of the first 3-4 year phase, a second phase of programs would be initiated. These would focus primarily on the addition of enhancements that provide a greater sense of connection between the communities and the

Legislative Assembly. The Community Exhibits Gallery and some community focused enhancements within the Great Hall could be included during this period.

During the final phase of about three years, the Grand Entranceway enhancement and the Spirit of the North installation could be budgeted. An outdoor sculpture could be added outside the Café Gallery and the members' Lounge could be renovated. Since Reflection Place was recently renovated the budget associated with this location has been deferred until near the end of this 10-year plan.

Throughout the 10 years of this program, some new art will need to be added to the Assembly's collection. We have budgeted an average of \$15,000 per year to ensure that the Assembly has the resources to add art and continue to support northern artists.

Two related expenditure have also been costed but are not included within the \$1 million ten-year budget as they are not cultural enhancements. One is the requirement for additional storage space to house the Legislative Assembly Art Bank. This has been based on the assumption that additional space would need to be rented. The other is the cost of designing and constructing additional parking near the Legislative Assembly building. Our cost estimates are based on the assumption that space to the North of the building would be developed.

Ten-Year Capital Plan

The two pages that follow detail the cultural enhancement expenditures associated with this plan. The information provided includes year-by-year expenditures and cost estimating details.

Cost Estimating Detail

Activity	Welcoming Area	Waiting Area	Traditional Arts Gallery	Interpetive Center	Communjity Exhibits Gallery	Leadership Service Gallery	Achievements Center	Northern Perspectives	Café Gallery	The Great Hall	The Chamber	The Caucus	Cabinet Committee Room	Committee Room A	Committee Room B	Members Lounge	Grand Entrance	Wildland Boardway	Spirit of the North	Reflection Place
millwork	8000																			
casework	18000				24000															
wall panels		8000		45000	30000					60000										
art objects			8000				5000													
construction			4000																	
travel																				
mechanical																				
electrical	2000																			
seating																				
design				8000																
	3500	1000	10000	40000																
overhead	31500	9000	42000	123000	24000	5000	5000	22000	20000	90000	1500	4000	7500	10000	2500	40000	43000	133000	71000	5000
	36225	10350	48300	141450	27600	5750	5750	25300	23000	103500	1725	4600	8625	11500	2875	46000	49450	152950	81650	5750
repair paint etc	1811.25	517.5	2415	7072.5	1380	287.5	287.5	1265	1150	5175	86.25	230	431.25	575	143.75	2300	2472.5	7647.5	4082.5	287.5
Total	38036	10868	50715	148523	28980	6038	6038	26565	24150	108675	1811	4830	9056	12075	3019	48300	51923	160598	85733	6038

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